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M.R.O. 1—31-400—22-11-37

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 5-3-37

G.O. No. 871 Press Mis.

16-11

Dated 26—2— 18 37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 3rd March 1857.

No. 10. Read the following letter from Captain C. C. JOHNSTON, Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office of P. W.; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, D. P. W., dated 10th February 1857, No. 10170.

SIR,

With the Chief Engineer's letter No. 9949, dated 2nd February 1857, a report was forwarded to Government from the Superintendent East Coast Canal, on the effects of the storms in November, and December last, on the Canal between Pulicat and Sadras, and I have now the honor to submit a continuation* of the report on the portion of the Canal between Strechurrycottah, and Doogoorauzpatam.

* From the Superintendent East Coast Canal No. 400, dated 29th January 1857, (to be obligingly returned.)

2. On the 19th November, before the Doogoorauzpatam bar was sufficiently open to give free vent to the flood water, it over topped the embankment erected for the protection of the Canal along the right bank of the river Moosavelly, and partially destroying that barrier, forced its way into the Canal through several large breaches. By the evening of the 19th the country had the appearance of one vast lake, the water standing nearly 1 foot above the Canal embankments.

3. On the 20th, the water level fell 2 feet, and continued at that height with little variation, to the 23rd, when the Pulicat, and Doogoorauzpatam bars being both fairly open, the flood gradually, and steadily subsided, till a further temporary rise was occasioned by the storm of the 8th 9th, and 10th of December.

4. In para 3 of his letter, the Superintendent points out, with the exception of the partial destruction of the embankment along the right bank of the river Moosavelly before noticed, that much less injury was done than might have been expected, between Strechurry Cottah and Nimamoody, 15 miles to the North, where there are no Western embankments to the Canal, all the earth excavated having been used for forming the Eastern ones, which are consequently higher, and more solid than they would otherwise have been, and remarks that had they been only 1½ or 2 feet higher, they would have protected the whole of the country to the East from inundation.

5. After observing in para. 4, that from the low level of the ground through which the Canal runs, had the deblai been used in the formation of banks on both sides of the Canal, instead of one, the probability that very little would have been seen of either after the subsidence of the flood, and noticing that the eastern embankment, as far as he was able to ascertain, was overtopped for about half a day, the Superintendent proceeds in para. 5, to give the extent of damage done, estimating the cost at from Rupees, 3,500, to Rupees 4,000.

6. Connected directly with the embankment of the river Moosavelly, the Superintendent has a project, by which he hopes to be enabled to reduce to one third of its present size, the Pulicat lake, and thus render its navigation easy at all seasons, but until he has had time to thoroughly investigate the whole question, he considers it unadvisable to repair the damage done, observing that should a flood of the same magnitude as that of November last, occur again next season, the water instead of being headed back, and probably occasioning further injury, will find vent through the present breaches.

Para. 6.

7. The only repairs proposed to be executed are those of the two breaches, noticed in para. 5, in the eastern embankment of the Canal opposite Ryadoor, at a probable cost of Rupees 300; and this the Superintendent hopes may be provided for from the funds at his disposal.

Para. 7.

8. The expenditure on new works for the Current Official half year, having been strictly limited by an order of the Government of India, the Superintendent will be informed that the balance of Rupees 650 referred to in para. 8, cannot be allowed in excess of the allotment already made to him, and if necessary, that he must submit an estimate for whatever further funds he may require for the purpose of repairs.

9. In para. 9, with reference to his former Report No. 386, dated 16th January 1857, the Superintendent notices the necessity of embankments for the protection of the Canal.

10. Of the entire length of 70 miles of Canal from Madras to Doogoorauzpatam, the probable mileage cost of the 45 miles made by the Canal Department, is given in para. 10 at Ru-

and Doogoorauz

pees 3,000; the estimated cost, as entered in the "Collective professional Memorandum on the Public Works of the Presidency" being Rupees 10,000, or more than three times the amount, but it must be remembered, that the latter sum was intended to provide for efficient embankments, which the effects of the late storms have proved to be essentially necessary.

11. In para. 12. In noticing the effects of these storms, the Superintendent observes that, "the Canal cannot judiciously be made in the first instance, below a height which will effectually "prevent them from being over topped by a flood, for so surely as they are over topped, the ma-"terial melts away, becomes dispersed and only serves to convey silt into the channel. This "reduced height too enables every subsequent rise of water, no matter how little, to flow freely "over them, and continue the action of disintegration till not a vestige is left of what once was "a Canal bank."

12. The Superintendent in concluding his report, which is deserving of commendation for its ability, and professional judgement, observes, that the Canal from the Lock at Shediencoopum to Doogoorauzpatam requires thorough revision, to avoid future dissatisfaction, and disappointment.

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, No. 371; dated 26th February 1857.

With this letter, the Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office Department Public Works, submits a report from the Superintendent of the East Coast Canal, on the effects of the storms of November and December last, on the Canal embankments between Streehurricottah and Doogoorauzpatam, in continuation of a former report on the damage sustained by the banks between Pulicat and Sadras.

2. Lieutenant Sankey's present report calls for no particular remark, except as regards his general statement in the concluding para. "that the Canal from Shediancooppum Lock to "Doogoorauzpatam requires thorough revision, otherwise dissatisfaction and disappointment are "surely in the future." No opinion is expressed by Captain Johnston in reference to this statement; and the Government are unable to pass any order in the absence of full information as to the grounds on which the statement is made. Lieutenant Sankey will therefore be called upon for more detailed and particular information on the subject; and his report will be accompanied by a distinct expression of opinion from the Central office, as to the correctness or otherwise of his conclusions.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

P.W.D.

No. 371

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 26th February, 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Acting Supg
Engr Northern Circle in charge
of the Central Office P.W.

Here enter 10th February 1857 No 10170

With this letter
the Acting Superintending
Engineer Northern Circle
in charge of the Central
Office Department Public
Works, submits a report
from the Superintendent
of the East Coast Canal
on the effects of the Storms
of November and December
last on the Canal embank-
ments between Streehurricottah
and Doogoorauzpatam

in continuation of a former Report on the claimage sustained by the banks between Pulicat and Sadras.

Lieutenant Stanley's present report calls for no particular remark, except as regards his general statement in the concluding para, "that the "Canal from Sheduim = "= coopsum Lock to Doo= "= gooruzzpatum requires = "thorough revision, otherwise "dissatisfaction and dis= "= appointment are sure "in the future". No opinion is expressed by Captain Johnston in reference to this statement, and the Government are unable to pass any order in the absence

of

of full information as to the grounds on which the statement is made. Lieut. Stanley will therefore be called upon for more detailed and particular information on the subject and his report will be accompanied by a distinct expression of opinion from the Central Office as to the correctness or otherwise of his conclusions.

WR

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. with Dept. Secn. Desp. 27

Com: 3d March/57 No 847.
C.J. in a J. S. t. E.
d/ 1st Apl. 1857. No 7.

Para 14

Public Works 1857. Dpht
D to Cons 3d March

No 371.

Extract Mins of Cons:

Dy 26th February/57.

From Chief Engr of the 3d March
1857 & No 24 in Cons 19.
From Do 20th May 57 & No 1052 in
Do Dy
From the Do 25th March/57
No 705 in Cons

Calling upon Lieutenant Sankey, for more detailed and particular information, as to his Statement "that the Canal, from Shedianconppum Lock to Doogoo-panzpattam, requires thorough revision" and intimating, that his report should be accompanied by a distinct expression of opinion

Opinion from the Central office as to the Correctness or otherwise, of his Conclusions.

No 10411.

C 1450 July. Ae 3?