

100-1-1340-17-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 77/5

Press
Misc

Dated 7/11/30

18-11-30

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 10th March 1857.

No. 90. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 9th March 1857, No. 446.

Para. 1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds to pass orders on the letter in this Department from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 12th November 1856, No. 11.

Para. 2. Observe that their decision upon the projects in the Public Works Budget of 1855-56, will have been communicated by the Supreme Government.

3. Do not consider it necessary to add any remarks to those recorded by this Government on the Annual Report of actual and estimated expenditure on Public Works for the year 1853.

5 to 9. Notice the recommendations of this Government in respect of the Hydraulic rules and Formulæ compiled by Captain Stoddard, and of the Treatise on buildings, &c. by Lieutenant Foord. Though Honorable Court have not received the promised copies of Lieutenant Foord's Treatise, but only those of Captain Stoddard's Compilation, they readily accept the assurance of this Government that both works are very creditable to their authors, and are useful to those employed in the Department of Public Works; but do not think that a gratuity should be given for such labors. Are of opinion that both works will prove remunerative to the compilers from their usefulness to candidates for engineering certificates.

10 to 12. Notice the large expenditure incurred for the improvement of the Paumbem passage, and Colonel Faber's Report on the project of opening it to ships of every description at a cost of nearly fifteen lacs of Rupees, as well as his representation that the passage, if even opened to this extent, was not likely to be used by large ships, on account of the intricacy and danger of the navigation. Observe that Government have resolved to confine immediate operations to the sum sanctioned for obtaining a depth of 13 feet, and to consider the more extensive scheme when that sum shall have been exhausted. Remark that the inutility of the scheme is so much strengthened by the information before them, that they have no desire to see it revived at any future period.

13. The recognition by this Government of the previous services of Major Bell and Colonel Smith, on the occasion of their appointment as Mint Masters to Madras and Calcutta respectively, requires no addition from them.

14. Transcribe the remarks made by them in a recent Despatch to the Government of India, in respect of the survey operations on the upper Godavary.

2. A copy of these paragraphs will be furnished to the Chief Engineer for his information and guidance. His attention will also be directed to the observations communicated by the Honorable Court in paras. 5 to 9, respecting the compilation of Captain Stoddard and Lieutenant Foord; in paras. 10 to 12 respecting the project of opening the Paumbem passage to ships of every description; and in para. 14 respecting the operations on the upper Godavary.

3. As regards the ten copies of Lieutenant Foord's Treatise which the Honorable Court say they have not received, it is observed that these copies were put up in the packet forwarded by the Steamer *Oriental* on the 14th September 1855, and entered in the list of the packet of the same date as No. 31.

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

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Extract from a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 12th November 1856.

No. 11.

Letter dated 9th August (No. 6) 1855.

Budget of works proposed to be under-
taken during the year 1855-56. }

2. Our decision upon the several projects submitted in this Budget will have been communicated to you by the Supreme Government.

Letter dated 14th August (No. 8) 1855.

Report on actual and estimated ex-
penditure on Public Works for the
year 1853. }

3. On receiving (in July 1855) this report and its accompaniments from the Board of Revenue, you observed that it would serve no useful purpose to notice in detail Statements laid before you at a date so long subsequent to that of the proceedings to which they referred.

4. The same consideration to which further lapse of time gives greater force dissuades us from adding any thing to the few general remarks which your perusal of the Report suggested to you.

Letter dated 14th August (No. 9) 1855.

Hydraulic rules and Formulæ compil-
ed by Captain Stoddard and Treatise
on Building &c. by Lieut. Foord. }

5. In advising the intended transmission to us of 50 printed copies of the first and of 10 printed copies of the second of these works you take occasion to recommend that we should award to Captain Stoddard a gratuity in recognition of his labours, and that we should convey to Lieutenant Foord also some token of our approbation.

6. We have not received the promised copies of Lieutenant Foord's treatise but those of Captain Stoddard's compilation have duly reached us and we readily accept your assurance that both works are very creditable to their authors and are likely to prove very useful to Officers and others employed in the Department of Public Works.

7. It does not appear to us, however, that a gratuity should be given for such labours as are now brought to our notice.

8. Lieutenant Foord whose Treatise published at his own expense has been made by your order a text book for Candidates for certificates of qualification in Civil Engineering, will probably derive no inconsiderable profit from its sale.

9. Captain Stoddard's "Rules and Formulæ" have been printed at the public expense but they have been placed in the same category as Lieutenant Foord's Treatise and may be expected to be in equal demand among Candidates for Engineering Certificates.

Letter dated 12th September (No. 10) 1855.

Report of the present Chief Engineer
(Colonel Faber) upon a proposal of
his predecessor Colonel Cotton to
make the Paumbum passage navi-
gable for ships of the largest size. }

10. In June 1854 you informed us that the aggregate of the sums laid out up to that date in the improvement of the Paumbum passage amounted to about Rupees 3,50,000 at which expense a navigable channel had been excavated varying in depth from $10\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{4}$ feet at low water neap tides. A further outlay of Rupees 30,250, has since been sanctioned though with what result we are uninformed for the prosecution of the work to the depth of 13 feet so as to enable vessels of 300 tons to pass through in ballast.

11. The project on which Colonel Faber has reported is one on a much larger scale proposing at a further expense of Rupees 1,468,000 to open the passage to ships of every description. It was of course intended that Colonel Faber's attention should be chiefly directed to the feasibility of the scheme considered as an engineering question but he wisely judged that such an examination would tend to little good since all the nautical men consulted were unanimous in declaring that the paassage even if made practicable for large ships would be very unlikely to be adopted by them on account of the intricacy and danger of the navigation of Palks Bay on the one side and of the Gulf of Manaar on the other. The use of the passage would shorten the voyage round

Cape Comorin by fully 300 geographical miles but in a track so beset with rocks and shoals a large ship would be obliged to slacken speed by day and to lay to at night, so that there would be much less saving of time than of distance. The gain would be small and the risk great and the loss of one such ship as the "Himalaya" would more than counterbalance the accumulated gains of ten years.

12. In consequence of these representations you resolved to confine immediate operations at Paumbum within the limits of the sanctioned estimate for attaining a depth of 13 feet and to postpone until the sum appropriated for that purpose should be exhausted the consideration of the more extensive scheme alluded to above. Our own conviction however of the inutility of that scheme has been so much strengthened by the additional information before us that we have no desire to see it revived at any future period.

Letter dated 10th October (No. 15) 1855.

Appointment of Major Bell of the Madras Engineers late Secretary to the Board of Revenue in the Department of Public Works, to be Mint Master at Madras vice Colonel Smith of the Madras Engineers selected by the Governor General to be Mint Master at Calcutta.

13. The recognition recorded by you on this occasion of the previous services of Colonel Smith and of Major Bell requires no addition from us.

Letter dated 4th December (No. 18) 1855.

Reporting progress made in the Survey of the Godavery.

14. In the present stage of this undertaking it will be sufficient to transcribe the following remarks made by us in a recent despatch to the Supreme Government. "We are desirous that these preliminary objects of examination and enquiry as the basis of future operations should be accomplished in a thoroughly efficient manner and funds should be supplied for the purpose when it shall have been ascertained after complete investigation what results may be expected from operations in the bed of the river, and what the probable expense of such operations will be, you will be in a position to decide on the plan which may be best adapted for carrying out the important object of rendering practicable the navigation of the river."

(A true Extract.)

Signed *A. Forbes*

Acting Secretary to Government.

P. W. D.

No. 446

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 9th February 1857.

By The Right Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds to pass orders on the letter in this Department from the Honorable the Court of Directors Dated 12th November 1856 No. 11.

Para 2. Observe that their decision upon the projects in the Public Works Budget of 1855-56 will have been communicated by the Supreme Government.

3 Do not consider it necessary to add any remarks to those recorded by this Government on the annual Report of actual and estimated expenditure on Public Works for the year 1853.

529 Notice the recommendations of this Government in respect of the hydraulic rules and formulas compiled by Captain Stodeland and of the treatise on Buildings &c by Lieutenant Gordon though Honorable Court have not

received

2. A copy of these paragraphs will be furnished to the Chief Engineer for his information and guidance. His attention will also be directed to the observations communicated by the Honorable

Honorable Court in paras 5 to 9 respecting the compilation of Captain Stoddard and Lieutenant Foord; in paras 10 & 12 respecting the project of opening the Pannam passage to ships of every description and in para 14 respecting the operations in the upper Godavary.

It regards the two copies of Lieutenant Foord's treatise which the Honorable Court say they have not received, it is to be observed that these copies were put up in the packet forwarded by the Steamer Orienta on the 14th September 1855 and entered in the List of the contents of the same dated 21.

received the promised copies of Lieutenant Foord's treatise, but only those of Captain Stoddard's compilation, they readily accept the assurance of this Government that on both works are very creditable to their authors and are useful to those employed in the Department of Public Works but do not think that a gratuity should be given for such labors. Am of opinion that both works will prove remunerative to the compilers from their usefulness to candidates for Engineering certificates.

13 & 12. Notice the large expenditure incurred for the improvement of the Pannam passage and Colonel Foord's report on the project of opening it to ships of every description at a cost of nearly fifteen lacs of rupees, as well his representation that the passage, if even opened to this extent, was not likely to be much used by large ships, on account of the intricacy and dangers of the navigation. Observe that Government have resolved to confine immediate operations to the dam construction for obtaining a depth of 13 feet, and to consider the more extensive scheme.

14 Scheme when that sum shall have been exhausted. Remark that the utility of the scheme is so much strengthened by the information before them, that they have no desire to see it revised at any future period.

13 The recognition by this Government of the previous services of Major Bell & Colonel Smith on the occasion of their appointment as Joint Masters to Madras and Calcutta respectively requires no addition from them.

14 Transcribe the remarks made by them in a recent dispatch to the Government of India in respect of the survey operations on the upper Godavary.

9 Copies to the Chief Eng. 2 Chief 10 with P. 2 to 14 of the Cir.

