1. Number of pages 2
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 25-4-57

G.O. No. 782 Press Mis.—

74-75

Dated 25—4—1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1857

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th April 1857.

No. 74. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 4th April 1857, No. 11566.

Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle.

(Here enter March 24th 1857, No. 98.)

From the District Engineer Tanjore.

(Do. do. 26th do. 1022.)

Resolved, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 474, dated 14th March 1857, to forward copy of Major Lawford's letter above recorded, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, and that a transcript of the communication dated 26th Ultimo, from the District Engineer of Tanjore, requesting sanction for Rupees (100) authorized by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, for employing lascars for taking levels for a project for making the Agunda Cauvery, navigable as a part of the line, of navigation between Trichinopoly, and Tanjore, be also submitted for the favorable consideration and early orders of Government.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 75. ORDER THEREON, No. 782 ; dated 25th April 1857.

With these proceedings, the Chief Engineer submits copies of two letters to his address, the one from Major Lawford, Superintending Engineer of the Central Circle, the other from Major Birdwood, the District Engineer of Tanjore, both referring to the measures to be adopted to render more perfect the water communication between Trichinopoly and Tanjore.

2. In Extract Minutes Consultation of the 27th January 1857 No. 197, paras. 4 and 5, the Government desired the Chief Engineer to instruct the District Engineer to make a complete and systematic report on the rivers in Tanjore, as respects their navigable capabilities, immediately to inspect the Cutchamangalam dam, and to send up an estimate for the construction of a lock, or other means of passage for boats, so as to open a water communication between Tanjore and Trichinopoly, two of the largest towns in the South of India.

3. To the communication made in consequence of this order Major Lawford replied on the 16th of February, that from many years experience, he was enabled to say that the Vennaur, in which is the Cutchamangalam dam, could not be made navigable to the West of Tanjore, and that therefore, with a view to open the water communication, he proposed to improve the Anunda Cavery which branches from the Vennaur at Cutchamangalam, and carry it to the Vuddavaur at Tanjore, taking a channel also from Cutchamangalam westward to the Vennaur head, and thence to Trichinopoly. For the expense of taking the levels for these works, Major Lawford asked for sanction for Rupees 200.

4. In Extract Minutes Consultation of the 14th of March No. 474, the Government required to know the purpose for which this sum was required, as the work, it was particularly said, would be performed by Officers of the Department, they also questioned the necessity for a channel from the Vennaur head to Trichinopoly, since, as the Vennaur takes off from the Cavery, and the Cavery is navigable, the object of a Canal parallel to the river was not at once apparent.

5. Major Lawford now informs the Chief Engineer that the plans and estimates for the work will be made by Assistant Surveyor Downes, and by Sub Overseer Hayes, and he expresses his willingness to pay all the expenses himself, if his demand for funds should be deemed unreasonable. Major Lawford still omits to say for what funds are required, when a series of levels are to be taken by the Officers of the Public Works Department, and the Government are of opinion that it would have been more becoming in him to have given the information requested, than to assume, as he does, that the Government wish to put upon him the expense of a purely public work.

6. As regards the necessity for a Canal from the Vennaur head to Trichinopoly, Major Lawford is not very explicit, he explains that there is a line of navigation by the Cavery and Cadamoorty to Cundioor, three miles from Tanjore, and adds that, if that is considered sufficient, he will not urge another, but it was not to the navigation East of the Cutchamangalam dam, that the question of Government referred, but to the proposal to take a Canal from that dam to the Vennaur head and thence to Trichinopoly; the Cavery from the Vennaur head to Trichinopoly, it was remarked was navigable already, and the necessity for a Canal side by side with the river was what the Government required explanation upon.

7. Major Lawford must endeavour to understand that the Government may demand such explanations from its Officers, without being charged by them with indifference to the schemes for public improvements which may be laid before them.

Superintending Engineer to Chief Engineer para. 4.

8. The Government will not withhold their sanction to the expenditure of 100 Rupees solicited by the District Engineer for the survey referred to above, but they still desire that the object of the expenditure may be communicated to them.

9. The Chief Engineer has overlooked the error into which Major Birdwood has fallen in mistaking the Agunda Cavery for the Anundacavery.

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

25

Supg Engrs Office S Circle
Camp Ootacamund 24th April 57.

No 98.

From Major F. Lawford
Supg Engr S Circle

To Colonel C. D. Dabo
Chief Engr P.W.D.

Sir,

With reference to Genl Mins Consn dated the 14th inst. No 474. I have the honor to state that the actual Survey of the line of Navigable Channel between Trichinopoly and Tanjore Station the preparation of the plans and estimates will not be made by Mr Rogers and Draftsmen Maitland personally but by Assistant Supervisor Downes in the former case and Mr Acting Sub Overseer Hayes in the latter, under my supervision, and with such assistance as may be necessary for the completion of the duty, before the freshes and for the provision of which, I solicited the grant of 200 Rupees, but if the Government deem my request unreasonable, and have not sufficient confidence in my discretion, and anxiety to promote the good of the public Service, to give the necessary sanction, I shall be happy to defray all the expenses, myself.

Con.

including that such propositions are in future inadmissable.—

2. I beg to add that I believe the works will cost less than I have estimated for but I was desirous of removing all plea for its being allowed to interfere with Current duties.—

The explanation called for in the second para of the order above quoted is partly supplied by the Ex. Mines Corr. No 69 dated 27 January forwarding an estimate for opening the communication by the Tennam between Pinoly and Tanjore and by means of a Lock at Cutchamangalum will not render that River a safe line to be at being encumbered with rocks, but I explained that a line of downward navigation to Condition within three miles of Tanjore, is already open, and that the Tennam is considered sufficient. I have no reason to urge in favor of another, but I shall not stop the Survey without further orders.

4. The Tennam can only be called partially navigable, in the dry and

and I cannot recommend any considerable outlay on it; but I am waiting a reply to my application for Lieut Lyttelton's plans, in order to take up the whole question which has been referred to me, and as all the proposed works cannot be executed at once, I thought Government would wish to have some practicable scheme before them, as soon as possible and regret to find I have been misstated.

I have &c.
(Sgd) J. Lawford
Supg Engr Circle

No 1622.

From Major B. A. Bidwell
Offg Supt

To Colonel C. G. Fisher
Chief Engr & Secy

Sir,

With reference to Major Lawford's letter of the 16th Feby No 440 to your address, and the accompanying Extract of his letter to Sub Engineer Maitland under date the 14th Feby: conveying authority for the expenditure of Rupees 1000 for the purpose of employing Lascars for

for stating the necessary Levels for the
meaning the Proposed Canny navigable
as a part of the Project for a Line of
Navigation from Trichinopoly to Tanjore
I have the honor to request your Sanction
for the same.-

D.A Engr Office
Camp Tanjore
1st March 57

I have &c
(Sd) R. A. Sirmore
D.A Engr

True Copy

(Sd) Fras Collinson Colonel
Chief Engr

Lt Williams

Public Works Dept

1

No. 782

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 25th April 1857.

Read the following

Extract from the Proceedings

of the Chief Engineer.

Here enter 14th April 1857 No. 1156

With these

proceedings the Chief

Engineer submits copies

of two letters to his address,

the one from Major

Lawford, Superd Engineer

of the 5th Circle, the other

from Major Birdwood

the District Engineer of

Tanjore, both referring

to

Enclosure in Letter
from the Proceedings
of the Chief Engineer
to
Chertput Division P.W.D.

Dated 1st
January
1857.

No. 1156

Dated 12th Jany 1857.

Referring to the enclosed
letter from the executive
Engineer Tanjore dated
the 31st ultimo
transmitting
two letters
from the Superintending
Engineer 5th Circle
and the District
Engineer Tanjore
on the subject
of the
proposed
Anicut
across the
Coleroon
at Trichinopoly
and requesting
to be favored
with the
opinion
of this
Department
thereon.

the measures to be adopted
to render more perfect
the water communication
between Trichinopoly and
Tanjore.

An Extract Min
Con.ns of the 27. of January
1857 No 197, paras 4 & 5, th
Govt. desired the Chief
Engineer to instruct the
District Engineer to
make a complete and
systematic Report on
the rivers in Tanjore,
as respects their navi
gable capabilities, and
immediately to inspect
the Cutchamangalam
dam, and to send up
an Estimate for the con
struction of a lock, or

other

other means of passage
for boats, &c.c to open
a water communica
tion between Tanjore
and Trichinopoly, two
of the largest towns
in the South of India.

To the commu
nication made in con
sequence of this order
Major Lawford replied
on the 16.th of February
that, from many years expe
rience, he was enabled
to say that the Vennaur
in which is the Cutcha
mangalam dam, could
not be made navigab
ble to the West of
Tanjore, and that
therefore with a view

to

to open the Water Commu-
-nication, he proposed Amindacanay
to improve the ~~Catchamma~~-
-galam which branches
from the Vennaur at
Catchammangalam, and
carry it to the Vadalavaur
at Tanjore, taking a
Channel also from Cat-
-chammangalam west-
-ward to the Vennaur
head, and thence to
Trichinopoly. For the
expence of taking the
levels for these works,
Major Lawford asked
for variation for Rs. 280.

1/ In Extract
Minutes Con.y of the
14.th of March No. 474,
the Government required

to

to know the purpose for
which this sum was
required, as the work
it was particularly
said, would be perform
by Officers of the Dep.t
They also questioned
the necessity for a
Channel from the
Vennaur Head to Trich
-nopoly, since, as the
Vennaur takes off from
Cavery, and the Cavery
is navigable, the object
of a Canal parallel to
the river was not ob-
-vious apparent.

5 Major Lawford
now informs the Chief
Engineer that the plans
and Estimates for the
work

work will be made by Assistant Surveyor Downes, and by Sub Overseer Hayes, and he expresses his willingness to pay all the expenses himself, if his demands for funds should be deemed unnecessarable. Major Lawford still omits to say for what funds are required, when a series of levels are to be taken by the Officers of the Public Works Department, and the Government are of opinion that it would have been more becoming in him to have given the information requested

requested, than to assume as he does, that the Govt. wish to put upon him the expense of a purely public work.

As regards the necessity for a Canal from the Vermaur head to Pichimpoly, Major Lawford is not very explicit. he explains that there is a line of navigation by the Cavery and Caddamoorty to Cundioor, three miles from Tanjore, and adds that, if that is considered sufficient, he will not urge another

another - both intended not to the navigation each of the Cutchamun-galeiri claim that the question of Govern-ment referred, both to the proposal to take a Canal from that claim to the Vermaun Head and thence to Trichinopoly; the Cauvery from the Vermaun road to Trichinopoly, it was remarked was navigable already, and the necessity for a Canal side by side with the river was what the Govt required explanation upon.-

Major

Supy Engineer to Chief Engr
Para 4.

Major Lawford must endeavour to understand that the Govt may demand such explanations from its Officers, - without being charged by them with indiffer-ence to the schemes for public improve-ments which may be laid before them.

The Government will not withhold their sanction to the expenditure of 100 Rupees solicited by the District Engineer for the survey referred to above, but they still desire that the object

object of the expenditure may be communicated to them.

These proceedings cannot be closed without the Chief Engineer's attention being attracted to his having adopted Major Birdwood's error in confounding the Agunda Cavery or the river before the Coleroon branches from it at the head of Seringham with the small river Amunda-Cavery branching from the Vennaur. The mistake is pardonable in an Officer who has been so short

a

[illegible]

The Chief Engineer
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Office attaches to accuracy than to speed, and how little real attention is given to the papers which come before Govt. with the Chief Engr's recd strong recommendation in their favor

[illegible]

9 Copies to the Chief Engr
Dec. 27.

Dy to Genl 1st March/57 P. 39 to 40
" 27th Jany " " 116 & 117.
" 23rd Sept. /56 " 21 to 32
" 3rd March/57 " 81 & 82

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dt. Cons: 28th April.

No. 782

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dy 25th April/57.

Extract from Chief Engr 4th Inst. 57
& Nigginore 16th June

Sanctioning Rs. 100 for employing Lascars for taking levels for a project for making the Arrindacavery navigable between Trichinopoly and Tanjore, and making certain observations on the measures to be adopted to render more perfect the water communication between the two places named above.

Nos 74 & 75

116 Abst R 20