

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works

DEPARTMENT.

Genl. Secy.

G.O. No.	1317	Press Mis.
Dated	8-7-18	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2/11/27

17

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 13th July 1858.

No. 37. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officer in charge of the Central Office of P. W. ; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 23rd June 1858, No. 1362.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the accompanying copies of letters, noted in the margin, received from the Superintendant East Coast Canal, in the first of which, he states that, in consequence of the decrease of water in the Canal, and boats not being able to carry their proper burden, he had, agreeably to precedents allowed a reduction on the toll from (4) four to (3) three annas a ton. I beg to observe that, it has been the practice hitherto to submit such letters to the Board of Revenue for sanction, and to notify the reduction in the Official Gazette for the information of the public. I am not aware however that this course has been pursued in consequence of any orders to that effect and as it appears to me that the remission, or reduction, of any authorized tax should rest with the Government, or the Officer delegated with its authority to do so, I have thought it proper to submit the letters referred to above, and to solicit sanction of the reduction of the toll in question, which the Government will see has been already allowed to take place in anticipation of sanction. I beg to submit a copy of Lieutenant Moberly's report of the E. C. Canal for the past month, in which he expresses his views as to the causes which have led to a diminution of water south of the Lock.

Dated 9th June 1858, No. 461.
Dated 17th Do. No. 473.

2. As the reduction of this tax is likely to prove of annual occurrence, the Government may perhaps desire that it may be at once sanctioned or authorized without its intervention, and it occurs to me, as the Canal is in charge of an Officer of the Public Works Department, upon whose report or suggestion the reduction is made, that the Chief Engineer, as the immediate head of that Officer should be delegated with the authority of Government, to authorize such reduction, on which point I beg to solicit orders.

Letter from Lieutenant F. J. MOBERLY, Engineer's, Superintendant of the E. C. Canal ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 9th June 1858, No. 461.

SIR,

I have the honor to report to you that owing to the decrease of water in the Canal boats cannot carry their proper loads.

Agreeably to precedent, I have allowed a toll of 3 annas per ton, being levied instead of 4 annas and trust my proceedings will meet with your approval.

Letter from Lieutenant F. J. MOBERLY, Engineer's, Superintendant of the E. C. Canal ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 17th June 1858, No. 473.

SIR,

In reply to Extract from your Proceedings No. 1176, of the 16th June, I have the honor to observe that, the reduction of tolls has been made on 2 different occasions previous to this, but that I have now only allowed it in anticipation of your sanction which I have asked in my letter No. 461 of the 9th Instant.

Summary report of the E. C. Canal progress for the month of May 1858.

1. The promising state of the Canal as reported in my last month's report has I regret to say not continued.
2. The rains which fell to the south did not extend to the north of Madras and the only means of supply from the Sea, the Ennore mouth has closed, the water has consequently fallen so much that I have been obliged now to allow of 3 instead of 4 annas per ton, being paid as toll by the boat owners, the effect here is different from what it was on the closing of the Pulicat mouth.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 13th July 1858.

3. The water above the lock, has continued at very nearly the same level as before : but the continuous south-wind has accumulated to the northward, the waters of the Canal below it and of the lake ; keeping open the mouth at Doogoorazpatam.
4. The Sooloorpet river is quite closed but the trade continues from Thadday near its mouth, I have stopped any further attempt at keeping it open, as we should have to work below the usual level and probably should only find that the water continued to fall as we deepened.
5. The expenditure will be confined to the more necessary parts to maintain an uniform depth as much as possible.
6. There are now 9 boats employed on the south Canal.
7. Mr. Kennedy has launched, and completed the new model boats ; has been employed in removing shoals caused by the cross drainage entering the Canal, and in completing the Bridge at Sadras.
8. Mr. Howard has been employed on the repairs of the north branch.
9. Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Cottrell, are surveying to the northwards.
10. The traffic returns show a slight increase in both miscellaneous produce, and in salt, over the quantities in the same month of last year.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, No. 1317 ; dated 8th July 1858.

1. Major Lawford, in charge of the Central Office, D. P. W., reports in the above letter that, in consequence of decrease of water in the East Coast Canal preventing boats from carrying their usual burthen, the Superintendent has reduced the Toll from 4 to 3 annas, and that he has done this agreeably to precedent ; and remarking that this reduction of tax is likely to prove of annual occurrence, Major Lawford suggests that, as the Canal is in the charge of an Officer of the Public Works Department, the Chief Engineer should be delegated with authority, to sanction such reductions without reference to Government.

2. Major Lawford, however, before making this reference, should have taken the usual and correct course in cases when the Revenue is affected, *i. e.*, he should have transmitted his views for the consideration of the Board of Revenue in the first instance, a course which he himself acknowledges to have been hitherto followed. He will now be good enough to refer the subject to the Board in the first instance. Major Lawford perhaps felt, that in the present case a previous reference to the Board of Revenue was not necessary, under the impression, that it was not definitively determined, whether the Toll on the Canal should be viewed as Revenue, or as a fund to meet its repairs, maintenance, or improvement ; but by para. 2, of Extract Minutes Consultation 23rd June 1857, No. 1212, distinct instructions were given by Government to credit the Collections from the Canal to the General Revenues of the country, and to debit the Toll establishment to the same head ; so that the Toll is actually an item of the Public Revenue, and as such is a matter within the special province of the Revenue Board.

3. It is observed that the Superintendent has taken upon himself to reduce the Toll on his own authority, and he claims to do this on the strength of two precedents ; but as the circumstances of these two so called precedents, do not appear ever to have come before Government, they must have been of the Superintendent's own creation. By Extract Minutes Consultation 15th January 1855, No. 73 (para. 6), the management indeed of the Toll establishment was placed in the hands of the Superintendent East Coast Canal, but it does not appear that he was thereby left open to alter the rate of Toll fixed by Government. The rate it is true, was made by the Government alone, with reference to circumstances of traffic specially reported to them. Explanation will therefore be afforded on this point.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

1461 37

From,
Lieutenant J. J. Moberly, Engineer,
Supt. of the E. C. Canal.

To,
The Chief Engineer,
Department Public Works,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,
I have the honor to report to you that owing
to the decrease of water in the Canal boats
cannot carry their proper loads.

Agreeably to precedent, I have allowed
a toll of 3 Annas & Ton, being levied, instead
of 4 Rs. and trust my proceedings will meet
with your approval.

E. C. Canal Office,
Camp Madras, 9th June 1858.

I have &c
J. J. Moberly Lieut.
Supt. of the E. C. Canal.

J. J. True copy

Lawrence Major
Supt. Engr in ch. of the
Central Office of P. W.

17.10.1858

N^o 173

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From,
 Lieutenant J. J. Ingherby, Engineer,
 Supt. of the C. C. Canal.
 To, The Chief Engineer
 in the Dept. of Works
 Port Saint George

In reply to Extract from your Proceeding
 N^o 1176 of the 16th June, I have the honor to observe
 that, the reduction of tolls had been made on 2
 different occasions previous to this - but that I
 have now only allowed it, in anticipation of
 your sanction which I have asked in my letter
 N^o 461 of the 9th Instant.

C. C. Canal,
 Supt. Office,
 Madras, 17th June 1858

I have &c
 J. J. Ingherby Esq.
 Supt. of the C. C. Canal

A True Copy
 Given by Major
 Supt. Eng. in ch. of the
 Central Office of C. W.

27/10/58

enclosure in a letter from

The Officer in ch. of the

Central Office of C. W.

to the Secy to Govt

Dated 23rd June 1858

Recd

1858

Copy of a letter from

the Supt. of the C. C. Canal
 Reporting that a bill of 3
 Annas per ton is to be
 levied on all boats going
 to the lower state of
 water in the Canal.

Summary Report of the P. C. Canal Progress for the month
of May 1858. 17.

1 The promising state of the Canal as reported in
my last month's report has I regret to say not continued.

2 The rains which fell to the South did not extend
to the North of Madras and the only means of supply
from the Sea, the Ennore mouth has closed - the water
has consequently fallen so much that I have been obliged
now to allow of 3 instead of 4 annas per ton, being paid
as toll by the boat owners - the effect here is different
from what it was on the closing of the Pulicat mouth.

3 The water above the lock, has continued at very
nearly the same level as before: but the continuous
South wind, has accumulated to the northward, the water
of the canal below it and of the lake, keeping open the
mouth of the P. C. Canal.

4 The P. C. River, is quite closed but the
trade continues from Thadde near its mouth, I have
stopped any further attempt at keeping it open, as we should
have to work below the usual level and probably should only

End

enclosed in a letter from
the Officer in Charge of the
Canal Office of the
P. C. Canal to the
P. C. Canal Office of the
P. C. Canal.

Date 23
June 1858

18/3/58

Copy of a letter from
the Officer in Charge of the
Canal Office of the
P. C. Canal to the
P. C. Canal Office of the
P. C. Canal.

find that the water continued to fall as we deepened.

5 The expenditure, will be confined to the more necessary parts to maintain an uniform depth as much as possible.

6 There are now 9 boats employed on the South Canal.

7 Mr Kennedy has launched, and completed the new model boats, has been employed in removing shoals, caused by the crops drainage, entering the canal, and in completing the bridge at Fadras.

8 Mr Howard has been employed on the repairs of the North branch.

9 Mr Lewis and Mr Cottrell, are turning to the northwards.

10 The traffic returns show a slight increase in both miscellaneous produce, and in salt, over the quantities in the same month of last year.

E. C. Canal Dept. Office
Fadras, 9th June 1858

J. J. J. Moberly Lieut.
Capt of the E. C. Canal.

John Lewis Esq.
Major.
Capt Engin in Ch. of the
Central Office of C. W.

J. W. W.

Central Office of P.W.D.
Port Saint George

23 June 1858

The Officer in charge of the

Central Office of P.W.D.

The Secretary to Government

C. W. D.

I have the honor to submit the accompanying

in copies of letters, noted in the margin, received from the Superintendent East Coast Canal, in the first of which, he states that, in consequence of the decrease of water in the Canal, and boats not being able to carry their proper burden, he had, agreeably to precedents allowed a reduction on the Toll from (1.) Four to (3.) Three Annas a ton. I beg to observe that, it has been the practice hitherto to submit such letters to the Board of Revenue for sanction, and to notify the reduction in the Official Gazette for the information of the public; I am not aware however

Public

P. 1362

49 June 1858
417-23

Enclosure in a letter from

The Chief Engineer

To the Secretary to Govt. C.W.D.

228-23 June 1858

P. 1362

MM/38/58

Copy of the Summary

Report of the C. & Canal

Proposed for the month of

May 1858.

however that this course has been pursued in
consequence of any orders to that effect, and as it
appears to me that the remission, or reduction of any
authorized Tax should rest with the Government, or
the Officer delegated with its authority to do so. I have
thought it proper to submit the letters referred to above,
and to solicit sanction of the reduction of the Toll in
question, which the Government will see has been
already allowed to take place in anticipation of
sanction. I beg to submit a copy of Lieutenant
Robert's Report of the E. C. Canal for the past
month, in which he expressed his views as to the
causes which have led to a diminution of water
South of the Locks.

2. As the reduction of this Tax is likely
to prove of Annual occurrence, the Government
may perhaps desire that it may be at once
sanctioned or authorized without its intervention, and
it

49 June 1858.

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it occurs to me, as the Canal is in charge of
an Officer of the Public Works Department,
upon whose report or suggestion the reduction
is made, that the Chief Engineer, as the immediate
head of that Officer, should be delegated with the
authority of Government, to authorize such reduction
on which point, I beg to solicit orders.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt Servt

Lawson Major
Supt. Engr in ch. of the
Central Office of C. W.

Central Office of C. W.
Fort Saint George
23 June 1858.

To,
The Secretary to Government C. W. D.

Ex² 10000

to go on.

W. 1317.

P. 112

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 8th July 1858 -

157

Read the following letter from the
Officer in charge of the Central Office
of Public Works -

(Here enter 23 June 1858 - W. 1362)

1. Major Lawford, in
charge of the Central Office, S.
P.W., reports in the above letter
that, in consequence of decrease
of water in the East Coast Canal
preventing boats from carrying
their usual burthen, the Supt.
has reduced the toll from 4 to
3 annas, and that he has done
this agreeably to precedent; and
remarking that this reduction
of tax is likely to prove of an-
nual occurrence, Major Lawford
suggests that, as the Canal is in
the charge of an Officer of the S.P.
S., the Chief Engr should be dis-
charged with authority to sanction
such reductions without reference
to Govt.

[Handwritten signature/initials]

[Handwritten signature/initials]

20th March 1858
27th June 1858

Central Office
of Public Works

23 June 1858

W. 1362

23 June 1858

Regarding the authority of
Supt. to the reduction of the
toll on boats on the S.P. S.

Encl. from S. to S. P.W.

26 June 1858

W. 1362

2. Major Lawford however, before making this reference, should have taken the usual and correct course in cases where the Revenue is affected, i.e. he should have transmitted his views for the consideration of the Board of Revenue in the first instance, a course which he himself acknowledges to have been hitherto followed. He will now be good enough to re-
~~new take this step, and send her~~
~~for the subject to the Board in~~
~~to the same course in all future~~
~~the first instance.~~
occasions of this nature. Major Lawford perhaps felt, that in the present case a previous reference to the Board of Revenue was not necessary, under the impression that it was not definitively determined, whether the toll on the Canal should be viewed as Revenue, or as a fund to meet its repairs, maintenance, or improvement; but by para 2 of Ex. Minis. Cons: 23rd June/57, N^o 1212, distinct instructions were given by Govt to credit the

collections from the Canal to the General Revenues of the Country, and to debit the toll establishment to the same head; so that the toll is actually an item of the public revenue, and as such is a matter within the special provinces of the Revenue Board.

3. It is observed that the Supt has taken upon himself to reduce the toll on his own authority, and he claims to do this on the strength of two precedents; but as the circumstances of these two so called precedents do not appear ever to have come before Govt, they must have been of the Supt's own creation. By Ex. Minis. Cons: 15th January 1855, N^o 73 (para 6), the management & indeed of the Toll establishment was placed in the hands of the Supt East Coast Canal; but it does not appear that he was thereby to have any authority to alter the rate of toll fixed by Govt. The rate it is true was left open to after revision, but this re-

vision was, rather of a permanent
character, obviously, to be made
by the Govt alone, in the reference
to circumstances of traffic spe-
cially, related to them. Explan-
ations will therefore be afforded
on this point.

W. H. B.

10 Copies to the Offr Chief Eng. Dept of the
3 - " - " B. of Rev. N.

21st June 21 July

Public Works 1858 Dep^{ty}
Dy. to Cons. 18th July

N^o 1317
Extract Mins. of Cons.
D/8th July/58.

From Chief Engineer 4th March/58
Cms. 526 inc. 1st April
N^o 118412

Referring to a reduction
reported to have been made of
the rates of Tollen boats in the
Eastern Coast Canal, observe that
the Superintendent has no author-
ity to alter the rate fixed by
Government. Call for explanation
on certain points specified.

C-10 870 38.