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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1483 (B.No. 40-41) Press / Mis.

Dated 1st August 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 1483. P.W.D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 1st ~~July~~ August 1857.

Read the following

Letter from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 15th June 1857 N 1182)

Para 1. With this letter the Chief Engineer forwards

J.C. copy of one from Colonel Cotton,

M.C. Commandant of Engineers, reporting, after a visit to the upper Godavery as far as the first or Sinteral barrier, upon the question of improving the navigation of that river.

2 Colonel Cotton's report may be said to treat of two different subjects, which though tending to the same end, may be separately considered. One is the general question of the improvement

of

of the navigation on a great scale, so as to open it for about nine months in the year; the other, is the measures that should be adopted immediately for assisting traffic, pending the commencement of the permanent and more expensive works.

3 On the first subject the Government have very lately expressed their views in considering the able report by Lieut. Haig, submitted with the Chief Engineer's letter of the 7th of July 1856. Colonel Cotton's views appear to agree very generally with those expressed by Lieut. Haig, and it is not necessary to go minutely into them; it will be sufficient to remark that in the Extract from the

E. M. C. 19th May 1857 N°961.

Para 56

3rd

the Minutes of Consultation dated the 19th May 1857, N°961, the Government have recorded a strong opinion in favor of so improving the navigation of the Godavery as to afford water communication from the Sea to Nateherygaum, a distance of 500 miles, during 8 or 9 months of the year. The question of completing the navigation throughout the whole year, by the artificial supply of water in the hot months, was left for consideration whenever more certain information shall have been obtained regarding the expense at which water may be stored. The whole question of the navigation was left for eventual final disposal, whenever Lieut. Haig

Haig should return to India from the professional tour he is about to make in Europe and America, and should have laid before Government the results of his experience, as far as it may prove applicable to the project to which his attention has been for some time directed.

4 As regards the second subject of the report under notice, Viz: the measures to be adopted for immediate execution with the view of improving the navigation for the interval that will elapse before Lieut. Haig's return, Colonel Cotton refers to the following points, and specifies the expenditure he would recommend the Government to make on each.

		Rupees
1	Establishment	100,000.
2	Removing rocks	30,000.
3	Concentrating the Stream at the shoals	10,000.
4	Locks at the Second barrier	10,000.
5	Repairing Engine & building boat for it	6,000.
6	Other boats	10000.
7	Two pairs of new small Engines & boats	12,000.
8	Sundries	10,000.
		Rupees 1,88,000.

5 ~~As regards the first item~~, Colonel Cotton proposes that a staff of Officers consisting of a District Engineer and five Assistants, besides 20 Europeans, and a considerable subordinate native establishment, should remain permanently stationed on the river "to help forward the traffic in all "sorts of ways, to execute the "works proposed, and to work "the river regularly on Govern-
ment

ment account, conveying troops,
stores, salt, and even Merchandize
and travellers, till the traffic is
thoroughly taken up by privats
parties. This establishment
is proposed as part of Colonel
Cotton's scheme, which he
hopes, if adopted in full,
will increase the river traffic:
but, as the Government, for
reasons which will be stated
below, are not in a position
to recommend the adoption
of the remainder of Colonel
Cotton's views, it would be
manifestly inexpedient to
maintain an Establishment
needed only to carry them
out.

6 The second, third,
and fourth items, are but
parts of the general plan
for the improvement of the
navigation of the river, and

Items Nos. 6 & 7.

as by Lieut^t Haig's mission
to Europe and America, the
Government practically admit
that experience is required before
any plans are adopted for
carrying out the general scheme,
they consider that it would be
premature to sanction Colonel
Cotton's recommendation in
this respect, and that it would
be better to leave the question
of improving the river until
Lieut^t Haig's return.

7 The three next
items are all connected
with the construction of boats
for the navigation of the
river, and as one object of
Lieut^t Haig's journey is particu-
cularly specified to be the
acquisition of information
as to the craft used on shallow
rivers in America, the Govern-
ment consider that the

same

same reasoning that induces them to decline sanction to the works proposed for the improvement of the river, must lead them also to decline expenditure in building boats or in constructing Engines.

8 The Government consider that Colonel Cotton's report eminently displays the ability ~~High~~ that all that comes from his hand so clearly shews. And they regret that they are, on this occasion, obliged to decline his suggestions. Colonel Cotton will however observe, that they have in no respect lost the interest they have always felt in the great scheme of navigation he has proposed, and has continued with such persevering ability to press forward, and that they in no degree depart from the anticipation of eventual success which they recorded on the 19th of May last.

But late orders from

9

Lt Colonel Cotton must be aware, as fully as the Government, that recent events in India must too surely increase the financial difficulties under which the Supreme Government have for some time labored; that money for the works he here proposed could be obtained only on emergent sanction from that authority and that this Government would not be acting well, in placing on the Government of India the onus of refusing money for works, which at the time the application was made, it was made known that they could not sanction.

The Government anticipate with great interest the

The Government of India issued under a Political necessity, but it ought to be the power of his Govt at adopt, at present, any of Colonel Cotton's suggestions.

the return of Lieutenant Haig to India, and will be prepared to take up the plans he may then submit, and to give them full and immediate consideration.

10 It is stated in para 11 that the "authority of Hyderabad extends over only a "little strip of land on the "east bank of the Godavery, "all the way from the Wurda, "to the boundary of Rajahmundry; and that this "strip separates the Nagpore State from the river." This strip of land is insignificant in value, but as it cuts off Nagpore for two hundred Miles from a highway of the greatest importance, Colonel Cotton suggests that some

arrangement

Page 5.

arrangement should be made with His Highness the Nizam for its transfer to Nagpore; we should then "be days "possess a "bank of the river throughout "from the Wurda to the Sea; "and the great desideratum would then be attained, of "the residence of an English "Revenue Officer on the bank "of the river, a point of "incalculable importance "and benefit, not only to "our Zemindaries, but also "to those on the other side"; where he describes, a thousand horrors are enacted which would at once vanish before the light that the presence of an English Officer would create. Colonel Cotton

Considers

considers this to be the first and most essential step that should be taken in order to secure the effective opening up of this great highway; and secondly he proposes that a portion of the contingent should be established on the line of the rivers.

11 The Government are disposed to concur in the views expressed by Colonel Cotton as to the advantages to be derived by the transfer of the narrow tract of country mentioned by him, as well as in regard to the other arrangements suggested by him, for securing the operations on the river, against interference on the part of the neighbouring petty States; indeed the Government regard these measures, as essential preliminaries to the more enlarged operations which they have it in contemplation to undertake on the Godavery after Lieut. Haig's return from Europe and America, and will bring them to the notice of the Government of India ~~as soon as possible to enable them~~ ~~to decide whether the whole scheme should be carried into effect at once or not.~~

12 As many typographical errors are found in the printed copy of Colonel Cotton's report, it will be returned to the Chief Engineer for

for comparison with the original, for correction and retransmission to Government.

D.F.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dispatch No. 5.
with Col. Cotton's Report.

Copy in a Letter to E.
of 3 Nov. 1857 No. 18.

29-11-1857 I
16-1-31 II

Public Works 1857 Depart.
Do. to Govt 4th August

No. 1483.

Extract Minute of Govt.
Dated 1st August 1857.

From Coll. A. T. Cotton Commandt.
Engrs. - of 26 Sept. 57 C. No. 1930
in Govt. 1st Oct.

Having taken into consideration the Report from Colonel Col. Cotton regarding the navigation of the Western Godavery and its tributaries in order to ascertain the Collery and Coal Seams of Sironcha and to establish regular communication between that Station and the Collery fields to the Westerning Port of Coringa on the Eastern Coast.

Copy with Report to Govt. of India - Dept. Public Works
Govt. of Bombay
24th August 1857 - No.
No 40 of 1647-1648.

C21 July