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Government of Madras.

Public (Spl.) DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 12 1948

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 7th December 1858.

No. 142. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 24th November 1858, No. 5722.

SIR,

In forwarding for the consideration of Government, the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to the Acting District Engineer of Canara by Lieutenant Drever, detailing the results of a partial examination he had made of the ruins of Gairsoppah, and requesting that the sum of Rupees (300,) three hundred, might be placed at his disposal for carrying out further explorations, I have the honor to express an opinion that it will be well worth while to incur that small outlay, in bringing to light the many interesting memorials of the past which seem to lie hidden amidst the jungle that now thickly covers the site of this ancient City.

Copy of letter from Lieutenant Drever to District Engineer of Canara, No. 76 of 1st November 1858.

Letter from Lieutenant W. S. DREVER, Executive Engineer, Ceded District; to the District Engineer of Canara, dated Camp Coomptah 1st November 1858, No. 76.

SIR,

I have the honor with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 37, dated 11th June 1857, to state that I have examined the ruins of Gairsoppah as far as lay in my power, I find they are the remains of an ancient Jain city which probably existed 1,000, or 1,200 years ago.

They are however so entirely over-grown with jungle that it is impossible to obtain any accurate knowledge of their present condition. There are apparently 2 or 3 Temples still in a very fair state of preservation and one is awe-struck on entering these buildings to find the exquisitely carved stone-figures of the now unknown Gods, as perfect as the day when the sculptor finished them, whilst ruin and desolation outside, every where surround them. The carvings themselves baffle description, they are as simple as they are pure, bold and majestic. I noticed one casting in either bronze or copper, which was of beautiful finish, and shewed very high knowledge of art.

I have little doubt that if these ruins were thoroughly explored, we should come across some memorials of the past which would fully recompense us for our labor, and I have therefore the honor to suggest that Government be solicited to place Rupees 300 at my disposal for the purpose of enabling me to clear away some of the jungle the ruins extending over perhaps 2 square miles.

If necessary I can make arrangements to sell the wood thus cut, as firewood, whereby I might doubtless recover 3 per cent of the outlay. There is no valuable timber amongst the ruins, but if we should discover any it will not of course be cut. These ruins are situate about 15 miles below the "Falls" on the lelt bank of the Gairsoppah river.

No. 143. ORDER THEREON, No. 2646; dated 7th December 1858.

The Governor in Council sanctions out of the one lac fund, the disbursement of a sum not exceeding Rupees (300) three hundred, for examining the ruins of Gairseppah in the Canara District. Colonel Lawford will give instructions to sell the wood that may be cut from the jungle and credit the proceeds thereof to Government.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 76.

To The District Engineer
of Canara.

Sir,

I have the honor with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 37. dated 11th June 1857. to state that I have examined the ruins of Gairsoppah as far as lay in my power. I find they are the remains of an ancient Jain City which probably existed 1000. or 1200 years ago. —

They are however so entirely over grown with jungle that it is impossible to obtain any accurate knowledge of their present condition. There are apparently 2 or 3 temples still in a very fair state of preservation and one is awe struck on entering these buildings to find the Exquisitely carved stone figures of the now unknown Gods, as perfect as the day when the Sculptor finished them, whilst ruin and desolation outside, every where surround them. The Carvings themselves baffle description they are as simple as they are pure, bold and majestic. I noticed one casting in either bronze or copper, which was of beautiful finish, and shewed very high knowledge of art. —

I have little, doubt that if these ruins were thoroughly Explored, we should come across

across some memorials of the past which would fully recompense us for our labor, and I have therefore the honor to suggest that Government be solicited to place Rupees 300 at my disposal for the purpose of enabling me to clear away some of the jungle the ruins extending over perhaps 2 Square Miles.—

If necessary I can make arrangements to sell the wood thus cut, as firewood, whereby I might doubtless recover 3 ⅌ Cent of the outlay — There is no valuable timber amongst the ruins, but if we should discover any it will not of course be cut. These ruins are situate about 15 Miles below the "Falls" on the left bank of the Sweetfish river.—

Ex: Eng: Office
Camp Coompetah
1st November 1858

I have &c
(Signed) W. S. Drewer Lieut.
Ex: Engineer C. D.

(True Copy)

Captain
A. Sup. Eng. N. W. Circle

Central Office of Works.
Fort Saint George.
24th November, 1858.

No. 5722

From,

The Officiating Chief Engineer.

To,

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Depart.

General

Sir.

In forwarding, for the consideration of Government, the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to the Acting District Engineer of Canara by Lieutenant Drever, detailing the results of a partial examination he had made of the ruins of Cairoopala, and requesting that the sum of Rs. 300/, three hundred, might be placed at his disposal for carrying out further explorations, I have the honor to express an opinion that it will be well worth while to incur that small outlay, in bringing to light the many interesting Memorials of the past which seem to lie hidden amidst the Jungle that now thickly covers the site of this Ancient City.

Enclosure/
Copy of letter from Lt. Drever to Dist. Engr. of Canara Reg. 6 of 11th November/58.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servt.

Lieut. Colt.
Offg. Chief Engineer.

1858
No.
Enclosure
Dated 24th November 1858
Rec'd
No. 5722.
MM 2838/58
Copy of Lr. from Lt. Drever to Dy. Chief Engr. Canara, reporting results of his visit to ruins of Cairoopala.
Read and Offer remarks thereon.

Copy in a Letter to Govt dated 19th May last No. 32.

P. W. 1858 Dharwar
Cairoshpah December
No. 2538

From
The Offg. Chief Engr.
To
The Secretary to Govt.
P.W.D.

Dated 24th
Rect. 25 } November 1858
No. 5722
Enclosure 1 Cover

Forwards copy of a letter addressed to the District Engr. of Canara by Lieut. Dreyer on the ruins of Cairoshpah, and recommends that the Rupees 300. required to continue the explorations may be granted.

Copy in Order
No. 2646 of 7th Dec. 1858.

No. 1426 of 14 Dec.

30 Nov. to 6 Dec.

No. 2146

The Governor in Council sanctions out of the one lac fund, the disbursement of a sum not exceeding Rupees (300) Three hundred for examining the ruins of Cairoshpah in the Canara District. Colonel Lawton will give instructions to sell the wood that may be cut from the jungle and credit the proceeds thereof to Govt.

Fort St. George
7th Dec.
10 Copies to the Offg. Chief Engr. and Duplicate 8th
1 " " Accountant General

W. 7/12