

1. Number of pages 2
2. Date of repair 7-10-34
3. Initial of Reference

M.B.O. 1-52,400-22-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 87 13-4-1858

G.O. No.	647	Press Mis.
23-24 Dated	12-4-	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 23. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer in charge of the Central office of P. W.; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 1st April 1858, No. 8750.

SIR,

With reference to the Chief Engineer's Proceedings No. 7256, dated 8th February last, I have the honor to forward a letter from the Superintendent Eastern Coast Canal No. 401, dated 27th Ultimo, containing further complaint of the injury to the Navigation on the Canal, caused by the irregular Proceedings of the Boatmen; and to state my conviction, that until the Canal Officers are empowered to act in a summary manner, in the removal of all such obstructions as those reported by Lieutenant Moberly, the evil will not abate.

Letter from Lieutenant F. J. MOBERLY, Engineers, Superintendent of the East Coast Canal; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Woolchee, 27th March 1858, No. 401.

SIR,

1. With reference to my letter No. 349 of 30th January, (no reply to which I have yet been favored with.) I have the honor to bring to your notice another example of the inconvenience caused by the want of Police attention to the traffic on the East Coast Canal.

2. Mr. Howard reports to me that 5 boats (Nos. in margin) were blocking up the entrance to the Jonapaliem cut and had been there, as he heard, for 4 or 5 days not only do they prevent the passage of boats to this important point of loading firewood but they cause a shoal wherever they remain at the entrance of a cut like this, impeding the current and thereby producing a deposit.

3. The firewood boats have at present nearly a monopoly, and I have reason to believe that this Proceeding is a part of their manœuvring to injure any outsider who attempts to share in the trade.

4. Other boats (Nos. in margin) were obstructing other parts of the Canal, and some of their crews behaved very impertinently when ordered to remove them.

5. The notice boards have been put up as desired by the Collector of Chingleput, but as I formerly pointed out, uselessly.

6. There is no penalty attached, and it is only at intervals that the Canal Officers can discover any case of disobedience the Police authorities at Streehurricottah &c., are wholly indifferent.

7. I have already on two occasions complained to the Collector who has always had the power of punishing them for the commission of a nuisance; but nothing has been done, doubtless the boatmen have heard of it; and of course any attempt at asserting my authority is ridiculed.

8. I have carefully and sedulously avoided requesting any assistance from the Collector except in these Police matters where I had no jurisdiction, and in these I have received no aid. I find my predecessors complained of precisely the same; and in the case of the Adyar encroachments (which were, as it appeared, brought to the Collector's notice by Lieutenant Sankey) I was considered guilty of neglect.

9. I am therefore, in self-defence, obliged to appeal again for your interference, and to urge the necessity for some scale of punishments being notified and inflicted.

10. The quantity of firewood carried to Madras is decreasing each month, and though some of this diminution may be attributed to the suspension of Public Works yet I cannot but think that a great deal is due to the fight made by the wood merchants of Madras against any other competition.

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

No. 21.

ORDER THEREON, No. 647; dated 12th April 1858.

Ordered to be referred to the Collector of Chingleput for early report.

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

N^o 21/58
From, *The Officer in charge of the*
Central Office of P. W. Works.

To, *The Secretary to Government P. W. D.*

Sir,
With reference to the Chief Engineer's Proceedings
N^o 256, dated 8th February last, I have the honor to
forward a letter from the Superintendent Eastern
Coast Canal N^o 601, dated 27th Ultimo, containing further
complaint of the injury to the Navigation on the Canal,
caused by the irregular Proceedings of the Boatmen; and
to state my conviction, that until the Canal Officers
are empowered to act in a summary manner, in
the removal of all such obstructions as those reported
by Lieutenant Ingham, the evil will not abate.

I have the honor to be,

Central Office of P. W.
Fort Saint George,
1st April 1858.

Sir,
Your most Obedt Servt
Lawson Major
Supt. Eng. in charge of the
Central Office of P. W.

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