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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con- 10/6/38

G.O. No.	<u>1354</u>	Press
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<u>57.52</u>		
Dated	<u>3-6</u>	18 <u>5</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

26/5/38

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
from 1st to 10th June 1859.*

No. 51. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer ;
to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 12th May 1859,
No. 366.

With reference to paras. 4 and 5 of Extract Minutes Consultation of the 29th March 1859

1 Statement of expenditure on Coch-
rane's Canal on repairs during
1855-56-57-58.
1 Letter from Mr. Kennedy to the
District Engineer of Chingleput,
No. 218 of 14th April 1859 with
one enclosure.

No. 737, I have the honor to forward a Statement of the ex-
penditure on Cochrane's Canal on repairs during each of the
four last years, and a copy of a letter from Mr. Kennedy, the
Officer in charge of it, to the address of the District Engineer
of Chingleput, furnishing, with a full account of the present
condition of the Canal as to freeness from shoals and obstructions,

a Statement of soundings taken along its whole length about the middle of March last, when
the water was nearly at its lowest, and detailing the measures which have been taken to intro-
duce a better style of boat.

2. Mr. Kennedy states that during the present season the obstruction to navigation having
been less than in former years, no reduction of tolls has been made or asked for, except by the
Superintendent of Salt manufacture, and that if the Canal is not every where what it should be,
it has been kept not only in tolerable order, but is also being gradually improved, under
the management of an establishment as per

1 Executive Engineer 3rd Class. } With their sanctioned
1 Assistant Overseer (European.) } Establishment.
4 Sub-Overseers (Natives.) }

that the outlay on repairs has been in
1855. 1856. 1857. 1858.
Rupees. 5,906-3-6 3,517-1-0 5,750-3-6 13,256-3-4.

3. With regard to the endeavours that have been made to improve the form of boat in use
on the Canal, Mr. Kennedy, who was employed to build three of different descriptions, accord-
ing to the plans of Colonel Cotton, under a grant of Rupees (4,500) four thousand and five
hundred, sanctioned by Government for the purpose, gives a very favorable opinion of the fit-
ness of the boats now employed, and explaining that although they are not so flat bottomed as
those designed by Colonel Cotton, they have still no keels, and therefore carrying a considera-
ble load with a comparatively light draft, are well adapted to the purposes for which they are
required, and are well suited to the navigation, which, being neither all Canal nor all open water,
requires boats that can be tracked, poled, or sailed according to circumstances, and that shall
not be too heavy nor too long to be manageable in the strong tide, or head winds that prevail
on the Coast at some seasons. He further explains that although the boats now in use do not
offer the best accommodation to passengers, they are quite suited to Natives, and far from un-
pleasant means of transit even to Europeans, and that both for the carriage of passengers and
goods they are so cheaply built by the Native Carpenters as quite to distance competition.

4. Mr. Kennedy concludes by stating that notwithstanding the imposition of one Anna ad-
ditional toll per ton on all boats exceeding 10 feet in breadth, boats of the usual beam of from
12 to 14 feet are still being built, and that it would have been better to have widened the Canal
than to have interfered with the dimensions of the boats to be employed on it ; an opinion with
which I do not altogether concur, although I believe that the most effectual way of improving
even the form of the boats will be the perfecting of the navigation and its extension northward.

No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1859, No. 1334.

In reply to an order of Government the Chief Engineer submits a Report on the Northern
Canal by Mr. Kennedy Executive Engineer in charge of that and of the Southern Canal.

2. The Governor in Council has read this very intelligent and useful Report with much
interest. It appears from this paper that the form and style of construction of the boats in use
on the Canal is much less inconvenient and objectionable than the Government had supposed.

Paras. 11 to 14.

Mr. Kennedy states that the boats are cheap, manageable, and well
adapted for the varying conditions of the navigation, which consists
partly of Canal and partly of open back-water, and that the large boats convey a cargo of thirty
tons on a draft of water of less than three feet, and are worked by only
three men.

Para. 23.

Report

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
from 1st to 10th June 1859.*

3. With the view of limiting the width of boats an addition of 25 per cent. was made last year to the toll on those exceeding ten feet beam; but as Mr. Kennedy states, without any effect in restricting the building of wide boats. The Governor in Council observes that the imposition of the additional toll was made by Government avowedly as an experimental measure, and with some apparent hesitation. He is of opinion that the locks on a Canal are the proper gauge for the boats, and that it is not fair to impose another and a smaller standard. The experiment in the present case appears to have wholly failed; the Governor in Council agrees with Mr. Kennedy that the additional levy ought not to be continued and he resolves to cancel the order. This resolution will take effect immediately, and the Chief Engineer will be careful to give it full publicity along the Canal.

4. The table of soundings forwarded by Mr. Kennedy shews deficient depth of water. This amounts to three feet in only a very few places, and in some it is under two feet. It is true that these soundings were taken during the dryest season of the year, and, as stated, under very adverse circumstances of wind and tide; but still this condition of the Canal is not satisfactory, and efforts should be made to make such low depth impossible at any season. The annual maintenance allowance for the ordinary repairs of the Canal is one hundred Rupees a mile; sufficient, Mr. Kennedy says, if the work were once in good order, but not enough to bring it into such a state.

Para. 3.
Para. 8.

5. The Governor in Council now resolves to double the allowance for two years, making it 200 Rupees a mile, or Rupees 19,600 in all per annum. This increase will take effect from the 1st Instant; and at the end of the two years, the Chief Engineer will report as to the proper amount of the allowance. Should any extra expenditure be required at particular points, and for particular objects, especially for widening the parts said to be

Para. 26.
now too narrow, the Governor in Council will be prepared to sanction Estimates in addition to this maintenance allowance; as he is very desirous that this important navigation should be made thoroughly efficient. It is observed that the annual receipts from tolls on the Canal amount to Rupees 32,000. It will be understood that the amounts of the maintenance allowance due to the Southern and to the Northern Canals respectively, are to be regarded as available only for those portions.

6. The Governor in Council will be glad to receive a report on the Southern Canal similar to that on the Northern. It should shew the state of the Canal itself, the extent to which it is made use of, and the probable causes of its being less used than the Northern Canal, as it is believed to be.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Public Works Dept

No 1354

*Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 3rd May 1859.*

*Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer.*

*(Here enter 12th May 1859
1356)*

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Para 14

Para 23.

Order, Sept 6: 58
No 1815 Para 3.

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W.A.

10 Copies to the Chief Clerk. Dated 4th

Caus: 10 May 1859 N^o 120-121

Copy in a Letter to England
of 11th May 1860 N^o 26.

Public Works 1859 Sept.
Caus: 10th June.

N^o 1354.

Proc: of the alladras Govt.
of 3rd June 1859.

From the Chief Eng^r: 27-28-29
June 1859 N^o 1697-47714
Caus: 22 July

From 2nd of 12th July 1859 N^o 1354
in Dec. 14 Sep 1861
From D^o - D^o 13th Nov 1861
Caus: 2600 - Dec 17

(D)
Napung orders on
Mr Kennedy's report on the
state of the Northern portion
of Cochrane's Canal.

1257+52.