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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 13-1-59

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 12th January 1859

No 6962

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government &c &c &c

Sir

Marine

In early obedience to the orders in
G. M. G dated 5th January 1859 No 41,
referring for my report a letter from
27 Nov 1858 Mr George Taylor lately a Covenanted
Civil Engineer in this Department, I
have the honor to submit the following
remarks for the favorable consideration
of the Right Honorable the Governor
in Council.

2 Mr Taylor was nominated to
the Survey of the whole bay & harbour

of

of Cornwa a little before July 1855, and from that month to January 1856, he was employed in cutting his way through dense jungles and high kunka grass for the purpose of tracing on the ground, the construction lines of the future survey, waiting meanwhile, as he alleges, for instruments and field books. On the 22nd January 1856, he began chaining the survey, and therefore may be considered to have commenced actual operations of survey on that date.

3 His field work was closed on the 1st September 1857 (the day on which Wm. Saylor's previous and voluntary notice of resignation expired) having thus occupied a period of 20 months, and having therefore cost a sum of Rupees 10,000 calculated at the monthly salary of Rs. 500 which he received.

4 As the field notes would have been useless, unless they were plotted on paper, Wm. Saylor was permitted to go on with the plotting, and on 8th September 1857 No 1702 Government promised "to grant him "in consideration of the circumstances "he had set forth regarding his "expenses, the sum of 500 Rupees "as passage money on his making "a complete record of that part of "the survey on which he was engaged "and on his delivering to the District "Engineer all original papers connected "with that duty."

5 Wm. Saylor finished the plans and

and delivered them personally at his office, instead of to the District Engr as directed, on the 25th November last, as reported in the Offg Chief Engineer's letter of the 29th of that month. This part of the harbour actually surveyed comprises six considerable towns, very numerous ship yards, and native Docks &c on the banks of the river of Corunga, together with a Map of hydrographical details consisting of rivers, creeks, old channels, sunkahs and shoals &c which must have compelled arduous, unwholesome and tedious labour to delineate with accuracy. The still unfinished portion of the area comprised in Mr Taylor's operations would, he states, occupy him six months if it should include

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include the actual survey of the town and boundaries of the settlement of Yanam.

6 With regard to the results actually gained, it is to be very greatly regretted that the survey has not been fully completed, and that the names of places &c have not been inserted, but notwithstanding these obvious and great defects, the survey appears to have been executed with much care and skill, and I am of opinion that if the internal details can be relied on to the extent that Mr Taylor's well known abilities warrant (& I have no reason to suppose otherwise) the cost of the undertaking will not exceed that of similar performances executed

elsewhere.

elsewhere.

7 Mr Taylor has been subjected to much expense, suffering & distress during the period he has been employed without stipend in plotting & finishing the Maps, and as he has received no sort of remuneration whatever for his labours since the expiry of his covenant, I can only recommend his case to the clemency and liberal consideration of Government, and I would respectfully suggest that instead of his promised passage money on the completion of the plans, a moiety of the salary which he formerly received be paid to him for the whole period from 1st September/57 to 30 November/58 during which he was sedulously engaged in hydrographic

labours for the redemption of his professional good name, and for purposes of future practical utility to the public service.

8 With reference to the question of re-employing Mr George Taylor it is to be feared that no opportunity may occur for some time to come as there are Members now on the list of the dep^t to be absorbed before any new appointments can be made, but should the Government wish to avail themselves again of Mr Taylor's services, I can see no insuperable objection to such a measure if considered as an occasional or temporary engagement.

9. But if the spectacle of an able and unquestionably most zealous

jealous professional gentleman, impoverished through the perversity of temper betraying him into often contumacy, and reduced to little if at all short of a ruin that comprises his wife and children, together with the consideration, that there has been something akin to chivalry, in the high feelings of honor that have prompted him to the self devotion to his first allotted task, appeal strongly to the sympathies of the Members of Government, then it might be asked whether a large and recent survey, carried on indeed with a technical refinement altogether unpractised and unknown in Indian Civil Engineering, yet still an unquestionably fine work, should not be

be brought to such a conclusion in regard to detailed completeness in its filling in, as should satisfy the standard of Mr. Taylor himself.

Whatever the intrinsic value of the Cauvery survey in respect to the scientific character on which it has been projected, and the exceeding labor it has absorbed, it is not too much to predicate that with its present unpopular aspect and want of grand and detail, it presents too few facilities of reference to become of much or frequent practical use. In view therefore of at once utilizing the already costly labors of Mr. Taylor and of relieving the urgency of his pecuniary distress, I respectfully beg

beg leave to throw out the idea of that gentleman being called upon to name a definite period within which his survey shall be finished up to his own standard of thorough completion as respects illustrations of every description, and that if reasonable, Mr. Taylor's services be engaged on such moderate and modified salary as the liberality of Government may decide, and the poor gentleman's necessities may accept.-

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed Servant
Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer

Fort St. George
Jany 1859

To The Secretary to Government

2077

Dft Conv. 11 January 59 No. 20622

Copy in a G. L to C
of 3rd Feby 1858 No 1.
Para 19

P.W. Works 1855 Sept
Conv 18 January 59
No 79

From
The Chief Engineer
To Accountant Genl. PWD

Xai 2 12th January 59
rec'd 12

20622

No 129.

Quote the requisition
of Govt No 41 of 5th Jany 59
respecting W. E. Taylor
late Covenanted Civil Engr
SE No 166. 18th Jany 1859.

C14 14th Jany 59 C19 21st