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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 20-12-59

G.O. No. 2926 Press / Mis.

Dated 15-12-1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, for the month of December 1859.

No. 101. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 10th December 1859, No. 1839.

Observing that the Government of Ceylon will be informed that there will be no objection to the immigrant labor Commission's building a jetty at Devil's Point, Tuticorin, on certain terms. } Vide Public Proceedings from 1st to 10th December 1859, Nos. 72 @ 75.)

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1859, No. 2926.

Ordered to be communicated to the District Engineer of Tinnavalli through the Chief Engineer.

(Signed) L. FORBES,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th November 1859, No. 482.

With reference to the Orders of Government under date the 19th September 1859, on the proposal submitted by the Emigrant labour Commissions in Ceylon, to build a Jetty at Devil's Point at Tutacorin, I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that I see no objection to the Commissioners being permitted to erect a Wharf or Jetty, to enable their steamers and other vessels to go alongside, to embark or disembark passengers and cargo, if they agree to defray the expense of additional officials being employed in the Master Attendant's and Sea Custom's Department.

2. Devil's Point is distant about 3 miles from Tutacorin, a road would have to be made from the Town to the Jetty, the shore end of which would have to be enclosed, and an office built and furnished to accommodate an extra writer and peon in the Master Attendant's Department, and an extra goomastah and peon in the Custom's Department. The monthly cost I estimate at 35 Rupees. When I was in Colombo in the beginning of this month, on my way out from England, I had some conversation with the Secretary to the Commissioners on this subject, and I understood from him, that the Commissioners considered the erecting a Wharf so very desirable, that they would be willing to defray the cost of any extra establishment that would be necessary we should entertain, and if they consent to do so, I would strongly advocate Government acceding to their proposal, as I would gladly see any measure tending to increase or facilitate the trade of the port of Tutacorin, carried out.

3. I beg to forward for the information of Government copies of a letter I addressed to the Master Attendant at Tutacorin, under date the 7th instant, and of that Officer's reply dated the 11th instant. Mr. Levinge who was acting for me during my absence, appears to have misunderstood the Order of Government I now reply to, and on the 26th September last, addressed the Acting District Engineer, requesting him to prepare an estimate of the cost of building the Jetty. No reply has as yet been received from that gentleman, and I do not consider it necessary to wait for one.

From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly; to the Master Attendant, Tutacorin, dated 7th November 1859.

With reference to the correspondence that has passed between you, and Mr. Levinge acting for me during my absence, I beg to inform you, that I do not propose recommending that the Madras Government should incur any expense either in erecting a Jetty at Devil's Point, or in making the road to it from Tutacorin. It is therefore unnecessary to discuss the cost or difficulty of erecting the Jetty, or whether or not it would be a saving to the Ceylon Government. The only point for us to determine, is, whether erecting a Jetty with fifty feet frontage, and a width of say 25 feet, would interfere with the channel between Devil's Point and Keerenge Island, and what additional precautions would have to be taken in your own and the Custom's Department; and I request you will favor me with your opinion on these two points. I request you will specify the width of the channel, and the least objectionable site on which a Jetty such as that proposed to be built could be erected, as any measure tending to increase or facilitate the trade of the Port, should be encouraged.

MASTER ATTENDANT'S OFFICE, TUTACORIN,
11th November 1859.

In reply to your letter No. 1060 under date 7th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I do not consider that the erecting of a Jetty at Devil's Point, would in any way interfere with the channel between it and Kerange Island.

Should the proposal be carried out, I am of opinion that one extra writer and peon for my Department, and the same increase for the Custom House would be sufficient. We shall also require a house for an office, &c., to be built on the Point.

I yesterday endeavoured to ascertain the width of the safe channel between the Point and Island, the current setting very strong to the south, I was unable to do so correctly, but in my opinion it is not more than 500 feet.

The Jetty should be erected either a little north or south of the Point; either of these sites would be unobjectionable, and could not in any way tend to alter the channel.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. PHIPPS,
Master Attendant.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. SILVER,
Collector.

ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1839, No. 1839.

Under the circumstances represented by the Collector of Tinnevelly, the Government will inform the Government of Ceylon, in reply to the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 8th September last, that there will be no objection to the Immigrant Labor Commission's building a Jetty at Devil's Point, Tuticorin, provided that

1st.—The cost of the Jetty and of the Office for the Master Attendant and Sea Custom Departments to be constructed near it, together with the expense of the extra establishment to be entertained, be all borne by the Commission.

2nd.—That the Jetty be available for all other vessels when not required by those of the Commissioners.

3rd.—That in the event of the Commissioners ceasing to resort to Tuticorin as a place of embarkation for coolies, the Jetty be made over to the Madras Government free of charge.

4th.—That so long as the Commissioners retain the Jetty, it be kept in repair at their expense.

5th.—That the Jetty be built at the precise spot indicated by the Collector and District Engineer, and according to the plan to be approved of by them.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Tinnevelly.
,, Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works 1859 Dept.
Proc. of Govt. 20th Dec.

No. 3264.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. in the Public Department.

Dated 10th Dec. 1859.
Read 13th

Observing that the Govt. of Ceylon will be informed that there will be no objection to the Municipal Labor Commissioners building a Jetty at Devil's Point in Trincomalee, on certain terms.

No. 2926. 15. December
Written under 2

No. 131 & 132.

No. 2926.

Ordered to be communicated to the District Engineer of Trincomalee through the Chief Engineer

Fort St. George
15th Dec. 1859.

10 Copies to the Chief Engr. with this No. & Date.