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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 26-9 1889

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, from 24th September to 4th October 1859.

No. 34. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Gorvernment, dated 31st August 1859, No. 4426.

Agreeably to the orders* of Government, calling for a report on the subject of steam dredges and tugs and mechanical Engineers, I have the honor to state as follows:

* No. 1373 dated 6th June 1859.

2. The sanction of Government is given in paragraph 2, for certain remedies being applied to 5 steam dredges supplied by Messrs. Forrester and Co., of Liverpool, if it should prove on further enquiry, that those proposed are the best means of correcting the defects.

3. It appears from further enquiry that the 5 dredges are not of one pattern and size, and I beg leave to defer reporting fully on this subject for some time longer, until press of work at Dowlaishwaram being over will admit of Mr. Moncrieff, mechanical Engineer, proceeding to Bezwadah to report on the dredges there—and until Mr. Kennedy has completed some alterations to the dredge on the eastern coast canal, which will enable him to test its utility and economy of working, when he will be in a position to report decidedly on the defects of its construction.

4. In reference to paragraph 7 of orders of Government, I enclose tabular statements as follows:

No. 1. Shows all steam dredges, tugs and punts received in this Presidency, their present actual distribution, and their proposed allotment.

No. 2. Is an abstract of the above exhibiting the total number of each in the several districts.

No. 3. Shows the distribution of the mechanical Engineers, and the manner in which they are severally employed.

5. It will be observed that the entire number of dredges in table 1 is 17, of which 5 are those referred to in paragraphs 1 and 4 of order of Government, and 1 was purchased in 1854 by the District Engineer of Godavery division, which leaves 11 dredges and their complement of tugs and spoil boats, (or punts) as noticed in paragraph 3 of the Government order.

6. The proposed allotment (7th column, table 1) is in accordance with that which is laid down in paragraph 3 of the order of the Government, and approved by the late Honorable Court, with the exception that 2 out of three dredges intended for the eastern coast canal have been sent to the Godavery division. This requires explanation, and I trust the following will be satisfactory.

7. They were originally landed at Madras, but on inspection by a Committee on the 1st April last, they were found to be so much injured by rust and salt water, (besides some large and important castings being broken), that the Committee recommended their being despatched to the north, where greater facilities existed, in the workshops at Dowlaishwaram and Bezwadah, for executing the necessary repairs. The Chief Engineer accordingly requested the Superintendent of Marine to send them by the "Cornwallis," with the tugs which that vessel had brought out and which were thus also transferred to the north. It seems to me that this measure should have been reported for the approval of Government, but in itself it was as regards the dredges necessary, and well advised with respect to the tugs, as these will be of the greatest use for the upper Godavery transit, and the dredgers for the river channels, and neither the District Engineer of Chingleput or Mr. Kennedy thinks it desirable that any expense should be incurred in regard to other dredges until he has fully tested the merits and demerits of the one at present on the canal.

No. 35. ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1859, No. 2300.

In this letter the Chief Engineer replies to the order of the 6th June last regarding steam dredges and tugs sent out.

2. Colonel Bell reports that the five steam dredges for the repair of which a conditional sanction was given in the above order, are not all of the same pattern or size, and he proposes

to defer reporting fully on the subject until Mr. Moncrieff has an opportunity of visiting and reporting on the dredges at Bezwadah; and until Mr. Kennedy has completed his alterations to the dredge on the east coast canal, and is enabled, after testing its utility and economy of working, to report decidedly on the defects of its construction. This is approved; the Government hope to receive Mr. Kennedy's report on the dredge under his care at an early date.

3. With reference to paragraph 7 of the order, the Chief Engineer explains that there are in all seventeen dredges, including the five noticed above and the one purchased by the Engineer of the Godavery Division in 1854, besides 12 tugs and 66 spoil boats. Their proposed allotment is as follows:

	Dredges.	Tugs.	Punts.
Godavery district.....	8	6	36
Coringa harbour.....	1	1	6
Masulipatam.....	1	1	6
Kistnah.....	4	2	12
East Coast Canal.....	1	0	0
Cooum (temporarily)	0	1	0
Negapatam.....	2	1	6
Total.....	17	12	66

4. The mechanical Engineers sent out to have charge of the dredges number in all sixteen nd are located as follows:

	First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Total.
Godavery division including Cocanada.	4	1	1	6
Nellore.....	0	0	1	1
Madras.....	2	1	3	6
Under Garrison Engineer.....	0	0	1	1
Nagapatam.....	0	0	1	1
Jackatalla.....	1	0	0	1
Total...	7	2	7	16

5. The Chief Engineer expresses no opinion as to whether the allotment of the dredges has been suited to the requirements of the Presidency, nor has he explained the necessity of having so many as eight out of seventeen in the Godavery division, or how they are to be employed. But he will no doubt order any transfers which he may consider expedient.

6. He will be pleased also to state how many of the dredges and tugs are now being actually worked, and where.

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

Public Works 1859 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. 4th October.

No: 2300.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
D/ 26th Sept. 59.

From the Chief Engr. D/ 23 Nov. 59
Estt. 3054 in Cons: 65

Regarding steam
dredges and tugs sent out

No. 34 & 35.