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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

No. 87. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Marine Department, dated 30th March 1859, No. 114.

Communicating a letter from Lieutenant Taylor of the Indian Navy, in view to the subjects and proposals adverted to in } (Vide Marine Consultation, 1st April 1859, Nos. 1-2.)
certain paras. being considered in this Department.

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, No. 858; dated 12th April 1859.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with reference to para. 8 and paras. 13 to 15 of the letter from Lieutenant Taylor of the Indian Navy in view that they may be taken into consideration in connection with the Estimates now under preparation by Lieutenant Hunter for works at Beikul.

Extract Minutes Consultation
8th March 1859 No. 517.

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

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 30th March 1859.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant A. D. TAYLOR, R. N., Commanding Her Majesty's Survey Vessel "Bheema" R. N.; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 3rd March, No. 14 of 1859.

SIR,

As the working season is coming to a close, I would at once lay before you a statement of what is done, and what remains undone of the work the Madras Government did me the honor to entrust me with.

2. Firstly, Mangalore backwater with the river entrance is finished, and as a Draftsman has been sent me by the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy, I am able to furnish both Collector and Engineer with copies. The Cochin and Quilon Charts are being copied and shall be forwarded as soon as possible. A Survey of Tellicherry, executed in March 1857, to copy which I had hitherto no time, is now in hand, and shall be sent with the others. Calicut reef and Alipee roadstead may be sent at a later period.

3. When last at Calicut it was reported to me by Mr. Glasson, a Coffee planter, that there existed a dangerous rock in the open sea between 7 and 10 fathoms, and abreast of what is called Conolly's house on West Hills. The circumstantial evidence he gave of its dangerous nature led me to search for it, and I did find a rock but with not less than 4 fathoms on it, and the line of soundings it was in was but $6\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms.

4. However, Mr. Glasson assured me (in spite of the declaration of the Moplah fishermen that they were only aware of the existence of *that* rock which I found though they had fished in the neighbourhood for many years) "that about 20 years ago the "Reliance," East Indiaman, under command of the late Master Attendant of Calcutta, the late Captain D. Robertson, when sailing along between 7 and 10 fathoms, struck on a rock, and that, on being docked in England, 25 feet of her false keel were missing:" so I deemed it best to let Mr. Lewis have a good search for it on his return from his leave, and for this purpose I sent a boat down to him.

5. Mr. Lewis reports that Mr. Glasson kindly consented to accompany him on his search, but neither he nor the boatmen could point out any other rock than the one already found by me; which has, as described in para. 3, a depth of 4 fathoms on it, with $6\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms all round it, and the position is beautifully marked by Conolly's house *on with* the high mountain called Camel's Hump. The rock extends some 300 or 400 yards to N. N. W. or in the line of Cotta point, and is I think of the same material as the reef of that point, and as the Calicut and Beypoor rocks, *viz.* laterite.

6. I think the discovery scarcely needs to be at once publicly noted; the particulars of the accident to the Ship "Reliance," and the probable position of the rock shall be noted on the Chart, which shall be furnished to the Superintendent of Marine as soon as possible.

7. During my absence down the Coast, firstly, with His Lordship the Governor, then on the Surveys of Cochin, Alipee, Quilon, and Calicut, and afterwards in taking the Lord Bishop to the latter place, Lieutenant Williams has traversed the Goond forest, (with reference to the question of bringing down the timber,) and we are now about to start for that forest that I may see the localities and frame my report, expecting that the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mr. Müller, may be able to meet us there, and explain his views.

X 8. Lieutenant Williams has also most indefatigably carried on the levelling of the bed of the Kalee Nuddee through a distance of 18 miles above tide water. These levels give a rise of above a hundred feet in that distance; and I should think, though not qualified to give an Engineering opinion, that this must settle in the negative the question of opening out more of the river navigation except by a system of locks; however, this point may be decided by competent judges when I send my work in.

9. And now let me tell what more I propose doing this season: this month will have expired ere we can possibly inspect the Goond forest, finish the Kalee Nuddee levels and return to the sea by way of Honore which is the shortest route, and where I propose making a small Survey of the river entrance to see what effect the groin, built there some years ago, has in keeping the

mouth permanently at one place. This information will be of great utility to us when deciding as to the best means of improving Mangalore entrance, which the Collector is anxious we should take into consideration.

10. You were good enough to obtain Government permission to my joining Mr. Ogilvy's Commission, to inspect and report upon the best approaches from Dharwar to Goa and Sedashighur, provided it did not keep me too long from my other work. I sent that gentleman a copy of the Government Minute on the subject, but have heard no more from him, and really know not whether he now wants me to meet them, but I have written for information.

11. I have not answered the Government Minute of Consultation, No. 473, dated December 1st, regarding the position of a second light on Carwar Head, and in apologizing for such a delay would explain that I could not agree with the proposition of the Superintendent of Marine, and consequently could not compromise myself by pointing out the place for such second light; but in endeavouring to frame an answer to the Government resolution, I found it was necessary to go again into the general subject of lights, as one is also wanted at Tuddry.

12. With a large amount of unfinished work on hand, with constant calls on me from Bombay for victualling, pay and other accounts, together with the necessity of obeying the orders of my Commander-in-Chief to send in monthly copies of all correspondence and work, I have been unable to find time to write all I want to say about these lights, and about the harbour for Sedashighur; for until the nature of the proposed harbour be settled, it is premature to decide about the lights.

13. I was, to my regret, absent when the Engineer came here to estimate for the harbour works, or I should have pointed out what, to my mind, seems to upset their whole scheme for a harbour, viz. that since my Survey and Report were drawn up, the river has burst out a second mouth for itself into the South bay into the very harbour; and no provision is made in the plan, so far as I can learn, to keep the river from emptying itself into the harbour.

14. There are other considerations in their proposed plan which require attention; one is that they have chosen as the line for the Canal to connect the river and harbour, the one which I first recommended, but which from its greater length and the unsuitable nature of the ground, I rejected in my second report, having found a better and more really useful line.

15. I am constrained, from want of time, from entering more fully into the subject now; but I trust the Government may take my remarks into consideration and let the plan for the harbour be more discussed. I cannot help thinking that we are setting aside the great natural advantages of Beitkool, and rushing into artificial works which neither the present state of trade, nor the necessities of the Shipping interest require, and which on account of their enormous expense may never after all be undertaken; and it seems to my mind that any great scheme for Sedashighur should contain suggestions as to the best means of fortifying the harbour.

16. In conclusion I wish to point out that, though most anxious to get these Canara rivers and harbours all Surveyed, I must yield to failing energy, the result of eighteen years uninterrupted hard work. Though still in apparent good health, I feel that the time has arrived for me to seek a change, and though as yet no furloughs are granted, I would ask the sanction of the Madras Government to my taking the "Bheema" to Bombay in May, there to settle my Vessel's accounts, for which a month would suffice, and then to be allowed to go by Steamer to Madras to give in all my work, for I am convinced that if this be not done, the Government will be the losers.

17. I should be very grateful for any assistance you can give me in this matter, and I trust you will pardon my mixing up selfish considerations with subjects of public importance. In the event of your wishing the Survey to be continued next season, I would strongly recommend Lieutenant Williams as my successor: he does not pretend to be a good Draftsman, but is an accurate Surveyor and a good rough worker, and with my present Native Draftsman, will do well.

18. I would most respectfully request the early sanction of the Madras Government to my communicating to the Commander-in-Chief that I have applied for permission to return to Bombay.

Order.—In the foregoing letter, Lieutenant Taylor states that, as the working season is drawing to a close, he is desirous to lay before Government a recapitulation of his labors under the orders of the Madras Government, preparatory to proceeding to Bombay.

2. Lieutenant Taylor states that the Chart of the Mangalore backwater and river entrance is finished, while those of Quilon and Cochin, and a Survey of Tellicherry, executed in March 1857, are in progress, as also those of the Calicut reef and Alippee roadstead.

3. In paras. 3 to 6 of his letter, Lieutenant Taylor reports on a submerged rock off Calicut. Its position, Lieutenant Taylor undertakes to note on a Chart, which will then be transmitted to the Superintendent of Marine. It is observed that the rock has a depth of 4 fathoms with 6½ fathoms all round it.

4. In paras. 11 to 12, Lieutenant Taylor explains, with reference to the proposal for exhibiting two separate lights on Carwar Head, the delay in replying to Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 473, dated 1st December last. These paras. as well as paras. 2 to 6 of Lieutenant Taylor's letter, will be communicated to the Superintendent of Marine for his information.

5. The subjects adverted to in paras. 7 to 10, and 13 to 15, and Lieutenant Taylor's proposals in paras. 9 and 17, will be considered in the Revenue and Public Works Departments.

6. The Government authorize Lieutenant Taylor taking the "Bheema" to Bombay in May, and coming by Steamer to Madras afterwards. They also sanction his informing the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy that he has applied for permission to proceed to Bombay.

(True Extract and Copy.)

[Signature]
Chief Secretary.

To Lieutenant A. D. Taylor, I. N.
To the Superintendent of Marine.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

