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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

2542

Press
Mis.

132-83

Dated

10-12-1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th December 1860.*

No. 132. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 31st August 1860, No. 52:—

SIR,

1. I have considered in Council your letter No. 26 of 14th May last, wherein you offer a remonstrance on my refusal to sanction, without more distinct proofs of the necessity of the measure than you had brought forward, the immediate extension of the East Coast Canal from Dugarápatam to Kistnapatam.

2. Without entering upon a discussion on the merits of the different projects for the East Coast Canal, or the views of those who advocate the Canal as a whole, whether tidal or high level; or as a series of short Canals connecting different points for purposes of local traffic; I may remark, that the East Coast Canal as it now exists comes under the latter category, that a portion of it was originally executed by private parties, and that additions have been made by Government without apparently any comprehensive survey having been made. It would appear that both the part done by private hands, and that by the Government have never been properly completed, and that consequently both the uses to which the Canal has been applied, and the returns arising from the traffic, have not been so satisfactory as the Home Government was led to expect when the works were sanctioned.

3. I gather this from the lengthened correspondence that has taken place on the subject of this Canal, and it is borne out by the evidence of those in England who have been connected with the work.

4. It is quite clear that a Canal intended for traffic must be continuous before the object for which it is projected can be attained. It may be desirable to complete the line of Canal as one open water road from the Pálár to Nellore, but before sanctioning your views it will be necessary that the matter be brought before me in a more mature and better considered plan, and that Plans and Estimates shall have been submitted to and approved by the Government of India. These papers are to accompany the Plans and Estimates of the line from Nellore to Kistnapatam called for in my letter No. 24 dated 8th March last; and that there may be no want of information in this Office as to the Engineering and Topographical details, I request that you will forward with the above, a map of the whole line from the Pálár to Nellore, with a longitudinal section of levels and transverse sections of the channel sufficiently numerous to render the whole intelligible.

5. There has been no desire on the part of the Home Government to interrupt the extension of these Canals when such extension was manifestly beneficial to the interests of the country; nor has there been any disinclination to sanction projects when properly explained; but the system adopted by your Government of commencing works without proper plans and estimates, and of passing over the prescribed rule of submitting, in the first instance, those beyond the limit of your sanctioning power to the Government of India, must not be persevered in; the one leads to imperfect works, the other to unhinge discipline.

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1860, No. 2,542.

Ordered that paragraph 4 of the Despatch be communicated to the Chief Engineer, who will submit at an early date the Plans and Estimates for the extension of the Canal from Dugarápatam to Kistnapatam, together with those for the Canal from Nellore to the latter place, which were ordered to be submitted, in the Proceedings of Government dated 11th May last, No. 985.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Chief Engineer Dip N

JDS

No 2542

J. J. W.

Proceedings of the Government of Madras
under date 10th October 1860

Read the following
despatch from the Right
Hon: the Secretary of State
for India

Here enter 31st August
No 52 of 1860

Remarks on the East Coast Canal
as it now exists & observes that before sanc-
tioning its extension from Durgam Chattram
to Bellare, Plans & Estimates should be
submitted to and approved by the Govt
of India.

Also observes that the system
adopted by this Govt of commencing
works without proper plans & estimates,
and of passing over the rule of submitting
in the first instance to the Govt of
India, those beyond the sanctioning power
of this Govt, must not be persevered in.

W. W.
G.

ordered that para: 4
of the despatch be communi-
cated to the Chief Engineer
who will submit at an
early date the Plans and
Estimates for the extension
of the Canal from Durga-
chattram to Kistnapetam,
together with those for the
canal from Bellare to the
latter place, which were
ordered to be submitted, in
the No: of Govt: dated 11th
May last 1855 -

J. J. W.

10 Copies to the Chief Engineer Esq: W.

(4)
Canal from Sugarc
patam & Kristnapatam

o No 132 & 133-

Public Works, 1860-2
o No of 43 for Decem ber

o No 25612.

o No of the Madras Govt
o No 45 Decem ber 1860

From the Chief Eng^r o No 12
Decr 14 1860

and No:

Chief Engineer to submit
Plans and Estimates for
the construction of the Canal
from Sugarcpatam to
Kristnapatam together
with the above for the Canal
from the above to the latter
place.
From the Chief Engineer o No
May 10 1860