M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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(2) Date of repair 6 1 12 — 37

(3) Initials of the Referencer

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1548 Press Mis.

321-23

Dated 12-7- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th July 1860.

Read the following letters:—

No. 321. From Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 6th July 1860, No. 2,402.

1. In continuation of my letter marginally noted, forwarding a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore reporting, that under personal instructions from His Excellency the Governor, he had undertaken, by means of Convict labor, the drainage of a tract of Government land bordering on two Tanks near the town of Coimbatore, to the extent of from 150 to 200 acres, I have the honor now to forward a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore with copy of one from the District Engineer enclosed No. 50, dated 16th June 1860, strongly dissenting from the project in question, and doubting its advisability.

No. 719, dated 21st May 1860.

1 Letter from Collector of Coimbatore, No. 135, dated 21st June 1860, with 1 enclosure.

No. 135, 21st June 1860.

2. The Collector remarks that he was not consulted on the subject and therefore did not, at the time, offer any opinion, and that he differs entirely from Mr. Fraser as regards the site being a fætid swamp, and that the Collector and Judge for the last 30 years have resided in houses in its immediate vicinity, and that he himself has lived in one of them for 13 years, and never heard of or saw anything fætid.

3. The Tanks banked out as proposed will, he considers, hold less water and the Nanja land is likely to suffer in consequence; besides which, the Tank bed is, for many months, a valuable and common grazing ground for the inhabitants of the town of Coimbatore.

4. As regards the unhealthiness of the site, the Collector suggests Dr. Porteous' opinion being called for, having been Resident Medical Officer at Coimbatore for 12 years, and records his dissent from the need or use of the project, and his protest against the local funds being applied to the purpose.

5. The District Engineer's letter above referred to explains what is intended to be done, as far as he has yet decided upon the plan of operations. I observe that Mr. Fraser states that the quantity of water in the tank will be increased rather than diminished, as the Kalingal is to be raised one foot, while, on the other hand, the Collector states that the area is to be reduced 200 cawnies.

6. I would strongly advise that nothing should be done towards carrying out the proposed alterations until a full Report accompanied with Plan and Estimate, is furnished by the District Engineer, and I would also recommend that the opinion of Dr. Porteous should be obtained as to the advisableness of the measure in a sanitary point of view.

No. 322. From Doctor H. W. PORTEOUS, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 14th July 1860.

With reference to your note and letters that accompanied it, I beg to inform you, I have the most perfect recollection of the conversation that took place regarding the Tanks at Coimbatore, and it was a matter of surprise to me then, that a measure likely to be fraught with such benefit in a sanitary point of view should have for so many years been unattended to, as for several months in the year, the *large* extent of swamp in *both* Tanks is offensive; and much more so, than on the occasion when Sir Charles Trevelyan took notice of it, and in the presence of Messrs. Thomas and Fraser, arranged with Mr. Ward, the Judge, for its speedy removal by employing all the available Prisoner's labor to erect an embankment to confine the water; which I looked on as one of the greatest improvements that Sir Charles recommended on his tour.

No. 323. ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1860, No. 1,548.

1. The Chief Engineer submits a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore (with correspondence) urging reasons against the measures connected with the Tanks at Coimbatore, proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan on his late tour, and ordered by Government. Colonel Horsley's

letter, together with its enclosures, was sent, as he suggested, to Doctor Porteous for his opinion; and that gentleman's reply is also recorded above.

2. Doctor Porteous resided at Coimbatore for several years as Civil Surgeon; he was also with Sir Charles Trevelyan when he gave the order objected to by Mr. Thomas, and heard and saw all that passed. He is also the authority specially appealed to by Mr. Thomas, and he is one whose competency none will dispute.

3. He, however, wholly dissents from Mr. Thomas. He states that the Tanks are offensive for many months in the year; and he considers the measures proposed by Sir Charles to be a benefit in a sanitary point of view, and to be one of the greatest improvements recommended by him during his tour. Mr. Thomas says the capacity of the Tanks will be lessened; but Mr. Fraser who must be regarded as a better authority on such a point, states that measures which are to accompany the work now referred to will actually increase it.

4. The Government see no occasion whatever to modify their Order of the 6th June, No. 1,177. They desire that it may be fully and promptly acted on; and they will expect to receive at an early date a Plan and Report as directed in the concluding part of the Order.

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

Central Office 1st Div.
Chepauk
6th July 1860

No. 2402

From
The Chief Engineer

To,
The Secretary
to Government P.W.D.

Public Sir,

In continuation of my letter marginally noted forwarding a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore reporting, that under personal instructions from His Excellency the Governor, he had undertaken, by means of Convict labor, the drainage of a tract of Government land bordering on two Tanks near the Town of Coimbatore to the extent of from 150 to 200 acres, I have the honor now to forward a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore with copy of one from the District Engineer enclosed No. 50, dated 16th June 1860, strongly dissenting from the project in question, and

No. 719 dated 21st July 1860

Enclosures 2
1 Letter from Collector of Coimbatore No. 135 dated 21st June 1860 with
1 Enclosure

No. 135. 21st June 1860

and doubting its advisability.

2. The Collector remarks that he was not consulted on the subject and therefore did not, at the time, offer any opinion, and that he differs entirely from Mr. Fraser as regards the site being a fetid swamp and that the Collector and Judge for the last 30 years have resided in houses in its immediate vicinity and that he himself has lived in one of them for 13 years, and never heard of or saw any thing fetid –

3. The tanks banked out as proposed will, he considers, hold less water and the Punjah lands is likely to suffer in consequence; besides which, the tank bed is, for many months, a valuable and common grazing ground for the Inhabitants of the Town of Coimbatore.

4. As regards the unhealthiness of the site, the

the Collector suggests Dr. Patteson's opinion being called for, having been resident Medical Officer at Coimbatore for 12 years, and records his dissent from the need or use of the project, and his protest against the Local Funds being applied to the purpose.

5. The District Engineer's letter above referred to explains what is intended to be done, as far as he has yet decided upon the plan of operations. I observe that Mr. Fraser states that the quantity of water in the Tank will be increased rather than diminished as the Palingulah is to be raised one foot, while, on the other hand, the Collector states that the area is to be reduced 200 Cawnies –

Kadingal

6. I would strongly advise that nothing should be done towards carrying out the proposed alterations until a full report accompanied with Plan

Plan and Estimate is furnished by the District Engineer, and I would also recommend that the opinion of Dr. Portens should be obtained as to the advisableness of the measure in a sanitary point of view. —

Central Office of P.W.
Chepauk
6th July 1860.

W. L. Cuttfield
Actg Ch. Engr. & Surveyor

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Edward Goodwyn Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer

To Hls. Wakefield Esq.

(1)

My dear Brandreth

With reference to your note of the 14th Inst. I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Lieut. Governor, a letter from Messrs. Hamilton & Co. of Toronto, soliciting the Lieut. Governor's attention to the Contemplated Water Communication between the Lake and the Bay of Quinte, and to request that you will be pleased to submit the same for His Excellency's consideration.

I am, My dear Brandreth,
Yours very truly
[illegible]

Hon. H. Smith
&c. &c. &c.

Dft of Govt for Lieut Gov
No 78-793

P.W. 1860 Department
Pro: of Govt for Duty
No 1685.

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary
to Government P.W.

Date 16th July 1860
Receive 17th July 1860
No 21102
No 1548 - 19th July Encl: 2.
Returned

Submits a letter from the Collector of Customs at Toronto objecting to the Hydrostatical Engineer's plan of draining the swamps around the tanks. Suggests that the Project be postponed until a full Report with Plans & Estimates is received and recommends that Dr Potter's opinion be obtained on the subject.

No 321.

16th July 1860

by employing all the available Prisoners
labour to erect an embankment to
confine the water, which I looked
on as one of the greatest improvements
that Sir Charles recommended on his
Plan.

I am Sir very truly
Yr. Obt. Servt.
H. B. Forbes.

14th July 1860

P. W. 1860. Dep.t
Pro: of Govt for July.
No 1531

From.

Dr Portcous
To The Secretary to Govt
P. W. D.
Dated 14 July 1860
Rec.d 14 "

No 1548. 19th July

Regarding the Tanks at Coimbatore for the improvement of which Sir Charles Trevelyan made certain suggestions during his late tour.

No 322

19th July 1860

P. W. D.

No 1548.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 19th July 1860.

Read the following letters.

From the Chief Engineer.

Submits a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore strongly objecting to the District Engineers plan of ~~draining~~ leading with the ~~swamps around~~ certain tanks at Coimbatore to Sungeets that the project be postponed until a full report with Plan and Estimate is received; and recommends that Dr Portcous' opinion be obtained on the subject.

(Here enter 6th July 1860 No 2402)

From Dr Portcous.

Regarding the Tanks at Coimbatore for the improvement of which Sir Charles Trevelyan ~~has~~ made certain ~~suggestions~~ during his late tour.

(— Dr — 14th. — —)

1. The Chief Engineer submits a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, with correspondence, urging reasons against the measures connected with the Tanks at Coimbatore, proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan on his late tour, and ordered by Government

It is unfortunate when officers of this rank are at issue. But Mr Thomas stands alone in his opinion, while Sir Chs Trevelyan, Dr Portcous, & the Chief Engineer, all taking an opposite view. I do not think that a final Order should be rescinded upon such ground.

J. E. D.

-vernment. Colt Horsley's letter, together with its enclosures, was sent, as he suggested, to Dr Portens for his opinion; and that gentleman's reply is also recorded above.

2. Dr Portens resided at Coimbatore for several years as Civil Surgeon; he was also with Sir Charles Trevelyan when he gave the order objected to by Mr Thomas, and heard and saw all that passed. He is also the authority specially appealed to by Mr Thomas, and he is one whose competency none will dispute.

3. He, however, wholly dissents from Mr Thomas. He states that the tanks are offensive for many months in the year; and he considers the measures proposed by Sir Charles to be a benefit in a sanitary point of view, and to be one of the greatest improvements recommended by him during his tour. Mr Thomas says the capacity of the tanks will be lessened; but Mr Fraser who must be regarded as a better authority on such a point, states that measures which are to accompany the work now referred to will actually increase it.

4. The Government see no occasion whatever to modify their order of the 6th June No 1177. They desire that it may be fully and promptly acted on; and they will expect to receive at an early date a Plan and Report

a

as directed in the concluding part of the order.

Drainage of land bordering in 2 Tanks near the town of Coimbatore

10 Copies To the Chief Engineer with 2 Encls
12 " " Board of Revenue ✓
1 " H. W. Porteous Esq^r " ✓

Rs 5-20

Remarks —

Feby 1880

Public Works 1860 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for July

No 1548.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dt 19th July 1860.

From J. H. Cleiveland Esqr C.C.
Dt 6th July 1860
Ans Bo

Declining to modify the order of 6th June 1860 respecting the measures connected with the Tanks at Coimbatore proposed by Sir C. Trevelyan on his late tour.

No 321 at 323.