M.R.O. 1—77,005—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Reference_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	65-0	Press / Mis.
Dated	4-3	18 4 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

590

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 4th March 1864.

No. 89. Read the following letter from Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Paumbem, 16th February 1864, No. 1,890 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that I this day examined the works at this place and the Steam Dredge, &c., in company with Major Syme and Mr. Wait. I am of opinion that it is useless to attempt to repair the steam dredge; a full report was sent on the 27th January 1864, No. 1,771.

G. O. Nos. 801, 955, 1,998 and 3,194, dated 31st March, 18th April, 22nd July and 3rd November 1863, respectively.

Letters from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, Nos. 800 and 1,154, dated 7th October and 13th November 1863, respectively.

2. I would refer to correspondence as per margin, in which Captain Hankin, after considerable experience, set forth his reasons, in which I fully concur, as to the advantage of using hand in lieu of steam dredges. I trust that the Government will take the whole subject into early consideration, for at present there is a great loss to Government in the maintenance of an Establishment which is not working efficiently, and in the cost of plant lying useless.

3. It was proposed to send to this place the steam dredge at Negapatam, but as yet no means have been found for bringing her down, and if she were here she would be useless, as her bucket ladder is too short. If the Government decide on our using steam as a motive power, I would support Major Syme's suggestion that she be altered at the Railway Workshop at Negapatam, and measures taken in earnest for her removal to this place.

4. Major Syme is, however, also averse to the use of steam; which we all agree is not economical at such a place as this, where skilled labor is not procurable, where repairs cannot be easily or speedily executed, and where convicts for hand dredges are abundant.

5. He therefore suggests that we should fit up as hand dredges the four iron spoil boats, the property of Government; two of which are at Negapatam and two at Madras, which are, it appears, not easily moved in a tide way like this; whereas the six spoil boats already here are handy boats, easily worked, and would, it is believed, suffice for the three hand dredges.

6. I have no idea of the cost of making up one; but I have requested Major Syme to send to Negapatam by an early conveyance a very good model which I found in his store room; and hope that the Railway Officers, who assured him that they could make up the machinery, will be able to supply an Estimate first.

7. For the working of a hand dredge 60 convicts are required, the Jail at this place will hold 200; but I beg to re-submit a proposition of Captain Hankin's as to the economy of mooring a hulk at a convenient point for convicts, who could then be transferred to the dredge in a few minutes, whereas 3 hours a day are now lost in their marching to and from the jail, embarking and disembarking in canoes, &c.

8. I believe too that the Police force for guarding them might be then considerably reduced, as ample ventilation could be provided by means of iron gratings in the sides of the hulk, for which one sentry would suffice if there were only a single hatch-way.

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 4th March 1864, No. 650.

1. With reference to the proposal contained in paragraph 7 of the above letter, the Superintending Engineer is requested to report more fully upon the subject of a hulk for the convicts. Information is required on the following points: whether a suitable vessel can be procured at Tuticorin or elsewhere in the neighbourhood; the price; the cost of adapting her for a hulk, and the extent of accommodation proposed per man for the convicts. The place where it is proposed to moor the hulk should also be stated, and the mode in which the convicts will be supplied with provisions.

2. The Government await the receipt of the Estimate, alluded to in paragraph 6 of Captain Moberly's letter, for the conversion of the spoil boats into hand dredges. The Estimate should be accompanied by a Plan.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1890

Supg Engineer's Office 8th Division
Pamban the 16th February 1864.

From,

Captain F. J. Moberly RE.
Superintending Engineer 8th Division

To,

Colonel C. A. Orr RE.
Secretary to Government P.P.W.

Sir,

Public - 1. I have the honor to report that I this day examined the works at this place and the Steam dredge &c in company with Major Symes and Mr Wait. I am of opinion that it is useless to attempt to repair the Steam dredge - a full report was sent on the 27th January 1864 No 177

2 I would refer to correspondence as per margin in which Captain Hankin, after considerable experience, set forth his reasons, in which I fully concur, as to the advantage of using hand in lieu of Steam dredges - I trust that the Government will take the whole subject into early consideration for at present there is a great loss to Government in the maintenance of an establishment which is not working efficiently and in the cost of plant lying useless.

Gen. O. Nos 801, 955, 1998 & 3194 dated 31st March 18th April 22nd July & 3rd November 1863 respectively
Letters from the Supg Engr 8th Dn to the Secy to Govt P.P.W. Nos 800 & 1154 dated 7th Octr & 13th Novr 63 respectively.

3 It was proposed to send to this place the Steam dredge at Negapatam but as yet no means have been found for bringing her down - and if she were here she would be useless as her bucket ladder is to short - if the Government decide on ever using Steam as a motive power I would support Major Symes suggestion that she be altered at the railway workshop at Negapatam and measures taken in earnest for her removal to this place.

4 Major Lynne is however also averse to the use of steam; which we all agree is not economical, at such a place as this, where skilled labour is not procurable, where repairs cannot be easily or speedily effected, and where convicts for hand dredges are abundant.

5 He therefore suggests that we should fit up as hand dredges the 4 iron spirit boats, the property of Government, 2 of which are at Negapatam and 2 at Madras - which are it appears not easily moved in a tide way like this. Whereas the 6 spirit boats already here are handy boats easily worked - and would it is believed suffice for the 3 hand dredges.

6. I have no idea of the cost of making up one, but I have requested Major Lynne to send to Negapatam by an early conveyance a very good model which I found in his store room; and hope that the railway Officers, who assured him that they could make up the machinery, will be able to supply an Estimate first.

7 ——— For the working of a hand dredge 60 Convicts are required. the jail at this place will hold 200 - but I beg to resubmit a proposition of Captain Hawkins as to the economy of mooring a hulk at a convenient point for convicts who could then be transferred to the dredge in a few minutes whereas 3 hours a day are now lost in their marching to and from the jail embarking and disembarking in Canoes &c.

8 I believe too that the police force for guarding them might be then considerably reduced, as ample ventilation could be provided by means of iron gratings in the sides of the hulk, which one sentry would suffice if there were only a single hatchway.

I have

I have &c.

F. Hubert Captain R.E.

Superintending Engineer 8th Division.

Supg Engrs Office
8th Divn Pamban
16th February 1860

To,

Colonel C A Orr R.E.

Secretary to Government P.W.D.

P.W.D.

No 650

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 4th March 1864.

Read the following Letter from the Superintending Engineer & Secy
Reports on the works at Pamben
-ban and the Steam Dredge &c and
trust that Government will be
pleased to take the subject into
early Consideration.

Letter Superintending Engineer to the Secretary to Government, dated 16th February 1864, received 24th February 1864.

Reports on the works at Pamben and the Steam Dredge &c and trusts that Government will be pleased to take the subject into early Consideration.

Enclosure None.

Proceedings of 31st March 1864 Nos 564-565
" 18th April " " 294-295
" 22nd July " " 559-560
" 3rd Nov " " 46-47
" 6th January 1864 " 71-72
" 16th February " " 987-988

1864 Dept
Proof Govt for Guards No 1890
From No 812

The Supg Engineer
8th Division

To
The Secy to Government
P.W.D.

Dated 16th } February 1864
Rcd 24 }

&c
Enclosure None.

Reports on the works at Pamben and the Steam Dredge &c and trusts that Government will be pleased to take the subject into early Consideration.

No 89

No 650 - 4th March

Receipt of the Estimate alluded to in para 6 of Captain Moberly's letter, for the conversion of the Spoil boats into hand dredges. The Estimate ~~[illegible]~~ should be accompanied by a plan. —

To the Supt. Engr. 8 & 9 Dists
Dept. 5th March

1864 Dec 1st

Inv: of Goods forwarded

$ 650

Inv: of all goods

Dec 4 March 65th

No. 89-90