M.R.O. 1—77,006—6-6-37.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 800 Press ~~Mis~~

388-389

Dated 16-3-1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, *16th March* 1864.

No. 388. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Waltair, 18th February 1864, No. 2,215 :—

SIR,

No. 1,209 of 13th May 1863.

1. With reference to the Order of Government as per margin, on my Memorandum, No. 1,501, of the 19th October last, I beg to report that on the 27th of December last, I made an inspection of the backwater and débouchure of the river Rooshkoolea at Ganjam, and came to the conclusion that making up the groynes proposed by Captain Philipps would lead to no permanent benefit.

2. I have since gone through the papers connected, with this subject, and found that the same opinion arrived at by me was stated by Government in their Order of 9th May 1862, No. 998, as their reason for not desiring to make the large outlay, then proposed to be made for improving the port, namely, that any attempt to make the river cut itself a new channel out to sea would prove abortive, inasmuch as in the course of a few years this new channel would turn to the north.

3. The severity of the monsoon of 1862 in Ganjam was apparently without precedent, the whole country was under water, and the flood discharged by the Rooshkoolea enormous.

4. By the assistance of a Sub-Overseer the river was enabled to take a new course right out to sea, effecting that which the large Estimate before noted would have done for it, had it proved a success.

5. By Captain Philipps' report the new bed of the river, that straight out to sea, had been scoured out to a depth of 15 feet, and the old bed, that which ran parallel to the line of coast for 1½ mile, had completely silted up for 200 yards : this report is dated the 25th February 1863.

6. Captain Philipps thought that at a moderate outlay the new mouth might be fixed, but this, as long as the prevailing winds blow so strong up the coast as they do, I hold to be an impossibility.

Geological Survey of India, Volume I, page 252.

7. Such is the tendency of the sand and pebbles of this coast to travel northwards that Professor Oldham states that abundance of pebbles of gneis, granite conglomerate and sand stones brought from the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam, where these rocks occur on the sea coast, are to be found on the shore near Pooree.

8. During the past Calendar year, the mouth of the river, under the influence of the prevailing winds, advanced about one-half mile to the north of its position, as described by Captain Philipps in February, and the monsoon, being an ordinary one, left it at that locality, and there it is now.

9. In my opinion it will still travel north year by year until an extraordinary land flood like that of 1862, forces it to take a shorter course to sea, and that then the process of travelling north will recommence until in course of time another similar great flood occurs.

10. I hold that any attempt at permanent rectification of the river's débouchure would be so much money thrown away, but that a hundred Rupees or so may be judiciously expended, whenever there is an extraordinary fresh in the river, in assisting it in finding a short course to sea : it is of much convenience to cargo boats to be able to get to the shipping without having to follow the long circuitous course which they have to follow when a series of scanty monsoons have allowed the along shore winds to push up the river's mouth much to the north of the loading places and the Custom House, and if, at the expense of a small outlay, the river can be induced to take a short course for even a few months, the expenditure should, I think, be incurred.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 16th March 1864.

No. 389. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1864, No. 800.

1. This letter confirms the opinion expressed by Government in their Order* of the 9th May 1862. They still adhere to that opinion, and consider that the groynes, proposed by Captain Philipps, would have no permanent effect upon the river's course.

* No. 998.

2. The Government, however, agree with Colonel Chambers that a small sum might be advantageously spent in assisting the river, during an extraordinary flood, to find a direct course to the sea.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
" Marine Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Superintending Engineer
Office, 1st Dn. Waltair,
No. 2215, 18th February 1864.

From Lieutt. Col. Chambers R. E.
Superintending Engineer

To Colonel Charles A. Orr R. E.
Secretary to Government
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the Order of Government as per margin on my Memo. No. 1501, of the 19th of October last, I beg to report that on the 27th of December last, I made an inspection of the backwater and débouchure of the River Rooshkoolea at Ganjam and came to the conclusion that making up the Groynes proposed by Captain Philipps would lead to no permanent benefit.

No. 1209 of 13th May /62.

2. I have since gone through the papers connected with this subject and

and found that the same opinion arrived at by me was stated by Government, in their Order of 9th May 1862, No 998, as their reason for not desiring to make the large outlay, then proposed to be made, for improving the port: namely, that any attempt to make the river cut itself a new Channel out to sea would prove abortive, inasmuch as in the Course of a few years this new Channel would turn to the north.

3. The severity of the monsoon of 1862 in Ganjam was apparently without precedent; the whole country was under water and the flood discharged by the Rooshkoolea enormous.

4. By the assistance of a Sub-overseer the river was enabled to take a new course right out to sea, effecting that which the large Estimate before noted would have done

for

for it, had it proved a success.

5. By Captain Philipps' Report the new bed of the river, that straight out to sea, had been scoured out to a depth of 15 feet and the old bed, that which ran parallel to the line of Coast for 1½ mile, had completely silted up for 200 yards: this report is dated the 25th February 1863.

6. Captain Philipps thought that at a moderate outlay the new Mouth might be fixed, but this, as long as the prevailing winds blow so strong up the Coast as they do, I hold to be an impossibility.

7. Such is the tendency of the sand and pebbles of this Coast to travel northwards that Professor Oldham states that abundance of pebbles of gneiss, granite conglomerate and sand stones brought from the neighborhood of Vizagapatam, where these rocks occur on the

sea

Geological Survey of India. Vol. I page 252.

sea coast, are to be found on the shore near Pooree.

8. During the past calendar year, the mouth of the river, under the influence of the prevailing winds, advanced about one half mile to the north of its position as described by Captain Philipps in February, and the Monsoon, being an ordinary one, left it at that locality, & there it is now.

9. In my opinion it will still travel north year by year until an extraordinary land flood like that of 1862, forces it to take a shorter course to sea, and that then the process of travelling north will recommence until in course of time another similar great flood occurs.

10. I hold that any attempt at permanent rectification of the river's débouchure would be so much money thrown away, but that a hundred Rupees or so may be judiciously expended, whenever there is an extraordinary fresh in the river, in assisting it in finding a short course to sea: it is of much convenience to cargo boats to be able to get to the shipping without having to follow the long circuitous course which they have to follow when a series of scanty monsoons have allowed the along shore winds to push up the river's mouth much to the north of the loading places and the Custom-house, & if, at the expense of a small outlay, the river can be induced to take a short course for even a few months, the expenditure should, I think, be incurred.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Sir,
Your most Obedient Servt,

A. C. Chambers Lieut. Col. R.E.
Superintending Engineer 1st Dn.

Ch. B

P. W. D.

No. 800

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 16th March 18

Read the following le

From the Supt. Engineer 1st Dn

Reports on the subject of his inspection of the backwater and débouchure of the River Rooshkoolea at Ganjam, with reference to the Order of Government on his Memo No. 1501 of 19 October last (No. 1209 of 13 May 1863.-)

Here enter 18 February 1864. No. 2215

x W. 998

His letter confirms the opinion expressed by the Govt. in ~~their~~ x order of the 9th May 1862.. They still adhere to that opinion, and consider that the groyne proposed by Captain Phillips would have no permanent effect upon the river's course.

The Govt. however, agree with Colonel Chamber that a small sum might be ~~[illegible]~~ advantageously spent in assisting the river, during an extraordinary flood, to find a direct course to the sea. —

To the Supt. Engr. 1st Dn
" Marine Department
" Board of Revenue

No. 87

Desp. 17th March

Pro - 9th May 1862 No. 217-218
" 13th May 1863 " 209-210
" 3d Novr — " 57-58

P. W. 1864 Depts
Pro. of Govt. for March.
From No. 853
The Supg. Engineer
1st Division
To
The Secy. to Govt.
D. P. W.
Dated 18th
Desp. 19th
Recd. 20th } Febry /64
No. 2215

Reports on the subject of his inspection of the backwater & débouchure of the River Rooshkoolea at Ganjam, with reference to the Order of Govt. on his Memo No. 1501 of 19th Octr last (No. 1209 of 13th May /63.)

No. 388.

No. 800 - 16th March

e. 10th March 1864 R. 11th

P. W. 1864 Departt
Pro: of Govt. for March
No. 900.
Pro: of the Mgovt
Dd/16 March /64

Proposal of the Supg.
Engr. 1st Dn. to spend a small
sum in aſsisting the river Roosh-
Roolia at Ganjam, during an
extraordinary flood, to find a
direct course to the sea. appro-
ved.

No. 388. 389

14

10th March 1864 R. 11th