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## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 22 5 5-56

Press  
Mrs.

147-148-149

Dated 5 8

1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.*

*5th August 1865.*

No. 147. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R. A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Establishment,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 6th July 1865, No. 1,169 E :—

SIR,

1. The Chief Commissioner British Burmah having addressed the Government of India in the Home Department, for the services of a qualified Officer for the purpose of surveying and reporting on the Hastings' Shoal on the Rangoon river, and no specially qualified Officer under the Government of India being at present available for the duty, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General in Council to ask, whether the Government of Madras could depute an Officer of special experience in Marine engineering for the purpose. His services would not be required till November next. In the meanwhile, the Chief Commissioner will be requested to cause to be carried out, such preliminary surveys and operations, as the Chief Engineer at Rangoon may be able to suggest, so that the Officer deputed, may not be detained longer than necessary through want of preliminary information.

2. An extract of the Chief Commissioner's letter accompanies.

No. 148. ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1865, No. 2,255.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 21.

Ordered that the following letter be sent:—

(Here enter No. 2,256, dated 5th August 1865.)

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*year*

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.  
FORT SAINT GEORGE,  
5th August 1865.

No. 2,256.

No. 149.

From

COLONEL C. A. ORR, R. E.,  
*Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, P. W. D.,*

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 22.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th July 1865, No. 1,169 E, with its enclosure, and am directed to state in reply, that His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that he has not at his disposal any Officer whom he can depute for the duty of surveying and reporting on the Hastings' Shoal in the Rangoon river.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

512  
Extract paras 5 to 8 from a letter from the  
Chief Commissioner of British  
Burmah; to the Secy to the Govt of India  
Home Department, No 194 dated  
Rangoon 26<sup>th</sup> May 1865.--

5. At the same time that a  
survey of the Rangoon River is  
necessary, I beg to bring to the notice  
of His Excellency in Council, the  
desirableness of a special survey  
of what is called the Hastings's  
Shoal in the Rangoon River. This  
shoal situated about 3 miles  
below the Town, is a grievous  
obstruction to the navigation of  
the River. The Commerce of  
Rangoon has <sup>now</sup> risen to a considerable  
Annual Amount. The increase  
is not sudden, but while rapid,  
it has been steady. The following  
Table will shew at a glance, the  
increase of the Trade during ten  
years.

| Year    | Number of<br>Ships cleared<br>out | Value of Imports<br>and Exports including<br>Treasure<br>Rupees |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1855/56 | 131,546 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 143,96,511                                                      |
| 1856/57 | 133,059 $\frac{3}{4}$             | 165,09,046                                                      |
| 1857/58 | 195,606 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 218,33,298                                                      |
| 1858/59 | 174,428                           | 213,10,561                                                      |
| 1859/60 | 133,062                           | 197,43,381                                                      |
| 1860/61 | 126,616                           | 210,61,908                                                      |
| 1861/62 | 1,69,916                          | 264,14,440                                                      |
| 1862/63 | 1,72,983                          | 279,74,012                                                      |
| 1863/64 | 2,26,252 $\frac{3}{4}$            | 342,14,471                                                      |
| 1864/65 | 3,53,466 $\frac{1}{2}$            | 547,19,577                                                      |

Such an amount of Trade deserves and requires, that every remediable impediment thereto shall be removed as soon as possible. -

6. The Hastings's Shoal is formed by the action of the tide into and from the Pegu River, the mouth of which opens on the Rangoon River. - The general position of the Shoal is exhibited

in

in the rough Chart. - At the spot marked A. - At dead low water, spring tides, the water on the Hastings's Shoal averages from five and three quarters to six and a half feet. - This shallowness of water constantly causes the detention of Steamers for two or more hours and of sailing vessels, for twenty four hours or more. - The inconvenience from the delay and the detriment from loss of time to the Shipping frequenting the Port of Rangoon, will therefore be at once apparent. -

As the object in view is to benefit the Port of Rangoon, by removing this very serious obstruction, it is evident, that something more than a survey is required of that particular locality, I therefore recommend, that a Civil Engineer conversant with works necessary for the improvement of the beds of the Tidal Streams

Streams may be deputed to examine  
the shoal in question, with the  
adjoining Pegu River and  
Pagoondang Creek, and that he  
may be directed to submit a report  
with plans and estimates, shewing  
what he recommends in order to  
remove the shoal and to preserve  
permanently a deep channel.

8. As this is a subject of deep  
importance to the Commercial Pros-  
perity of Rangoon, I trust, that  
His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor  
General in Council, will be pleased  
to direct, that this duty may be  
undertaken in November 1865,  
at which time the season will  
admit of the channels being  
examined with facility.

No 17/73

Copy forwarded to the  
Public

Public Works Department with  
a request for information, whether  
a qualified officer is likely to be  
available for a special survey  
of the Huston's Shoal in the  
Rangoon River.

By order

Home Deptt, }  
Similar, }  
The 22 June 1865. }  
Sof. Am. Montearth  
V. Secy & the Govt of India

M.

No 1169 E.

From  
The Secy & Govt. of India.

To  
The Secretary to Government of  
Madras,  
Public Works Department.

Establishment.

Public Works Department,  
Simla 6<sup>th</sup> July 1865.

Sir,  
The Chief Commissioner  
British Burmah having addressed  
the Government of India in the  
Home Department, for the services  
of a qualified officer for the purpose  
of surveying and reporting on the  
Hasting's Canal in the Rangoon  
River, and no specially qualified  
officer under the Government of  
India being at present available  
for the duty, I am directed by  
His Excellency the Governor  
General

11/2688/65

11/2688/65

General in Council to ask, whether  
the Government of Madras could  
depute an officer of special experience  
in Marine Engineering for the  
purpose. - His services would not  
be required till November next. -  
In the meanwhile, the Chief  
Commissioner will be requested to  
cause to be carried out, such as  
preliminary surveys and operations,  
as the Chief Engineer at Rangoon  
may be able to suggest, so that the  
officer deputed, may not be detained  
longer than necessary through want  
of preliminary information. -

An extract of the Chief Commissioner's  
letter accompanies. -

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedt Servt. -

W. Richards, Lieut Col, R.A.  
Secy to the Govt of India. -

Public Works Dept  
1865

No.  
Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1865  
Read the following

From the Secretary to the  
Govt of India  
Enquiring whether the Govt.  
of Madras can depute an Officer  
of special experience in Marine  
Engineering for the purpose of  
surveying and reporting on the  
Hastings Shoal in the Rangoon  
river British Burmah.

Memorandum No 1169  
Ordered that the  
following letter be sent:-

To  
The Secretary to the  
Govt of India (P.O.)  
I do not like for the credit of this Govt. of India (P.O.)  
to send such an account. I am not sure that I should  
then is not very mysterious to deal with, and I should  
I would send a man. but if I send one I would  
have my reputation upon the employment of  
the officer not in their interest. I have the honor to  
acknowledge the receipt of  
your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> July  
1865 No 1169, with its  
enclosure, and I am directed  
to state in reply, that

1865 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
1865 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
1865 2<sup>nd</sup> July

From the Secretary  
to the Govt of India  
2<sup>nd</sup> July  
1865

1865

Engineering, whether  
the Govt of India  
can depute an officer  
of special experience in  
Marine Engineering for  
the purpose of surveying  
and reporting on the  
Hastings Shoal in  
the Rangoon river  
British Burmah.

1865

1865

there are no large navigable  
tidal rivers in this Presidency,  
none of the Officers at  
the disposal of this Govt.  
have had an opportunity  
of acquiring any experience  
to qualify them specially  
for the duty of surveying  
and reporting on the tractings  
thoal in the Rangoon  
River, and that His  
Excellency the Governor  
in Council is therefore  
unable to depute an Officer  
for that duty.

Ab  
in

It is further the Govt.  
Council regrets that  
he has not as his  
superior any Officer  
whom he can depute  
for the duty of surveying  
and reporting on  
the tractings thoal  
in the Rangoon  
River.

Public Works Department  
No. 2255

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1865

Read the following.

(11)

From the Secretary to the  
Government of India.

Inquiring whether the Govt. of  
Madras can depute an Officer  
of special experience in Marine  
Engineering for the purpose of  
surveying and reporting on the  
Hastings Shoal in the Rangoon  
river British Burmah

M. S. 6<sup>th</sup> July 1865 No. 1169 E.

Ordered that the  
following letter be sent.

To The Secretary to the Govt.  
of India P.W.D.

Sir I have the honor  
to acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> July  
1865 No. 1169 E, with its

MD  
WV

enclosure, and am directed  
to state in reply, that  
His Excellency the Govern-  
or in Council regrets that  
he has not at his dis-  
posal any Officer who  
he can depute for the  
duty of surveying and  
reporting on the Hastings  
Shoal in the Rangoon  
River.

Forth St. George  
5<sup>th</sup> Aug 1865

Seaford August

PT 1865 Dept  
Pro: of Govt for Aug 6

No 2255  
Pro: of the M. Govt  
D. 4th Aug 6/55

Papery orders on  
letter from the Govt of India  
enquiring whether an Officer  
of special experience in  
marine engineering could be  
deputed for the purpose of  
surveying & reporting on the  
Hawtins' shoal in the Rangoon  
River

No 147. 148 & 149