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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***P. L.***DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1991

109-110.

Press
Mis.

Dated 4-7-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
4th July 1867.

No. 109. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Dowlaishweram, 12th June 1867, No. 75 :—

1. I have the honour to report that I consider that the condition of the Coringa bay claims the serious attention of Government, and recommend that immediate steps be taken to close the head of the Coringa river at Yanam.

2. The chief characteristics of the bay, its advantages, and defects, have been so often dilated upon, that I need only now remark that the silting up of the head of bay is making rapid progress; the anchorage consequently is forced gradually away to the north-west, and the communication between Cocanada and the shipping rendered each year longer and more difficult.

3. Whether or not Cocanada will eventually have to be abandoned, and a port opened out higher up the coast is at the present time a subject chiefly of local interest; but it is of the utmost concern to the Government, merchants, and the people of this part of India, that a port somewhere in the neighbourhood, and not worse than Cocanada now is, should be preserved, and it is of still wider interest that the only thoroughly protected anchorage on the Eastern Coast should not be gradually obliterated.

4. I cannot state that the anchorage is deteriorating, it is certainly moving to the westward; whether the deep water, protected by Hope Island, is in course of being increased or diminished in extent is not known; it is most important that accurate observations should be taken to ascertain whether Hope Island is extending in a line parallel to, or gradually closing in upon the permanent non-deltaic coast line, in either case the great object to be accomplished would appear to be to direct the mouths of the Godavery to the south of Hope Island.

5. Schemes for improving Coringa bay have so often been submitted to Government, and laid aside for want of funds to carry them into execution, that I should not now consider it my duty to re-open the question, did it not appear that we have arrived at a period when funds for public works will be supplied more liberally than heretofore; moreover, the work I now propose does not call for a large expenditure.

6. The Coringa river, bifurcating from the Godavery at the French settlement of Yanam, is the most westerly branch that empties its silt-laden waters into the bay, and therefore in proportion to its size does the most harm; this river has much decreased in magnitude, it was in all probability at one time the main stream. Yanam was once a flourishing port. Coringa a still larger port, whence frigates have been docked and repaired; both places are now far advanced in their decadence, the head at Yanam is gradually silting up, and the water over the Coringa bar is steadily shoaling.

7. At Yanam, at low water, there is but a narrow channel with a maximum depth of only three feet, though of course during the freshes, the head of this branch being broad, a large volume of water is drawn off from the Godavery.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th July 1867.*

8. The cost of closing the head would perhaps be about Rupees 10,000, for another Rupees 15,000 the bank channel could be carried across, and thereby 6,000 acres of land be irrigated.

No. 110.

ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1867, No. 1,991.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

1. In July 1863 the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division submitted an extensive project to prevent the further silting up of the Coringa bay and for the improvement of the port of Cocanada. The measures by which this was to be effected were, the compelling of the main river by means of embankments to confine its discharge to the mouth immediately to the north of Hope Island, and the closing of all those branches which, discharging northward of that Island into the bay of Coringa, carried with their flood waters vast quantities of silt which, settling, gradually diminished the depth of water in the bay. Of these branches, the chief is the Coringa river, or the stream which, taking off from the Godavery at Yanam, flows into the head of the bay, past Coringa.

2. After the fullest consideration, the project was rejected by the Government not only on account of its magnitude and expense, but also, and more directly, on the ground that the situation of Cocanada, in the neighbourhood of the mouths of a great delta forming river like the Godavery, is unfavourable for the formation or maintenance of a good harbour under any reasonable outlay, and that any attempt to improve it must be unsuccessful so long as the Godavery continued to carry into the sea the large volumes of alluvium which are held in suspension by its flood waters.

3. In the report recorded at the head of these Proceedings, the Superintending Engineer brings to notice the progress which is being made in the silting up of the head of the bay and the consequent alleged deterioration of the anchorage of Cocanada, but his statements do not appear to be founded upon any very precise knowledge of the present condition of the bay or of the anchorage, and the Government cannot, with the little new information before them, be expected to change their views of the great difficulty, if not utter uselessness, of attempting to arrest a great natural process, like that of the advance of a delta seaward, by such measures as, in a financial point of view, are within their reach; and they are not of opinion that they would be justified in diverting from certainly remunerative works, funds for carrying out an undertaking having for its object the doubtful result of effecting an improvement of the port of Cocanada, or of preserving it for a time when its deterioration has become inevitable as the consequence of its position.

4. Holding these opinions, the Government are not disposed to encourage the outlay of any public money in closing the head of the Coringa river solely in order to divert its waters from the bay; but, if the head of that river can be closed by a work, which, designed for the conveyance of water for the irrigation of lands situated to the eastward, will be both beneficial and remunerative, His Excellency the Governor in Council will be glad to take a project embracing both purposes into favourable consideration; and he accordingly desires that the Acting Superintending Engineer will prepare and submit such a scheme for insertion in the next

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th July 1867.*

Budget, reporting, in communication with the Collector, whether the cutting off of the Coringa river from the main stream of the Godavery will be unattended with any disadvantage.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

being rendered each year longer and

No 75

Supg. Engineer's Office, 1st Div.
Camp Dowlaismaram,
12th June 1867.

From

Captain J. Beckley R.E.

Ag. Supg. Engineer, 1st Div.

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.

Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I consider that the condition of the Coringa Bay, claims the serious attention of Government and recommend that immediate steps be taken to close the Head of the Coringa River at Yanam.

2. The chief characteristics of the Bay, its advantages & defects have been so often detailed upon that I need only now remark that the silting up of the Head of Bay is making rapid progress, the anchorage consequently is forced gradually away to the North West and the communication between Cocanada and the shipping rendered each year longer and more difficult.

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3. Whether or not Cocanada will eventually have to be abandoned and a Port opened out higher up the Coast is at the present time a subject chiefly of local interest but it is of the utmost concern to the Government, Merchants & the people of this part of India that a Port somewhere in the neighbourhood & not worse than Cocanada now is should be preserved and it is of still wider interest that the only thoroughly protected anchorage on the Eastern Coast should not be gradually obliterated.

4. I cannot state that the anchorage is deteriorating it is certainly moving to the West Ward, whether the deep water protected by Hope Island is in course of being increased or diminished, in extent is not known, it is most important that accurate observations should be taken to ascertain whether Hope Island is extending in a line parallel to, or gradually closing in upon the peninsula.

non-Deltaic Coast line - in either case the great object to be accomplished would appear to be to direct the mouths of the Godavary to the south of Hope Island.

5. Schemes for improving Coringa Bay have so often been submitted to Government and laid aside for want of funds to carry them into execution that I should not now consider it my duty to re-open the question did it not appear that we have arrived at a period when funds for Public Works will be supplied more liberally than heretofore. Moreover the work I now propose does not call for a large expenditure.

6. The Coringa River bifurcating from the Godavary at the French settlement of Yamana is the most Westerly branch that empties its silt laden waters into the Bay and therefore in proportion to its size does the most harm. This River has much decreased in magnitude. it was in all probability at one time the

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7. At Yanam at Low Water there
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of this branch being broad, a large volume
of water is drawn off from the Godavary.

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Rs 15,000 the bank channel could be car-
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Yanam 4th Dec 1892

J. B. K. (to the P. E.)

Asst. Eng. (to the P. E.)

12

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Public Works Department.

1001
No. 1991

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 1st July 1867

Read the following

(Here enter No. 75 dated 12th June 67)

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7th 1867 22nd July
From the Acting Engineer
1st Division

To the Secretary
1st Div.

dated 12th June 1867
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No 19 -

swys
Reports on the
Condition of the Coringa
Bay and Cocanada
1st Division
be taken to the
Head of Coringa river at
Yanam

No 1991 - 1st July 1867

No 109

22nd June 1867 1st July

Of these branches, the chief is the Coringa River, or the ^{stream} branch which, taking off from the Godavary at Yanam, flows into the head of the Bay past Coringa.

2. After the fullest consideration the project was rejected by the Govt. not only on account of its magnitude and expense, but also, and more directly, on the ground that the situation of Cocanada in the neighborhood of the mouth of a great delta forming River like the Godavary, was unfavorable for the formation or maintenance of a good harbour, under any reasonable outlay, and that any attempt to improve it must be unsuccessful so long as the Godavary continued

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3. In the report recorded at the head of these Proceedings, the Supt Engineer brings to notice the progress which is being made in the silting up of the head of the bay and the consequent alleged deterioration of the anchorage of Cocanada, but his statements do not appear to be founded upon any very precise knowledge of the present condition of the bay, or ^{of the} anchorage, and the Govt cannot, with the little new information before them, be expected to change their views of the great difficulty, if not utter uselessness, of attempting to arrest a great natural process, like that of the advance of a Delta

Delta seaward, by such measures as, in a financial point of view, are within their reach; and they are not of opinion that they would be justified in diverting ^{certain expenditure} from ~~useful~~ works, funds for carrying out an undertaking having for its object the doubtful result of effecting an improvement of the port of Locanada, or of preserving it for a time when its deterioration has become inevitable as the consequence of its position.

4. Holding these opinions, the Govt. are not disposed to encourage the outlay of any public money in closing the head of the Coringa river solely in order to divert its waters from the bay; but if the head of that river can be

~~F. W. 188~~ Department.

~~Am~~

~~Proceeding on Government~~

~~Revised~~

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The Supt Engineer of the
Dist. of

Sept 5/76

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Pub. Works 1867 Department

Proc. of Govt. for Enhy

No. 1991

Proc. of the Madras Govt.

Of 4th July 1867

Issuing instructions
relative to the Submission of a
scheme for closing the head
of the Cooringa river at Chingim,
in the Coimbatore District.

No. 109-110

167 B. 12 July.