

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	833	Press ~~Mis~~
⁵⁶³⁻⁶⁴ Dated	3/-3-	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1868.

No. 503. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Marine Department:—

Passing orders on certain papers regarding the }
construction of groynes to arrest the advance } (Here enter 26th March 1868, No. 103.)
of the sea at Cochin.

No. 504. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1868, No. 833.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,

Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
26th March 1868.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 49. From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Cochin, 13th March 1868, No. 42.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, dated the 10th instant, placing at my disposal the sum of Rupees 10,000 for the purpose of constructing groynes to arrest the advance of the sea at Cochin.

2. As certain works have been undertaken with this view by the Department Public Works, pursuant to a plan of Colonel Walker that recently received sanction, but which I presume the present order of Government is intended to supersede, I placed myself in communication with the person in charge of the works, and requested that a quantity of large boulders, well adapted for groynes, already collected might be transferred to me, to enable me at once to commence operations.

3. This application has been the subject of reference to the Range Officer ; but, meanwhile, I am making preliminary arrangements to secure labor and materials to enter upon the work at the earliest practicable moment.

4. I beg to state, for the information of Government, that since August last, when the danger to the town, and particularly to the newly erected Light-house, assumed a formidable and less equivocal aspect, I was impressed with the conviction, confirmed as it was by all past experience, that the construction of groynes offered the only certain promise of success in arresting the ravages of the sea. I respectfully beg to submit copies and extracts of my reports to the Superintendent of Marine bearing on this subject.

5. The plan referred to in my letter to the Superintendent of Marine, dated 25th October 1867, No. 201, had special reference to the security of the Light-house, and was, moreover, taken at a period when the encroachment of the sea was not so great as it is at present. I have, therefore, made a fresh survey (sufficiently accurate for practical purposes) and submit a revised sketch, embracing the plan of operations I propose adopting, in view to the protection of the ramparts, as well as the general safety of the town.

6. It will be observed that five groynes are intended to be constructed ; but No. 3 may not be necessary, if the results I anticipate by the formation of Nos. 2 and 4 are realized. I purpose completing the latter in the first instance, and should a permanent beach of sufficient extent be created, the intermediate groyne might be dispensed with. Whether an additional groyne further north would be required, will depend upon the effects which No. 1 may produce, as great caution will be necessary in dealing with influences which are subject to no precise calculation ; and in combating the course of a tidal stream at the mouth of an estuary, it is necessary to studiously guard against giving it a new and more prejudicial direction.

7. It is difficult to arrive at even an approximate estimate of the quantity of material that will be actually required to complete the work now entrusted to me, considering that much of the stone must necessarily sink before any perceptible impression can be made on the evil. The stone has also to be procured from a quarry in the Sircar's territory, some sixteen miles distant. After the completion of one groyne, some reliable data will be obtained, which will enable me to submit an estimate of the probable cost of the whole undertaking. I trust, however, the Government will accept my assurance that close and strict economy, compatible with the nature of such a work, will be kept constantly in view.

8. The works it would be desirable to carry out on the Vypeen Coast will form the subject of a separate report.

From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Acting Superintendent of Marine, Madras ; dated Cochin, 6th September 1867, No. 169.

I have the honor to inform you that from the first moment of threatened danger to the ramparts on which the new Light-house is being erected, I commenced throwing down stone ballast procured from the banks of the harbour as a protective measure, and it has no doubt arrested the abraiding action of the sea at the point of the ramparts, which was dilapidated and most in danger.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
26th March 1868.*

8. I have been unable from a pressure of work to avail myself of the order to proceed on the back-water in search of stone, but I purpose leaving on Monday the 28th instant.

From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Superintendent of Marine, Madras; dated Cochin, 25th February 1868, No. 32.

I have the honor to report, for your information, that the encroachment of the sea to the northward of the new Light-house is very great and increasing daily.

2. The encroachment to the southward is somewhat less, and the sea is still in a threatening proximity to the rampart, and it requires only some disturbing force to advance and jeopardise the new edifice.

3. The plan sanctioned by Government is being gradually carried out, but I must be permitted respectfully to express my opinion that the remedy appears to me unequal to the danger. Should the sea encroach and turn the road either from the southward or from the northward, the Light-house will stand on an isolated mound of earth, which must soon yield to these ravages.

No. 50. From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cochin, 14th March 1868, No. 44.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government in the Marine Department, No. 84, and to state that, in accordance with the telegram previously forwarded to me, I submitted in my report, No. 42, of the 13th instant, the mode in which I propose to carry out the work of the groynes at Cochin, together with the plan, a copy of which has not been retained in this office.

2. I beg to be informed whether the work now being executed by the Department Public Works is to cease, as I presume that the undertaking now placed under my superintendence is intended to supersede that work.

No. 51. From the Superintendent of Marine, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 16th March 1868, No. 1058.

I have the honor, with reference to their Proceedings noted in the margin, to forward for the orders of Government the accompanying letter, in original, from the Master Attendant at Cochin regarding the construction of groynes at Cochin

No. 84, 10th March 1868.

for the protection of the coast there and at Vypeen.

From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin, to the Superintendent of Marine, Madras; dated Cochin, 12th March 1868, No. 41.

I have the honor to annex copy of a telegram received yesterday.

2. I immediately applied to the person who is in charge of the Department of Public Works, and superintending the work of protecting the ramparts for all the large stones available, to enable me to commence constructing the groynes without delay. That work is still being continued.

3. I beg to be informed whether Colonel Walker's plan is still to be carried out, or whether the groynes are in supersession of this work; for good materials are, in my opinion, spread over a large surface without any advantage to the locality, and without in the least securing the object in view.

Telegram from the Secretary to Government, to the Master Attendant Cochin; dated 10th March 1868.

Rupees ten thousand are placed at your disposal for the construction of groynes of heavy stones to arrest the encroachment of the sea at Cochin. Proceed with the work forthwith. 10th—6-45 P. M.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
26th March 1868.*

From Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin, to D. EPPINGER, Esq., Cochin; dated Cochin, 11th March 1868, No. 40.

I am ordered by Government direct, by a telegraphic communication received last night, to proceed forthwith with laying out groynes to arrest the encroachment of the sea. I presume in supersession of the plan which is now being carried out.

2. I have the honor to place this information in your possession, and to solicit whether you can transfer over to me the large stones which you have purchased on account of the Department Public Works.

3. If you think that you are not free to act, I beg you will be so good as to refer the matter, with as little delay as possible, to the officer under whom the present work is being constructed.

From D. EPPINGER, Esq., Cochin, to Captain J. CASTOR, Master Attendant, Cochin.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of this day's date.

2. I cannot transfer the large stones purchased by me for the construction of certain works abreast of the ramparts, without receiving instructions to do so, from the officer in charge, from whom I must receive orders.

I will without delay refer the matter to the officer in charge of the Range. Mr. Grima will be here in a few days; as I have been requested to send for him, he is sure to come.

I presume I shall receive instructions from Major Farewell before Mr. Grima arrives here what I am to do.

No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1868, No. 105.

The work proposed by Colonel Walker was a sea wall at Cochin, estimated to cost Rupees 3300, and a groyne at Vypeen in lieu of five groynes originally proposed to cost Rupees 1500.

2. The former work was sanctioned by G.O. dated 10th November 1867, No. 239, Marine, for execution from the General Port Fund and is in progress, but as the Government have resolved to try the effect of groynes running out from the beach, and have placed Rupees 10,000 from the Port Fund at the disposal of the Master Attendant to be applied to this purpose under his direct superintendence, the work on the sea wall should be discontinued, and the materials collected for it should be made over to the Master Attendant for employment in the formation of the groynes.

3. Orders will be issued in the Public Works Department accordingly.

4. No sanction appears to have been yet given for the work proposed by Colonel Walker at Vypeen, but the scheme, as modified in his letter of 30th December 1867, (Proceedings, Public Works Department, 4th January 1868, No. 23) is identical in character with that approved by Government for the Cochin side, and is approved for execution by the Master Attendant as part of the work to which the grant of Rupees 10,000 is to be applied.

5. The sketch of the plan of operations referred to by Captain Castor has not been received, but his letter sufficiently indicates the nature of his proposals which are in accordance with the intention of Government. He will report progress and results in due course.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Marine,
Master Attendant, Cochin.
Collector of Malabar.
Department of Public Works.
Board of Revenue.
Accountant General.
Revenue Department.

By J. P. Walker.

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