

(1) Number of pages 16(2) Date of repair 1969(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.G.O. No. 1459Press
Mis.67-68

Dated

4-5

1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th May 1869.*

No. 67. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 22nd April 1869, No. 493:—

1. I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of Government, a letter, dated 19th April 1869, to my address from Mr. Fraser, Executive Engineer, Eastern Coast Canal, regarding proposals which he formerly made, and now again brings forward, for deepening the bed and improving the banks of the Cooum river from Commander-in-Chief's bridge to its mouth.
Two original letters from Mr. Fraser.
2. I have brought the matter to the notice of Government in order that their wishes on the subject may be elicited, with a view that detailed plans and estimates may be considered, in communication with the Executive Engineer, for the improvement of the river, if, taking into consideration the expense which will be incurred, the project is looked upon favorably. From the failure of the monsoon also for the last two years, the state of the river is peculiarly favorable for the carrying out of such improvements at this season.
3. I took the opportunity of inspecting the whole length of the banks and bed of the river with Mr. Fraser yesterday, and of examining the surveys which he had made some time ago. In the absence of any approved and sanctioned scheme for the drainage of Madras, as proposed by Captain Tulloch, &c., and others, Mr. Fraser would adopt the temporary expedient of building traps to intercept the sewage, and, by deepening the bed, would remove much of the offensive deposit which now lies stagnating in it.
4. There are many portions of the river which might with advantage be straightened, and the excavated soil used for an embankment which, in the portion between the Commander-in-Chief and Lord Harris' bridge, could be utilized for a road on the east bank, at no cost to Government in the way of compensation, and at the gain of a short and convenient communication between two thoroughfares. Such another road could be made on the same bank from the excavated material of the bed between the College and Commander-in-Chief's bridge.
5. It will be evident that the project is a very expensive one, but the improvements could be undertaken by degrees, and the revetting, where new stone would be required, and turfing of the banks delayed until funds became available. The process of deepening the bed in some places would cause, no doubt, offensive exhalations, but I believe, with Mr. Fraser, that the objection on this score would soon cease to arise.
6. It is a matter for Government to decide whether such improvements to the Cooum, as straightening and narrowing the bed, forming roads from embankments and planting them with trees, are not Municipal works. I would not advocate any thing being done unless funds are forthcoming liberally.
7. Since drafting the above, I have received a second letter from Mr. Fraser which I enclose.

No. 17, dated 22nd April 1869.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th May 1869.*

From W. FRASER, Esq., Executive Engineer, East Coast Canal, to the Superintending Engineer,
4th Division, dated Mount Road, 19th April 1869, No. 15.

1. I have the honour to give you the following information regarding the proposed improvement of the Cooum :—

It was considered that probably many years would elapse before the drainage of Madras, as proposed by Captain Tulloch, &c., could be carried out ; and I thought that the improvement of the river might be undertaken without waiting for even the sanction of the general scheme of drainage. With this view I had a survey made of the river from the College bridge to the sea, a longitudinal and several cross sections of the main river ; and sections of portions of the principal tributaries.

2. The improvements contemplated were—

I.—To construct a dam below the College bridge ; the upper part of the river to be kept always full of fresh water from the Chembrambaukam and Red Hill Lakes.

II.—To deepen the bed of the river from the dam to the bar four and a half feet below mean sea level. The spoil to be used in filling low places along the banks ; and in filling in and raising certain portions of the bed, such as the dirty ugly space near the Mount Road, at the rear of Messrs. Turton and Leggett's shop, &c.

III.—To revet with stone the slopes to the level of high water and turf the slopes from that up.

IV.—To plant along the margin of the river and over the waste ground filled in.

V.—To make a road along the margin, from Mackey's Garden Panchery to the road at Harris' bridge.

VI.—To construct silt traps on the principal tributaries and drains, so as to prevent solid matter being washed into the river. These silt traps to be periodically cleaned out. Also a number of minor improvements.

3. The main drainage scheme is still unsettled and unsanctioned, and I was led to understand that the improvement of the river would be considered a Municipal question ; and so the matter was allowed to stand over.

The Government never passed any orders on the subject, as nothing definitely estimated was ever put before them.

4. In this way the matter now stands, and I should probably not have raised any questions about it now, only that the present condition of the river is so singularly favorable for the deepening of its bed. The water was never so low as it is now, and will probably never be so low again, and considering that this opportunity should not be lost, I wrote to you on the 8th instant.

I hope to open the Ennore Bar on or about the 26th instant, and then the water will be raised, but not to any great extent so long as the strong south winds continue ; but the sea water could be kept out of the river until the excavation was completed by damming across the canal any where between the river and the Salt Kottars.

5. As it would take a considerable time to get stone ready for the revetment along the face of the spoil, where it would be used to fill in at the angles, &c., stakes could be used to confine the earth at these places until stone could be procured. At such places the stone in the present revetment would not be sufficient on account of the increased depth of water.

There need be no apprehension of the soil being unusually offensive. On the contrary, it would cease to be so, after a few hours' exposure.

6. I am obliged to go to Ennore early to-morrow morning ; but on Wednesday morning, if you wish it, I would meet you, say, at the College bridge, with the plans, and show you what was proposed to be done.

The construction of the dam might not be considered at present. The important thing is to get the excavation done whilst the water is so low.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th May 1869.*

From the same Officer, dated Mount Road, 22nd April 1869, No. 17.

1. In continuation of my letter No. 16, dated yesterday, I have the honour to state that what I wish to have done regarding the question of deepening of the Cooum is to ascertain, as speedily as possible, whether the Government would entertain favorably a proposition to deepen the river.

If the answer of Government were favorable, I would then build across the canal near the Elephant Gate Bridge, so as to prevent any water getting into the Cooum, should I succeed in opening the Ennore Bar. If, on the other hand, the Government were not disposed to entertain the question, I would build across the canal on the north of Ennore Lake, to prevent the water flowing to, and being absorbed by, Pulikat Lake ; and thus force as much as possible into the Cooum.

To enable me to act in either way I should know the decision of the Government on Saturday at the latest. I shall be at Ennore, and shall be obliged if you will be good enough to inform me of the decision as early as possible.

2. If the Government were disposed to entertain the question, the estimates could be proceeded with at once, and all the plans and papers could be sent up, probably, in ten days.

3. Should I have occasion to build across the canal north of Ennore, I shall adopt means to prevent any serious hindrance to the navigation.

4. Apart from the advantage it would be to Madras, in a sanitary point of view, to have the Cooum deepened, it is essential that it should be deepened on account of the navigation. It would be a very great convenience to the people if boats could navigate the Cooum as far as Mackey's Gardens, and discharge or take in cargo and passengers at any point on either side of the river.

You saw last evening how readily the spoil can be disposed of all along the river, and how favorable the present time is to have the work done.

No. 68.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1869, No. 1,459.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 11.

1. In these letters a proposal which was made some years ago for deepening the bed of the Cooum in connection with

the question of the drainage of Madras is revived, and it is suggested that advantage should be taken of the present low state of the water in the river to carry out so much of the work as consists of excavation of the river bed, leaving the plans and estimates for future consideration.

2. The Government do not doubt the value and importance of the public improvement which the clearing out and deepening of the Cooum would effect, but, as the work must of necessity require, for its completion within a limited time, a very great amount of labor and a heavy expenditure, and as, moreover, it is properly a Municipal work, His Excellency the Governor in Council is not prepared to sanction its being undertaken in the precipitate way recommended by Mr. Fraser.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Monsoon

Gen. of 11-09 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS

MAY

Nos. 87-88

Printed and sold by the
Genl. of the Madras
Genl. of the Madras
Genl. of the Madras

N^o. 493

Sup. J. Engrs. Office 11th Dec.
Madras 22nd April 1869

From

Lieut. Colonel J. Deane R. E.

Asst. Superintending Engineer 11th Dec.

To

Colonel G. A. Odo R. E.

Secretary to Government P. W. Dept.

Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the
consideration of Government a letter dated 19th April
1869 to my address from M^r. Fraser Executive
Engineer Eastern Coast Canal regarding proposals
which he formerly made, and now again brings
forward, for deepening the bed and improving the
banks of the Cooum River from Cammander's ship
Bridge to its mouth.

I have brought the matter to the
notice of Government in order that their wishes
on the subject may be elicited, with a view
that detailed plans and estimates may be
considered in communication with the Executive
Engineer for the improvement of the River,
if, taking into consideration the expense
which will be incurred, the project is looked
upon favorably. From the failure of the

Monsoon

monsoon, also, for the last two years, the state of the River is peculiarly favorable for the carrying out of such improvements at this season.

3 I took the opportunity of inspecting the whole length of the banks and bed of the River with Mr. Fraser yesterday, and of examining the surveys which he had made some time ago. In the absence of any approved and sanctioned scheme for the drainage of Madras, as proposed by Captain Fillech R.E. and others, Mr. Fraser would adopt the temporary expedient of building traps to intercept the sewage, and by deepening the bed would remove much of the offensive deposit which now lies stagnating in it.

4 There are many portions of the river which might with advantage be straightened, and the excavated soil used for an embankment which in the portion between the Commander-in-Chief and Lord Harris' Bridge could be utilized for a road on the east bank, at no cost to Government in the way of

of compensation and at the gain of a short and convenient communication between two thoroughfares. Such another road could be made on the same bank from the excavated material of the bed between the College and Commander-in-Chief's Bridge.

5 It will be evident that the project is a very expensive one, but the improvements could be undertaken by degrees, and the revetting when new stone would be required and surfacing of the banks delayed until funds became available. The process of deepening the bed in some places would cause, no doubt, offensive exhalations, but I believe with Mr. Fraser that the objection on this score would soon cease to arise.

6 It is a matter for Government to decide whether such improvements to the Cooum, as straightening and narrowing the bed forming roads from embankments and planting them with trees, are not Municipal works. I would not advocate any thing being done unless funds are forthcoming liberally.

Since

7 Since drafting the above,
I have received a second letter from
Mr. Fraser which I enclose. 22nd May 1869

I have the honor to be
Your most Obedient Servant
Rear Adm.
A. J. S. Esq. & Capt. 1869

From the Secy to Govt
The Secy to Govt
The Secy to Govt

To the Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.

Dated 22nd April 1869

Ref No 493
Submitting two letters
from Mr. Fraser Macdonald
Engineer East Coast Canal
regarding proposals which
he formally made and
now again brings forward
for deepening the bed
and improving the
banks of the Cooum
River from Coimbatore
to its mouth.

By

Proceedings of the Madras Government -
Under date the 4th ~~April~~ May 1869.

Read the following -

From the Secy to Govt

(H. E. No 493 - 22nd April 1869)

In these letters a
proposal which was made
some years ago for deepening
the bed of the Cooum river
in connection with the ques-
tion of the drainage of
Madras is revived, and it
is suggested that advan-
tage should be taken of
the present low state of
the water in the river to
carry out so much of the
work as consists of excava-
tion of the river bed, leaving
the plans and estimates

for

for future consideration.

The Government
do not doubt the value
and importance of the
public improvement
which the clearing out
and deepening of the
Cassim would effect,
but, as the work must of
necessity require, for its
completion within a
limited time, a very
great amount of labor
and a heavy expenditure,
and as, moreover, it is
properly a Municipal
work, His Excellency
the Governor in Council
is not prepared to
sanction its being

re-

134
undertaken in the pre-
cipitate manner recom-
mended by Mr. Fraser,
but His Excellency will
be glad to have laid before
him, for the considera-
tion of Government,
the plans and estimates
which Mr. Fraser announces
his ability to prepare
within a period of ten
days.

A. F.

To Mr. Fraser
4th Dur ^{with two letters}
Decr. 5/5/69

161532
Cone 1878
Cort. of 1869 Madrid.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Inspecting Eng.
4th Division

Dated

at

1878

10th May 1878

Nos. 67-68

Cocum Referring to the
letter from the Chief Eng. of the
4th Div. relative to the clearing
out and deepening of the Cocum
at Madrid.