

(1) Number of pages _____

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K.R.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1602	Press Mis.
550-51	
Dated 15. 5	18.09.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th May 1869.*

4. I have again to complain of the conduct of the fishermen of the two villages of Ennore and Kattivakkam. I sent for the Moonsiffs; one came and promised to have 100 fishermen ready when I wanted them, I agreeing to pay them whatever the Moonsiff said they should get.

I wanted thirty on Sunday night to watch and keep good the fence I had put up, from 7 until 11 o'clock P. M. They refused to give me any assistance, although they knew they would be paid for their time. Depending on the fishermen coming, I had allowed all the coolies to go away, and, to keep the fence secure, the Overseer, Writer, Goomastahs, and Lascars, who had been working hard all day, had to remain out until past 11 o'clock, when all danger to the fence was over.

These fishermen pay nothing for the right of fishing in the back-waters. They are greatly interested in the opening of the bar, as only then can a supply of fish come in; their services are of great value at the most critical time, as they have no fear of the water, and I think it is very hard that we should not have such services available on such exceptional occasions as these.

FORWARDED to Government for information. The Acting Superintending Engineer has forwarded a copy of this report to the Board of Revenue, with a request that funds may be provided for the opening of the Pulicat bar.

(Signed) J. BEAN, Lieut-Colonel, R. E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

No. 351. ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1869, No. 1,602.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 65

These papers will be communicated to the Collector of Madras, who will, with reference to paragraph 4 of Mr. Fraser's

letter, report whether the fishermen of Ennore and Kattivakkam pay at present any tax for the right of fishing in the back-water and, if not, why they are exempted from it.

(True Extract.)

Colonel R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madras
" Superintending Engineer, 4th Division
" Revenue Department

Exd S T Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th May 1869.*

No 350. Read the following Endorsement of the Acting Superintendent Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 29th April 1869, No. 622.—
Read the following letter from W. FRASER, Esq, Executive Engineer, East Coast Canal, to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 27th April 1869, No. 18.

1 I have the honour to inform you that I opened the Ennore bar, very successfully, yesterday morning at half-past eight o'clock. A channel thirty yards wide at the bottom, (which was at the level of the surface of Ennore lake,) with side slopes of three to one, was cut from the back-water to the sea. At half-past eight o'clock the barrier was removed, and the sea allowed to flow in. In a few minutes a strong current was established, and the first tide raised the surface of the lake three inches. From this and the two succeeding tides there was no ebb current; but this afternoon there is a strong ebb tide, and the channel is consequently being deepened out to sea. The surface of the lake is now seventeen inches higher than it was before the bar was opened, and as the gates of Sheddienkuppam lock were forced open, I presume that some water has reached the Cooum river.

2 I expected to have heard from you, on Saturday, the decision of Government about the proposed deepening of the Cooum, but not hearing I bunded across the canal at Chintamony, which is north of all the salt channels, for the purpose of giving a good supply of water to the salt works, Cochrane's Canal, and the Cooum, by preventing it from flowing to Pulicat lake. Coolies are placed at the bund to remove the sand bags from the centre to allow boats to pass.

3. When the bund is removed the water will, as usual, flow away to Pulicat lake, and I would, therefore, recommend that that bar should also be opened. If sanction is given immediately, I can open it about the 24th of next month. It could be opened on the 11th of next month if coolies could be got to work willingly; but it was with the greatest difficulty I got a Contractor to undertake the opening of Ennore bar, as some evil-disposed people, who did not wish us to succeed, had circulated amongst the coolies the idea that before the bar could be opened twenty-seven coolies, men and women, were to be sacrificed to appease the god of the sea. The consequence was that it was nearly impossible to keep them at work, and when we came to remove the barrier, just at the critical moment when they were most wanted, when the first splash of water came in, they all ran away. Fortunately a sheep was readily procured, and when it was sacrificed and its blood sprinkled about, a few coolies were induced to return and remove the barrier in a kind of way, but not so effectually as it should have been. This state of things may appear very extraordinary, but nothing is too absurd for these men to believe or do.

I have never come across a class of people so ignorant and debased as are the Ubravar Mastries and coolies about Madras. Their only enjoyment appears to be getting drunk. The account of the cost of opening this bar will be submitted in two or three days. I expect it will be considerably under the amount placed at my disposal.

I shall be obliged if you will communicate the contents of the letter to the Board of Revenue and to the Government, and let me know the decision about Pulicat bar as speedily as possible.

No 18
From

East Coast Canal Office
Mount Road
27th April 1869.

35

The Executive Engineer
East Coast Canal.—

J.

The Superintending Engineer
4th Div.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I opened the Ennore Bar, very successfully, yesterday morning at 8½ o'clock:—A Channel 30 yards wide at the bottom, (which was at the level of the surface of Ennore Lake) with side slopes of 3 to 1 was cut from the back-water to the Sea: At 8 o'clock the barrier was removed, and the sea allowed to flow in: In a few minutes a strong current was established and the first tide raised the

the surface of the Lake 3 inches:—

From this and the two succeeding tides there was no ebb current, but this afternoon there is a strong ebb tide and the Channel is consequently being deepened out to sea:— The surface of the Lake is now 17 inches higher than it was before the Bar was opened; and as the gates of

Sheddienkuppam Lock were forced open, I presume that some water has reached the Luam River:

2. I expected to have heard from you on Saturday the decision of Government about the proposed deepening of the Luam; but not hearing I bundled across the Canal at

at Chintamony, which is north of ⁵⁰ all the Salt Channels; for the purpose of giving a good supply of water to the Salt works, Cochrane's Canal, and the Luam, by preventing it from flowing to Pulikat Lake: Coolies are placed at the Bund to remove the Sand bags from the Center to allow Boats to pass:—

3.— When the Bund is removed the water will, as usual, flow away to Pulikat Lake, and I would therefore recommend that that Bar should also be opened:—

If sanction is given immediately I can open it about the 24th of

of next month: It could be opened
on the 11th of next month if Coolies
could be got to work willingly;
but it was with the greatest dif-
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undertake the opening of Luore
Bar; as some evil disposed people
who did not wish us to succeed,
had circulated amongst the Coolies
the idea that before the Bar
could be opened 27 Coolies, men
and women, were to be sacrificed
to appease the God of the Sea:

The consequence was that it was
nearly impossible to keep them at
work;— and when we came to remove
the Barrier, just at the critical

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when it was sacrificed and its blood
sprinkled about, a few Coolies were
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barrier, in a kind of way, but not
so effectually as it should have been.

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Bar as speedily as possible

4 I have again to complain of
the conduct of the Fishermen of
the two Villages of Ennore and Katti:
= wakKau:— I sent for the Moonsiff,
one came, and promised to have 100
Fishermen ready when I wanted them,
I

I agreeing to pay them whatever the
Moonsiff said they should get: ⁹⁰

I wanted 30 on Sunday night to
watch and keep good the fence I had
put up, from 7 until 11 o'c. P.M.: They
refused to give me any assistance
although they knew they would be
paid for their time: Depending on
the Fishermen coming, I had allowed
all the Coolies to go away; and, to
keep the fence secure, the Overseer,
Writer, Gormaster, and Lascars who
had been working ^{hard} all day, had to
remain out until past 11 o'c. when
all danger to the fence was over:—

These fishermen pay nothing for
the right of fishing in the Backwater.
They are greatly interested in the
opening

opening of the Bar as only then can
a supply of fish come in; their
services are of great value at the most
critical time, as they have no fear
of the water; and I think it is
very hard that we should not have
such services available on such ex-
ceptional occasions as these.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed^t. Servant
William Lasey C.E.
Executive Engineer

N^o 622.
Regarding the opening of the Ennore Bar.
130
Letter from Executive Engineer East Coast
to the April 1869

present
Superintendent
copy of this
enue, with
be provided
at bar.

Lt. Col. R. C.
per Engr. L. D.

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critical

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ception

From
The Executive Engineer
East Coast Canal

To
The Supt. Engineer
do do

Dated 27th
Recd 13 April 1869

No 18
P.W. 1484/1869
Reports the opening
of the Eumore Bar

N: 622.
Regarding the opening of the Eumore Bar
130
Letter from Executive Engineer East Coast
Canal No 18 dated 27 April 1869

Forwarded to Government
for information. The Acting Superintendent
Engineer has forwarded a copy of this
Report to the Board of Revenue, with
a request that funds may be provided
for the opening of the Pulicat bar.

Supt. Engr's Office
Division
Madras
29th April 1869.

Heard Lt. Col. R. E.
Acting Supt. Engr. & D.

To
The Secretary to Government.
P.W.D.

2.5-28 Aug 1869

2.5-28

Sub Works Dept
No 1602
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 15. May 1869
Read the following

From the Supt Engineer J. E. P. 122 dated 29 April 1869
to Director

These papers will
be communicated to
the Collector of
Madras who will, with
reference to para 4 of
Mr. Fraser's letter report
whether the Fishermen
of Ennore and Kattivakkiam
pay at present any
tax for the right of
fishing in the Back
water and, if not,
why

By Mr. J. E. P.
Supt Engineer
to Director

The Secretary to
Government

Ennore 29. April 1869
No. 1602

Indemnity is not
from the Government Engineer
East Coast Canal regarding
the opening of the Ennore Canal
and stating that the Board
of Revenue have sanctioned
to provide security for the
opening of the Ennore Canal

Ennore 15. May 1869
J. E. P.

Ordered to be recorded

sent to Mr
J. E. P. Supt Engineer
Ennore 29. April 1869
No. 1602

been passed with the
order of the Board of Revenue
Ennore 15. May 1869
J. E. P.

2.57a 8/11/1869

why they are exempted
from it -

[Signature]

To
The collector of
Madras ✓
9 Aug 48 ✓
11 Rev. Sept ✓
Recd 17/5/49

[Signature]

why they are exempted
from it -

Cue 1784

Cert. of 1869

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Collector of
Madras

Dated

Recd

1-1 /

15 May 1869, No 1602

Nos. 357-357

46
61
Banksia Tax The Collector
of Madras requested to report
whether the fishermen of Enam
and Kattivakkam, Madras,
pay at present any tax for
the right of fishing in the back
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