M.R.O. 1—77,005—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public (Misc.) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3258 Press / Misc.

1867-68

Dated 8 10 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Rep/8/68.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department, 27th September 1869.

No. 41. Read the following letter from the Acting Master Attendant, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 10th September 1869, No. 5195.

Administrative Department.

I have the honour to submit, herewith, plan, specification, and estimate of certain works proposed to be executed as improvements of the Cocanada river, also a general survey plan showing the position of the bridge, groynes, and buildings adjacent to aforesaid river, and with reference to the abovementioned documents, I beg to offer the following remarks :—

2. From the records of this office, it appears that for some years the Public Works Department carried on dredging operations in the Cocanada river, and met the expenses of the same. In the early part of 1867, however, such operations were suspended, and the result was, silt rapidly accumulated on both sides of the river, and consequently boats were often prevented from getting near enough to load and discharge cargo. This state of matters led to a petition on the subject being presented by the merchants of Cocanada to the Collector of the district, and on the same being forwarded to Government ; in Proceedings marginally noted, (Public Works Department,) the memorialists were informed that should it be proved the sides of the channel have become shallower, and consequently the operations of loading and unloading become more difficult, the Government would not fail to apply a remedy to the best of their power. Then followed a report, forwarded by the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, recommending certain improvements to the river in question, at an estimated cost of Rupees 35,280 ; on which, in *Proceedings of Government*, Public Works Department, No. 1806, of 15th June 1867, paragraph 3, it is stated : "The Government are of opinion that the works proposed by Mr. Sage, and approved of by the Acting Superintending Engineer, are likely to be very beneficial, and will probably greatly aid in maintaining, if not in increasing, the usefulness of the port, and the papers will accordingly be referred to the Marine Department, with a view to the question of the necessary funds being considered in that Department."

No. 1378 of 7th May 1867.

3. On communication of above order to the Superintendent of Marine, that officer called for plans and estimates, in detail, which, when received, showed the increased amount of Rupees 45,000, being Rupees 9720 more than the former roughly-estimated cost, and this larger estimate represents the amount which ought to be transferred from the General Port Fund. The whole matter has been in abeyance until now, pending receipt of the general survey plan only recently to hand.

4. The heaviest item in the estimate is Rupees 20,609, set down as for dredging. The Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, in his letter of 25th May 1867, No. 57, embodied in Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, under date June 15th, 1867, states that the annual cost of dredging over the bar continually, so as to maintain a depth thereon of four feet always, would be about Rupees 4500. Calculating that the bed of the river inside is also to be dredged, and the mud raised thereby is to be thrown up behind the revetment of the river's bank, for the purpose of reclaiming the land, still the cost named for doing so seems very large.

5. The next important item is Rupees 18,666-10-8, on account of "rough stone for pitching to new groynes :" judging from the papers furnished, I should consider this work partakes more of the nature of a revetment ; in any case, however, it is doubtless a necessary and useful undertaking.

6. Item No. 1 is for removing and repacking south groyne ; this is a work essentially necessary, as at present the groyne is under water, at high water : the proposed intention of raising it two feet above high water, will, it is expected, tend to establish a better scour through the bar.

7. Items Nos. 4 to 8 inclusive, are for a wharf, or landing place, to be built near the iron-bridge, on the southern bank ; amount for this the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, in his letter, (paragraph 7,) recorded in Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, under date 15th June 1867, states "would properly be charged to Imperial Funds, as the

work is for the accommodation of boats that pay an annual license fee," but has, notwithstanding, now entered the cost as to be paid from Port Funds. There seems, however, no reason why the former arrangement should not be adhered to.

8. The total amount of estimate in question, Rupees 45,000, has been entered by the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, in budget account for ensuing year. At the close of July last, the Cocanada Port Fund showed a balance to credit of Rupees 24,902-11-5. Balance to credit of General Port Fund, at end of last official year, was Rupees 2,06,498-14-8. There are, however, large demands to be met from said General Fund, such as Rupees 65,000 for pier at Calicut, the Cocanada estimate for Rupees 45,000, and most of the other ports have also preferred claims on the Fund, so that when all obligations are adjusted, there will probably be little left to its credit.

9. Rupees 15,000 are now available in current year's budget towards payment for proposed improvements at Cocanada, and the balance required might be paid by two yearly instalments from the General Port Fund. I observe the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, entertains hopes that about Rupees 20,000 may be recovered for the expenditure in question, by sale of reclaimed land, so that probably there may prove occasion for only one instalment as above being drawn.

10. In conclusion, I have the honour to state that the Master Attendant of Cocanada, in a letter to this office of April 15th, 1869, forwarded and supported by the Collector of the Godavery district, represents the Cocanada river as being in a very unsatisfactory condition from silting up, and want of attention in other matters. The Master Attendant also added that he was then daily expecting to get a plan of the river, on receipt of which, it was his intention to submit a proposal of what he considered ought to be done at once for the benefit of the port. Nothing further, however, on the subject has been heard from him, and it appears unadvisable to delay any longer sending in the present papers.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 27th September 1869, No. 244.

The consideration of the proposal contained in the letter above recorded must, in the opinion of the Government, be deferred for the present.

(True Extract.)

Acty. Secy. to Govt.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
,, Public Works Department.

Mxd. J. Wright.

20 Enclosures

Printed Copy.
Govt. of Hon'ble Wadia.
No 4152
MARINE.

To

THE MASTER ATTENDANT,
Madras.

Sir,

Dated September 1914.

Ref. No. 41-42 Dated Sept. 21st.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 41-42.

Directing that the consideration of the propo-
sal to execute certain works of improvements at
the Cuddalore river be deferred for the present.

No. 3258
3258

Communicated to the Secy
Regt of the 1 Dr.

Head Quarters
Winchester 1813

28 Jan.

Despatched

Ee 4132

Govt. of India. Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Superintending Engr.
1st Division

Dated

Rec'd

C. O. No. 1601 dated 7th 1858

Nos. 167 - 168

Cocanada river Bar. Examine
Dispd relative to the Execution
of certain works for the improvement of the Cocanada
river and Dispd of the same