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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1871	Press
83-83	~~Mis.~~
Dated 5.8.1870.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 82. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 9th July 1870, No. 1,181.—

ADVERTING to G. O. of the 17th June 1870, No. 86, I have the honour to submit for the consideration and orders of Government, a letter addressed to me from the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada.

2. An estimate, amounting to Rupees 45,000, has already been submitted to Government, so the Acting Master Attendant at Madras informed me, for carrying out some of the suggestions made by the Chamber. This estimate was apparently referred to the Marine Department with G. O. of the 4th November 1867, No. 3,418, and what has become of it since I am unable to trace.

3. A sum of Rupees 15,000 has been provided in this year's Budget for improvements to this river, and, if approved of by Government, I would at once commence to build the groyne on the south side of the river, and dredge on the bar and beyond this obstruction to facilitate the passage of the boats. I passed over the bar with the late Master Attendant, Captain Thompson, one day at nearly high water ordinary tide, and in some parts there was only between 5 and 6 feet of water, so that during low water the passage thereabouts could not be available for any sea-going boats. There are, I believe, narrow inlets by which boats do manage to pass in or out, but it is very advisable to maintain as large a passage hereabouts as possible, with so large a traffic existing on this river, and likely to increase very considerably in a few years; by narrowing the outlet by means of the south groyne, and dredging away the bar, I believe this object can be effected as economically as possible; but our funds are so limited for this year, I can only undertake one thing at a time, and must postpone altogether the dredging of the river on the left bank to give greater facilities for boats landing or taking away cargo.

From the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Dowlaishweram, dated Cocanada, 4th July 1870

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 27th ultimo, and in reply thereto am instructed to state —

I.—That this Chamber believes the sum voted quite inadequate to carry out any extensive improvements in the harbour so very necessary for its existence.

II.—The most judicious way to lay out the sum voted appears to this Chamber to be the dredging of the river, stopped since several years, to allow boats to load and discharge with less difficulty

III.—Such dredging to take place on the left bank of the river between the bridge and the Custom-house and on the bar at the mouth of the river, where boats at present experience difficulty to ply

IV.—This Chamber suggests that the river be narrowed from the bridge downwards on its right bank, and a stone embankment run up and the mud dredged out used to fill up

V.—This Chamber believes the suggestion of lengthening the south groyne should also be acted upon.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th August 1870.*

No. 83. ORDER THEREON, 5th August 1870, No. 1,871.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 12.

Proceedings No 164, dated 10th June 1870

- * G O, Public Works Department, 15th June 1867, No 1,806
- G O, Marine Department, 29th August 1867, No 223
- G O, Marine Department, 27th Sept 1869, No 244
- G O, Public Works Department, 10th March 1870, No 755
- G O, Marine Department, 10th June 1870, No 164

extent of Rupees 15,000, and they expressed their willingness to make the necessary further allotments in subsequent Budgets. As, however, the Acting Superintending Engineer, in condemning Mr. Sage's proposals, made none of a specific character of his own, the Government, as a preliminary to giving their sanction to any expenditure, required to have before them some proposal of a practical nature which should meet the requirements of the Chamber of Commerce; and Major Fischer was accordingly called upon in this department to submit, in communication with the Chamber, a scheme for such improvements of the harbour of Cocanada as are most urgently needed and could be effected at a reasonable cost.

2. The letter at the head of these Proceedings is the result. In it Major Fischer would seem to endorse the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce that the works most necessary to be undertaken with the money that is available are the dredging of the river on the south bank, between the bridge and the Custom-house, as well as on the bar, the narrowing of the river from the bridge downwards on the same side by an embankment of rough-stone, behind which the mud dredged up would be thrown to form a reclamation, and, lastly, the extension and strengthening of the south groyne. These, with the exception of dredging the bar, would, the Government have no reason to doubt, be substantial and useful improvements, but they are identical with some of those proposed by Mr. Sage and disapproved by the Acting Superintending Engineer. Major Fischer has not explained his reasons for thus changing his opinion, but the Government cannot but express surprise that in the second paragraph of his letter he should speak of having learnt, during his visit to Madras in April last, of an estimate of Rupees 45,000 having been submitted to Government last year for improvements to the harbour of Cocanada, when, only so short a time ago as the 23rd March last, he professed to reply to a reference regarding that very estimate, and stated that he could not recommend the improvements of the river by such works as it provided for carrying out. The Government fear Major Fischer did not on that occasion take the trouble to satisfy himself of the nature and object of those works before committing himself to their condemnation, for it is not easy on any other supposition to understand how the fact of the estimate having been reported on by him on the 23rd March can have left no impression on his memory, or how he

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th August 1870.*

can now, without any explanation, support proposals to carry out works which he then disapproved and which he stated he could not recommend.

3. Under such circumstances Major Fischer cannot be surprised if the Government have little confidence in the opinion now submitted by him on the subject of the proposed improvements, and His Excellency the Governor in Council must decline to sanction any outlay of money on them till the Government are furnished with a specific scheme, carefully prepared as well as estimated for in detail, and accompanied by the fullest explanations.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division

Exd. S T. Augustin.

COCANADA, 14th July 1870.

From

V. W. Hall Esquire
Chairman Chamber of Commerce
Cocanada

To

Major J. V. Wischer B. E.
Acting Superintending Engineer
1st Division
Dowlaisheeram.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge
your letter of the 27th ultimo, and in reply
there to, am instructed to state

I. That this Chamber deems the sum
voted quite inadequate to carry out any
extensive improvements in the harbour
so very necessary for its existence

II. The most judicious way to lay
out the sum voted appears to this
Chamber to be the dredging of the river,
stopped since several years, to allow
boats to load and discharge with less
difficulty

78
difficultly

III Such dredging to take place on the left bank of the River between the bridge and the Customs House and on the bar at the mouth of the river, where boats at present experience difficulty to ply.

IV This Chamber suggests that the river be narrowed from the bridge ^{on its right bank} downwards and a stone Indian Run be run up and the mud dredged out used to fill up.

V This Chamber believes the suggestion of lengthening the south groynes should also be acted upon.

I have the honor to be

Yours Obedient Servant

J. H. B. C.

Chairman

167181 Sub Engineers Office, 1st Division
Doolaiswaram 9th July 1870

From Major J. E. Fisher M.E.
Acting Sup Engineer
1st Division

Colonel C. A. Orr
Secretary to Government
Madras

Quelques notes

Adverting to J. O. of the 17th June
1870 & 1886, I have the honor to submit for the
consideration and orders of Government, a letter
addressed to me from the Chamber of Commerce
Cocacoda.

2. An Estimate amounting to Rs. 45,000 has already been submitted to Government, so the Acting Master attendant at Madras informed the Chamber. This Estimate was apparently referred to the Marine Department with G.O. of the 4th Novr 1867 No 3418, and what has become of it since, I am unable to trace.

3. A sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided for the purchase of arms and accoutrements to

3 A sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided in this year's Budget for improvements to this river, and if approved of by Government I would at once commence to build the groin on the south side of the river, and dredge on the bar and beyond this obstruction to facilitate the—

the passage of the boats. I passed over the bar with the late Master attendant Capt. Thompson one day at nearly high water ordinary tide, and in some parts there was only between 5 and 6 feet of water so that during low water the passage thereabouts could not be available for any sea-going boats. There are I believe narrow inlets by which boats do manage to pass in or out, but it is very advisable to maintain as large a passage hereabouts as possible, with so large a traffic existing on this River, and likely to increase very considerably in a few years.

by ~~removing~~ ^{narrowing} the outlet by means of the South groin, and dredging away the bar. I believe this object can be effected as economically as possible, but our funds are so limited for this year, I can only undertake one thing at a time, and must postpone altogether the dredging of the river on the left bank to give greater facilities for boats landing or taking away cargo.

Have the honor to be

Yours most obedt. Servant

Wm: T. Tucker Major M

A.S. Sups Engineer 1st Division

132
 1871
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 5 July 1870
 Read the following
 From the Dy. Supg. Engineer } H.E. No 1181 of 9 July 1870

Ms No 164 dated 15 June 70.

When passing orders in the Marine Department on a letter from the Acting Dy. Engineer of the 1st Division No 438 of the 23rd March last on the subject which, with reference to the correspondence as per annex, had been referred to him, by carrying out certain improvements of the harbour of Cochin, proposed and estimated for by Mr. Sage, the Govt. noticed that permission had been made in the Port Land Budget for the purpose to the extent of Rs 15,000 and they expressed their willingness to make the necessary further

- * G.O. P. & D. 15 June 69. No 1806.
- G.O. Marine Dept. 29 Aug. 69. No 223.
- G.O. D. 27 Sept. 69. No 244.
- G.O. P. & D. 10 March 70. No 705.
- G.O. Marine Dept. 10 June 70. No 164.

M
 J. D.

1871. 5th August 70

Public Works Dept. Madras
 The Dy. Supg. Engr. 1st Division
 To the Secretary to Govt.
 P. & D. Madras.
 Madras 9th July 1870.
 No 1181.
 Enclosed for consideration of the Dy. Supg. Engr. 1st Division is a letter from the Chairman of the Cochin Harbour Commission regarding the improvement of the Cochin Harbour.
 1870 15th August 70

2682

1870 15th August 70

allocments in subsequent
budgets. As, however, the
Acting Supergr, in condemn-
ing Mr. Tapp's proposals,
made none of a specific
character of his own, the
Govt, as a preliminary
to giving their sanction to
any expenditure, required
to have before them some
proposal of a practical
nature which should meet
the requirements of the
Chamber of Commerce, and
Major Fischer was accord-
ingly called upon in this
Department to submit,
in communication with
the Chamber, a scheme for
such improvements of the
harbour of Canada as
are

are most urgently needed and
could be effected at a reasonable
cost.

The letter at the head of
these proceedings is the result.
In it Major Fischer would
seem to endorse the opinion
of the Chamber of Commerce
that the works most necessary
to be undertaken with the
money that is available are
the dredging of the river on the
south bank between the
Bridge and the Custom House
as well as on the Bar, the
narrowing of the river from
the bridge downwards on the
same side by an embankment
of rough stone behind which
the mud dredged up would
be thrown to form a re-
clamation, and lastly the
extension and strengthening

of the South passage. These, with the exception of dredging the Bar, would, the Govt. have no reason to doubt, be substantial and useful improvements, but they are identical with some of those proposed by Mr. Sage and disapproved by the Asst. Secy. Engineer. Major Fischer has not explained his reasons for thus changing his opinion but the Govt. cannot but express surprise that in the second para of his letter he should speak of having learnt, during his visit to Madras in April last, of an estimate of Rs 45,000 having been submitted to Govt. last year for improvements to the harbour of Cocanada, when only so short a time

ago

ago as the 23^d March last he professed to reply to a reference regarding that very estimate and stated that he could not recommend the improvements of the river by such works as it provided for carrying out. The Govt. Secy Major Fischer did not on that occasion take the trouble to satisfy himself of the nature and object of those works before committing himself to their condemnation, for it is not easy on any other supposition to understand how the fact of the estimate having been reported on by him on the 23^d March can have left no impression on his memory, or how he can now, without any explanation, support pro-

proposals to carry out works
which he then disapproved
and which he stated he
could not recommend.

Under such circum-
stances ~~the Govt. can have~~
~~no confidence in the opinion~~
~~of the Refractory Engineer on the~~
~~subject of the proposed im-~~
~~provements, and His Ex-~~
~~cellency the Governor in~~
~~Council must decline to~~
~~sanction any outlay of~~
~~money on them till the~~
~~Govt. are furnished with~~
~~a specific scheme, care-~~
~~fully prepared as well as~~
~~estimated for in detail,~~
~~and accompanied by the~~
~~fullest explanations.~~

[Signature]

Major Fisher cannot be
surprised if the Govt
has little confidence
in the opinion submitted
by him on the subject &c

N

A. J. S.

J. D. S.

To the Secy of the
1st Divn.
Recd 6/8/70.

proposed to be

2728

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

*The Superintending Engr
1st Division*

No. 1

No. 2

No. 1

5th Sept 1871

NO. 82-83

Cocanada River. Paper orders
in the letter from the Super Engr of
1st Division submitting, with
Remarks, the form the Chamber
of Commerce, ^{Cocanada,} ~~representing~~ Reg.
asking certain improve-
ments to the Cocanada
River.