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- (2) Date of repair _____
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press
	Mio.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 229. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 15th August 1870, No. 1,638 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of G. O. of the 5th August 1870, No. 1,871, and regret very much to find the Government should consider I had acted in any inconsistent manner in regard to the improvements of the Cocanada River, but I do not think that such a conclusion can be borne out after a perusal of all the correspondence.

2. In my letter to your address of the 8th January last, printed with G. O. of the 10th March last, No. 755, paragraph 7, I did recommend that some of the proposals, for which Mr. Sage had sent in estimates, should be carried out as affording present convenience; but these could not be looked upon as permanent improvements, and, as far as I am aware, the only matter which I could not undertake to recommend was the holding out to Government the prospect of being re-imbursed any outlay on account of these works, by filling up the swamp near Juggernaikpuram and selling the land for building purposes. On this point my opinion has not changed in the slightest degree. I have made very careful enquiries regarding this, and I have very good authority for stating there is no prospect of this land being taken up for this purpose, and I was strongly advised not to lend any support or countenance the scheme in any way, and by that recommendation I abide.

3. On reading over paragraph 2 of my letter printed with the G. O. under reply, I regret to say I nowhere find I had stated that, on my late visit to Madras, I had then only learnt any thing about the estimate for Rupees 45,000 for this river's improvements. There appears to be some misapprehension on this point, as I had already referred to this estimate in January last, and my having done so is noted in paragraph 3 of G. O. of the 10th March last, No. 755. In my letter of the 23rd March last, I stated at length my reasons for not entering very heartily into this scheme, particularly as regards the financial results, but I do not find that I have anywhere utterly condemned the proposals, particularly as affording a very great present convenience. As regards my having learnt anything about this matter when lately in Madras, I beg to observe I had not the pleasure of seeing either Mr. Dalrymple or Mr. Crowther; when there I never went to their offices, and, as far as I can recollect, I do not remember mentioning the matter to any one; in fact, after the receipt of G. O. of the 10th March last, No. 755, in which Government had resolved to wait for the advent of the Harbour Engineer from England, I dismissed the whole thing, as far as harbour was concerned, from further consideration. On receipt of G. O. of the 17th June last, No. 86, I was obliged to take up the subject again, and accordingly recommended such works as "are most emergently necessary" for the loading and unloading of boats in the river and keeping open the passage over the bar, these are works which have been in contemplation for many years, and have been partially executed; it is, therefore, very difficult to say who actually designed them: the estimates for completing these, however, were prepared by Mr. Sage; and the late Master Attendant, Captain Thompson, particularly brought to my notice the state of the bar, and on my return from Madras we went over this together taking soundings, and as soon as an opportunity offered,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th September 1870.*

I recommended the dredging of it, which has been neglected for some years, being put in hand at once.

4. Nothing whatever can be done for the harbour itself at present, and, I may be permitted to add, it would be inexpedient to take up this matter as long as there is a prospect of obtaining sound professional advice from England, and had I thought of this I should not have ventured to give any opinion on this subject.

5. In conclusion, I trust the Government will now be pleased to accept these explanations, and allow the works to progress. I have to the best of my ability and judgment only recommended such works as are likely to be really useful and are absolutely necessary for present convenience. If a scheme for the whole harbour were prepared even now, many years must elapse before it can be fully executed and its benefits realized, but by executing such works as now proposed we can afford material assistance to the commerce of the port during this interval. I have only to add a provision should be made in future Budgets for the annual dredging of this estuary's mouth, as long as this is retained as the means of giving access to the shipping.

6. I transmit with this letter a copy of the Acting Master Attendants's letter to me, informing me what had become of the estimate for the improvements of the Cocanada River. This, it will be observed, is dated the 21st June last, and I left Madras on the 26th April last. This letter is in reply to a reference I had made to that officer, as suggested in paragraph 6 of G. O. of the 10th March last, No. 755, and this information was embodied in my letter printed with G. O., of the 5th August, No. 1,871, as I was unable to trace these satisfactorily in the office.

From the Acting Master Attendant, Administrative Department, Madras, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Madras, 21st June 1870, No. 3,114.

In reply to your letter, No. 881, of the 15th instant, I have honour to state that, as by this time Proceedings of Government in the Marine Department, No. 164, under date June 10th, 1870, have doubtless been communicated by the head of the Public Works Department, you will have learnt that Government are awaiting the submission by you, in communication with the Chamber of Commerce at Cocanada, of a proposal for such improvements of Cocanada Harbour as can be effected at a reasonable cost, and are most emergently necessary before sanctioning any outlay on such accounts.

2. There appears to be some mistake regarding the entry in the Budget quoted by you as against the item for rebuilding the south groyne of Cocanada River; in this office copy of the said Budget the remark stands, "to be carried out by the Public Works Department." The estimates referred to are in the hands of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

No. 230.

ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1870, No. 2,206.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 18.

THE Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division endeavours in this letter to explain the circumstance of his having on the 9th of July last, when recommending certain works to be carried out for the improvement of the harbour of Cocanada, expressed unconsciousness of his having only a few months previously condemned those very works when the estimate for them, as prepared by Mr. Sage, was referred to him for his opinion.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th September 1870.*

2. Admitting that paragraph 2 of Major Fischer's letter of the 9th July, No. 1,181, was partially misunderstood, the Government observe that the fact remains of Major Fischer having then distinctly stated that he had heard from the Master Attendant at Madras of the existence of an estimate which he had been able to trace to its having been referred to the Marine Department in 1867 but no farther, although that very estimate had been specially referred to him and unfavourably reported upon by him in the most specific manner in his letter of the 23rd March last.

3. It is true that, in paragraph 7 of his letter of the 8th January 1870, No. 3,513, Major Fischer spoke in general terms of recommending the embankment of the south bank of the river from the Government coal shed to the south groyne, and that this happens to be one of the works now brought forward by the Chamber of Commerce and approved by him. It is, however, also one of the works included in the estimate which, specially referred to Major Fischer, was condemned by him, without any exception in favour of any of its items, in his letter of the 23rd March, and, such being the case, the Government fear they have only too much reason to believe that Major Fischer committed himself to a disapproval of Mr. Sage's estimate without making himself acquainted with the nature and probable effect of the works for which it provided.

4. Although the Government cannot entirely exonerate Major Fischer from the imputation of carelessness in this matter, they will give their best consideration to any projects which Major Fischer may submit for the improvement of the harbour when presented with carefully prepared plans and estimates, and they will make a provision in future Budgets for dredging the mouth of the estuary when furnished by Major Fischer with an estimate of the amount which may probably be requisite for the annual performance of that work.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

1638

Superintending Eng^rs Office 1st Dⁿ
Dowlaiswaram 15th August 1870.

From

Majors J. F. Fischer A. E.

As Superintending Engineer

1st Division

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.

Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of G. O of the 5th August 1870. & 1870 and ~~very~~ much to find the Government should consider I had acted in any inconsistent manner in regard to the improvements of the Coacanada river but I do not think that such a conclusion can be borne out after a perusal of all the correspondence.

2. In my letter to your address of the 8th January last printed with G. O of the 10th March last No. 755 paray I did recommend that some of the proposals for which Mr. Sage had sent in Estimates should be carried out as affording present convenience but these could not be looked upon as permanent improvements as far as I am aware the only matter which I could not undertake to recommend was the holding out to Government the prospect of being re-imbursed any outlay on account of these works

works by filling up the swamp near Juggernaut-
puram and selling the land for building purposes;
on this point my opinion has not changed in the
slightest degree, I have made very careful enquiries
regarding this and I have very good authority for
stating there is no prospect of this land being taken
up for this purpose and I was strongly advised not
to lend any support or countenance the scheme in any
way and by that recommendation I abide

3. On reading over para 2 of my letter printed with the
G.O. under reply I regret to say I nowhere find I had
stated that on my late visit to Madras I had then
only learnt any thing about the Estimate for Rupees
45,000 for this River's Improvements: there appears to be
some misapprehension on this point as I had already
referred to this Estimate in January last and my having
done so is noted in Para 3 of G.O. of the 10th March last
No 755: in my letter of the 23rd March last I stated:
at length my reasons for not entering very heartily into
this scheme particularly as regards the financial re-
sults but I do not find that I have anywhere utterly
condemned the proposals particularly as affording a
very great present convenience; as regards my having
learnt any thing about this matter when lately in
Madras I beg to observe I had not the pleasure of
seeing either Mr Dalrymple or Mr Browther when there
I never went to their Offices and as far as I can
recollect I do not remember mentioning the matter

to anyone, in fact after the receipt of G.O. of the 10th March
last No 755 in which Government had resolved to wait
for the advent of the Harbour Engineer from England
I dismissed the whole thing as far as harbour was
concerned from further consideration; on receipt of G.O.
of the 17th June last No 86 I was obliged to take up the
subject again and accordingly recommended such
works as "are most emergently necessary" for the loading
and unloading of boats in the river and keeping
open the passage over the bar, these are works which
have been in contemplation for many years and have
been partially executed, it is therefore very difficult
to say who actually designed them, the Estimates for com-
pleting these however were prepared by Mr Sage; and the
late Master Attendant Captain Thompson particularly
brought to my notice the state of the bar and on my
return from Madras we went over this together
taking soundings, and as soon as an opportunity offered
I recommended the dredging of it which has been neg-
lected for some years being put in hand at once.

4 Nothing whatever can be done for the harbour
itself at present; and I may be permitted to add it
would be inexpedient to take up this matter as long
as there is a prospect of obtaining sound professional
advice from England, and had I thought of this I should
not have ventured to give any opinion on this subject.

5. In conclusion I trust the Government will now be
pleased to accept these explanations and allow the works
to progress I have to the best of my ability and judgment
only recommended such works as are likely to be really
useful

useful and are absolutely necessary for present convenience if a scheme for the whole harbour were prepared even now many years must elapse before it can be fully executed and its benefits realized, but by executing such works as now proposed we can afford material assistance to the commerce of the port during this interval. I have only to add a provision should be made in future Budgets for the Annual dredging of this estuary's mouth as long as this is retained as the means of giving access to the shipping.

I transmit with this letter a copy of the Acting Master Attendant's letter to me informing me what had become of the Estimate for the Improvements of the Cocanada river. This it will be observed is dated the 21st June last and I left Madras on the 26th April last. This letter is in reply to a reference I had made to that Officer as suggested in paragraph of G. O. of the 10th March last No 455 and this information was embodied in my letter printed with G. O. of the 5th August No 1871, as I was unable to trace these satisfactorily in the Office.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servant

W. H. Tucker Major R.E.

Ag Superintending Engineer P. & D.

Public Works 1870. Sept. 14
No 1638
From No 3242.

The Ag. Supg. Engineer
1st Division

To
The Secretary to Govt
P. & D.
Madras.

Dated 15th August 1870.
Recd 20th Sept.

Enclosures 1

Appoints certain information regarding the improvement of the Cocanada river, and forwards a letter from the Master Attendant Madras on the subject.

No 2206-14 Sept 1870.

No 229
Recd 16 Octy 23 Aug 70 P. & D. 2nd Sept.

Administrative Department

No. 11. M. D. 1-1-1

No 3114

The Acting Master Attendant,
Administrative Department,
Madras.

To.

The Asst. Engineer,
1st Division.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No 881 of the 15th Instant, I have the honor to state that, as by this time Proceedings of Government in the Marine Department, No 164, under date June 10th, 1870, have doubtless been communicated by the Head of the Public Works Department, you will have learnt that Government are awaiting the submission by you, in communication with the Chamber of Commerce at Cocanada, of a proposal for such improvements of Cocanada Harbour as can be effected at a reasonable cost, and are most emergently necessary before sanctioning any outlay on such accounts.

2. There appears to be some mistake regarding the entry in the Budget quoted by you as against the item for rebuilding the south groynes of Cocanada River.

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in this Office Copy of the said Budget
the remark stands, to be carried out
by the Public Works Department. The
Estimates referred to are in the hands
of the Secretary of Government Public
Works Department.

11

Madras
Marine Office }
res 21st June/70 }
6.

15 J. B. Crosthorn
Acting Master Attendant
Administrative Department

True Copy

W. L. T. H. M. (Major) P. O.

Acting Supp Engineer 1st Div

P. W. 3242-70.

Enclosure in letter No.
1638 dated 15th August 1870
from the Ag. Supp. Eng. 1st Div
to the Secretary to Govt P. W. D.
Madras

Public Works Department
No. 2206
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 14th August 1870

Read the following

From The As Supt Engineer
H.E. No. 1638 of 15th Aug 70

The Superintendant of the
1st Division endeavours in this
letter to explain ~~(away)~~ the
~~(extraordinary)~~ circumstance
of his having on the 9th of July
last, when recommending
certain works to be carried
out for the improvement
of the harbour of Cochinada,
expressed ~~(as in the)~~ uncon-
sciousness of his having only
a few months previously
condemned those very
works when the estimate

for

1. omit
2. omit.

N.P.

omit N.

for them, as prepared by Mr. Sage, was referred to him for his opinion.

2. Admitting that para 2 of Major Fitcher's letter of the 9th July No 1181 was partially misunderstood the Govt. deserve that the fact remains of Major Fitcher having then distinctly stated that he had heard from the Master Attendant at Madras of the existence of an estimate which he had been unable to trace to its having been referred to the Marine Dept. in 1867 but no farther, although that very estimate had

that it might descend,
I wish omit this
N.

in general terms

77
had been specially referred to him and unfavorably reported upon by him in the most specific manner in his letter of the 23rd March last.

3. It is true that, in para 7 of his letter of the 8th January 1870, No 3513, Major Fitcher (~~in the general and vague terms in which all his proposals for improvements to the Cochin harbor have been couched~~) spoke of recommending the embankment of the South bank of the river from the Government Coal shed to the South quay

foyne and that this happens
to be one of the works now
brought forward by the
Chamber of Commerce and
approved by him. It is
however also one of the works
included in the estimate
which, specially referred
to Major Fischer, was con-
demned by him without
any exception in favor of
any of its items in his
letter of the 23rd March, and
such being the case, the good
fear they have only too much
reason to believe that Major
Fischer committed himself
to a ~~(wholesale)~~ disapproval
of Mr. Sag's estimate without
giving

with
N.

making himself
acquainted

I would suggest in lieu
of para 4.

Altho the govt cannot but
exonerate Major Fisher
for the imputation of
carelessness in this matter
they will give their best
consideration to any
projects which Major
Fisher may submit for
the improvement of the
harbour when presented
with carefully prepared
plans & estimates and
they will make a provision
in future budgets for
meeting the cost of the
scheme when furnished
by Major Fisher with an
estimate of the amount which

107
~~(giving himself the trouble
to make himself acquainted
with the nature and pro-
bable effect of the works
for which it provided.)~~

4. Under these circum-
stances the Government
see no grounds for modi-
fying the terms in which
they have recorded their
want of confidence in
any proposals of a general
nature which Major
Fischer may make for
the improvement of the
Lancaster Harbour, and
their determination not
to sanction any outlay
of money till they have
had

had before their own
specified scheme, accom-
panied by carefully pre-
pared plans and estimates
as well as the fullest ex-
planations.

may perhaps be requested
for the annual perform-
ance of that work. N

[Signature]

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The S. Eng. Sec. on S
Dec 21/90

Page 3 on -

Capt. of 118701 110000.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The S. Superintending Engr
1st Division.

Dated

Recd.

11/1

G. O. 14 Sept. 1890. No. 2206

279-230

Canada River. Papering or-
ders on the letter from the Engr.
Superior of the 1st Division
furnishing certain ex-
planations in connection
with the improvements
to the Canada River.