M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 224

(2) Date of repair 1-8-47

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 120 Press Mis.

246-48

Dated 16. 3 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following letters:—

No. 246. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 5th December 1870, No. 3,054.

ADVERTING to G. O. of the 31st October last, No. 2,591, I have the honour to observe Mr. Sage, as far as I am aware, never furnished any estimates for improvements to Cocanada harbour of a simple and inexpensive description. The estimates of his referred to in G. O. of the 27th September 1869, No. 244, are for improvements to the Cocanada river only, and are so described by Mr. Dalrymple in paragraph 6 of his letter, printed with the above G. O., and as such I treated them; they form, of course, an item in any scheme for the improvement of the port, but cannot, except in a very wide manner, be looked upon as providing even in the simplest manner for harbour improvements.

1 Survey of river.
*1 Cross Section.
1 Statement

*In a separate cover.

2. I have on former occasions expressed an opinion that the works contemplated to be executed by these estimates would be a very great present convenience, and I would again beg to recommend some of them should be put in hand at once, though I have never been able to see the estimates; but from personal inspection of the locality, I am convinced the works are necessary for the well-being of the mercantile community. I cannot undertake to say there is now any probability of any land reclaimed being sold so as to reimburse the Government, but I have no doubt the port dues might be increased so as to secure some return for the outlay, but of this more by and by.

3. Reverting for the present to Mr. Dalrymple's letter, paragraph 4, that Officer sets down Rupees 20,609 as the item for dredging, and considers the outlay proposed as very large. Government, in paragraph 2 of the G. O. under reply, are of opinion that no permanant advantage is to be gained by dredging the bar. In general, as far as I am aware, dredging operations to be useful must be performed periodically when necessary at all; few localities afford such advantages that when work of this kind has been once done it will not be required to be repeated, and no such permanent results can be even hoped for at the mouth of a tidal creek discharging into a bay receiving the waters of one of the largest rivers of the country, and conveying at certain seasons an enormous quantity of silt. I am decidedly of opinion that dredging here is absolutely necessary, and that it should be performed by an establishment maintained for the purpose, so that being trained to the work the results are then likely to be the most economical. The sum asked for is probably too large to incur for one season's work, which after all would have to be done again; but I would recommend the work being taken in hand for two or three years, to ascertain what sum is required on an average for this most essential operation.

4. The item of Rupees 18,667 for "rough stone for pitching to new groynes." This I suppose forms a portion of the work referred to as Item No. 1 for "removing and repacking the south groyne;" this work is, as Mr. Dalrymple says, essentially necessary, and why it has never been completed I cannot find out. I remember the work being put in hand in 1855-56, and it has not yet been properly finished.

5. The wharf or landing place referred to in paragraph 7 should be paid for out of our Boat License Fund. This is a purely Local Fund, and should, therefore, be applied for the general purposes and requirements of the District.

6. The above constitute, so far as I am able to gather, the improvements to the river provided for by Mr. Sage's estimates, and it will be seen they do not in any way tend to improve the harbour, but only the means of access to the shipping in it.

7. I have delayed replying on this subject, as I was anxious to ascertain the condition of the river bed after the extraordinary floods of this season, and I now beg to transmit sections of the river showing its ordinary state and the action of the late floods. The Master Attendant is of opinion these were rushing out at the rate of nine knots an hour, and it will be seen the bed has been very considerably scoured out, the water having acted apparently so as to deepen the channel without affecting the banks; hence I conclude the better way to improve this river would be to narrow the channel as far as practicable, and retain this depth of water.

8. I have marked on the plan in black pencil a line for the embankment on the south side of this river, such as would give a mean width of 230 feet at high water, or nearly 80 yards. If the river there were dredged out and maintained at such a depth as to allow boats to load and unload alongside the banks, these operations would be much facilitated, and their expense reduced, which would enable the people using the port to pay higher dues, and the boat owners might also then be called upon to pay a license fee. As far as I am aware no inconvenience would be experienced greater than now existing from the shallow condition of the river near the banks in working the boats.

9. I send with this letter a statement showing the value of exports and imports, excluding bullion and specie, from Cocanada harbour for the last year, and the duty actually collected. This amounts to Rupees 110,342, the duty on imports being at the average rate of 8 per cent., and that on exports about 4 per cent. on the value. If we include the value of treasure, the total value for the year 1869-70 is Rupees 163,11,770 for this harbour, or more than 1½ million sterling. Considering then the importance of the trade which has ever been established here, I do not think half a lac of Rupees too much to ask for expenditure on so important a work as its river improvement by which the shipping is communicated with.

10. Under the heads of Bullion and Specie large quantities of gold, it is well known, are now imported into this District by the Natives, and made up into jewellery for personal ornaments. Nothing can more clearly exhibit the great increase that has been effected in the exchangeable value of the products of labour and land here than this one item of imports; for the last year, the sum imported was nearly 35 lacs valued in Rupees, or £ 350,000, as gold is valued at nearly £9 the ounce; if the whole of this were received in that metal, about 3½ tons of it would have been imported. As the material is not used for any other purpose than for personal ornaments, I do not see why it should not pay a small duty of 1 per cent. on the value. This alone would suffice to complete the river improvements in two years.

11. I trust, under the explanations now afforded, the Government will be pleased to sanction these river improvements being proceeded with at once. I have not ventured to enter again into the matter of the harbour, though my opinion thereon remains unchanged; but as I said before to work this out in any complete form requires the consideration of many points into which it is not at present possible to enter, whereas the river works alone can be very easily disposed of.

No. 247. From the same Officer, dated Dowlaishweram, 13th December 1870, No. 3,115.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to G. O. of the 1st instant, No. 2,902, to refer you to my letter to your address of the 5th instant, No. 3,054, in which I have detailed the works required for the river improvements at Cocanada, and sent survey and sections of the same.

2. There appears to be some misunderstanding about this reference altogether. I cannot find anywhere any specific instructions, as I explained in my letter printed with G. O. of the 31st October last, No. 2,591. Any project for improving the harbour would require far more work to be done in the way of surveys than we have establishment for at present, but for the mere improvements to the river, nothing further is necessary than to undertake the execution of the works for which estimates were sent down in November 1867. The rates in these may now require to be revised, but as the works will take two or three years to complete, the rates can be struck as the works progress.

3. I beg you will be good enough to send me further instructions by telegraph if necessary, and we will get on with these works as fast as possible.

No. 248. ORDER THEREON, 16th January 1871, No. 120.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 17.

IN their Orders of the 5th August 1870, No. 1,871, the Government called upon the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division to submit "a specific scheme carefully prepared and estimated for in detail" for improving the harbour of Cocanada. These orders were reiterated in Proceedings, No. 2,206, dated 14th September, No. 2,591, dated 31st October, and No. 2,902, dated 1st December 1870, but instead of complying with them Major Fischer in his letter above recorded contents himself with noticing some of the works proposed and estimated for by Mr. Sage in October 1867, and in remarking that they can only be said to form a part of any scheme which may be prepared for the improvement of the harbour, he recommends that those works be carried out at once, the necessary funds being obtained by an increase in port dues.

2. The Acting Superintending Engineer will be informed that the Government are not prepared to authorize any expenditure of money on such general statements as are contained in this letter, and he will again be directed to submit the specific scheme which he has been instructed to prepare accompanied by detailed estimates and the fullest explanations.

3. Major Fischer would seem to think that what is required of him is a general scheme for the improvement of the port and harbour at Cocanada, but if he

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th January 1871.

will refer to the concluding clause of the 1st paragraph of the Proceedings of Government, No. 1,871, of the 15th August last, he will observe that what is sought is such a scheme of improvement to the river as is advocated by the Chamber of Commerce, and which, consisting only of works most urgently needed, shall be capable of being carried out at a reasonable cost.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Exd E. C. Shunker.

Supg. Engineers Office 1st Division

No. 3054 Dowlaishweram 5th December 70.

From

Major P. T. Fischer R.E.

Ag. Supg. Engineer 1st Division

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.

Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Madras.

Sir,

Adverting to G.O. of the 31st October last No. 2591, I have the honor to observe Mr. Sage, as far as I am aware, never furnished any Estimates for improvements to Coconada harbour of a simple and inexpensive description. The Estimates of his referred to in G.O. of the 21st September 1869 No. 244 are for improvements to the Coconada River only, and are so described by Mr. Dalrymple in para 6 of his letter printed with the above G.O. and, as such

I treated them. They form of course an item in any scheme for the improvement of the Port, but cannot except in a very wide manner be looked upon as providing even in the simplest manner for harbour improvements.

2 ... ... I have on former occasions expressed an opinion that the works contemplated to be executed by these Estimates would be a very great improvement, and I would again beg to recommend some of them should be put in hand as early as I have never been able to see the Estimates but from personal inspection of the locality. I am convinced the works are necessary for the well being of the mercantile community. I cannot undertake to say there is now any probability of any land reclaimed being sold so as to reimburse the Government, but I have no doubt the Port dues might be increased so as to secure some return for the outlay but of this more bye and bye.

1d 2.

3. ... ... Reverting for the present to Mr. Dalrymple's letter para 4 that Officer sets down No. 2 Dock as the item for dredging and considers the outlay proposed as very large. Government in para 2 of the G.O. under reply are of opinion that no permanent advantage is to be gained by dredging the bar. In general, as far as I am aware, dredging operations to be useful, must be performed periodically when necessary as all localities afford such advantages that when work of this kind has been once done it will not be required to be repeated and so much permanent results can be even hoped for, at the mouth of a tidal creek discharging into a Bay receiving the waters of one of the largest rivers of the country and conveying at certain seasons an enormous quantity of silt. I am decidedly of opinion that dredging here is absolutely necessary, and that it should be performed by an Establishment maintained for the purpose, to that being

trained

I trained to the work, the results, are there to see
see, the most economical. The sum asked for is
probably too large to meet for one season only,
which after all would have to be done again
but I would recommend the work being taken
in hand for 2 or 3 years to ascertain what sum
is required on an average for this most essential
operation.

4

The item of £1866 for roughs
-tow for pitching to new groynes this I suppose comes
a portion of the work referred to as item 3 for
renewing and repairing the South groynes this
work is as Mr Dalrymple says essentially neces-
-sary and why it has never been completed I
cannot find out. I remember the work being put
in hand in 1855-56 and it has not yet been properly
finished.

5

The wharf or landing place
referred to in para 5 should be paid for out of

6

I am able to gather, the improvements to the river
provided for by Mr Sages Estimates, and it
will be seen, they do not in any way tend to improve
the harbour, but only the means of access to
the shipping in it.

I have delayed replying on
this subject, as I was anxious to ascertain
the condition of the river bed after the extraor-
-dinary floods of this season, & I now beg to trans-
-mit sections of the river, shewing its ordinary
state, and the action of the late floods; the
Master Attendant is of opinion these were pushing
out, at the rate of 9 knots an hour, and it will be
seen the bed has been very considerably scoured
out, the water having acted, apparently, so as to
deepen the channel without affecting the

banks,

banks, hence I conclude, the best way to improve this river would be to narrow the channel as far as practicable, and retain this depth of water.

9 I have marked on the plan in black pencil, a line for the embankment on the south side of this river, such as would give a mean width of 230 feet at high water, or nearly 80 yards. If the river there were dredged out, and maintained at such a depth, as to allow boats to load and unload alongside the banks, their operations would be much facilitated, and their expence reduced, which would enable the people using the port to pay higher dues, and the boat owners might also then be called upon to pay a License fee: as far as I can ascertain, no increase would be experienced greater than now exists, from the shallow condition of the river near the banks in working the boats.

I send with this letter, a statement shewing the value of Exports and Imports excluding

excluding Bullion, and Specie, from Cocanada harbour for the last year, and the duty actually collected, this amounts to Rs. 110342. the duty on Imports being at the average of 5 per cent, and that on Exports about 4 per cent on the value, if we include the value of Treasure, the total value for the year 1869-70 is Rs. 163.11.770. for this harbour, or more than 1½ Million sterling. Considering then the importance of the trade which has ever been established here, I do not think ½ a lac of Rupees too much to ask for expenditure on so important a work, as its river improvement by which the shipping is communicated with

10 Under the heads of Bullion and Specie, large quantities of gold it is well known are now imported into this District by the natives and made up into jewellery for personal ornaments, nothing can more clearly exhibit the great increase, that has been effected, in the exchange-

able

exchangeable value of the products of labour and land here, than this one item of imports for the last year, the sum imported, was nearly 35 lacs valued in Rupees, or 350,000£ as gold is valued at nearly £9 the mint; if the whole of this mine received with that metal, about 3½ tons of it would have been imported: as the material is not used for any other purpose than for permanent ornaments, I do not see why it should not pay a small duty of one per cent on the value. This alone would suffice to complete the improvements in 2 years.

10 I trust under the explanations now afforded, the Government will be pleased to sanction these pier improvements being proceeded with at once. I have not entered to enquire into the condition of the harbour, tho' my opinion therein remains unchanged, but as I said before, to do so at this out in any complete form, requires the consideration of many points, into which did not

No 3115

Supt Engineers Office 1st Dn
Doolaiswaram 13th December 1870

From

Major J. T. Fischer RE
Asst to the

not, at present possible to enter, whereas this mineral work alone can be very easily disposed of.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Wm. T. Fischer Major RE.
Ag: Supy: Engineer 1st Division

I cannot find any where any specific instructions as I explained in my letter printed with G.O. of the 31st Oct. last No 2591; any project for improving the harbour would require far more work to be done in the way of surveys than we have Establishment for

No 3115

Supt Engineers Office 1st Dn
Doolaiswaram 13th December 1870

From

Major J. T. Fischer RE
Acting Supt Engineer
1st Division

To

Colonel C. A. Orr RE
Secretary to Government
P.W.D.
Madras

Sir

I have the honor with reference to G.O. of the 1st Instant No 2902 to refer you to my letter to your address of the 5th Instant No 3054 in which I have detailed the works required for the River improvements at Cocanada and sent survey and sections of the same.

2. There appears to be some misunderstanding about this reference altogether, I cannot find any where any specific instructions as I explained in my letter dated with G.O. of the 31st Oct. last No 2591. any project for improving the harbour would require far more work to be done in the way of surveys than we have Establishment for

No 3115

Public Works Department
No 3054 dated 5th December 1870
From
Lieut. Col. Fischer RE
Acting Supt Engineer
1st Division
To
The Secretary to Government
Madras.

Dated 5th December 1870
Read 12th "

Subject Instructions
regarding the Cocanada River
improvements only Required
Direction may be given to
the case with the above
Rec.

No 2920 - 16 Dec 1870

for ah present, but for the mere improvements to the River. Nothing further is necessary than to undertake the execution of the Works for which Estimates were sent down in November 1867; the rates in these may now require to be revised but as the works will take 2 or 3 years to complete, the rates can be struck as the works progress.

3/. I beg you will be good enough to send me further instructions by Telegraph if necessary and we will get on with these works as fast as possible.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt. Servant
Lieut. Colonel Major R.E.
A. Supt. Engineer 1st Div.

P.R.

No 120.

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 6th December 1870.

Read the following:-

From the Actg: Secy: to Govt: of Madras 1st Dn

Letter — dated 5th December 1870 No 3054

To The Secretary to Govt: of India Public Works Dept:

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 3115 of 15th November 1870 and to state in reply that the Government called upon the Executive Engineer of the 1st Division to submit an estimate, prepared and carefully examined, for the detailed estimates for improving the harbour of Cocanada. These should be received in Madras by the end of January 1871.

No 120 dated 16th January 1871.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd) [illegible]
Secy to Govt:

To
The Secretary to Govt:
of India
Public Works Dept:

No 247

Fort 1870 Dec 16
No 3115
Rec'd from Govt: of Madras
Letter No 5179 dated 13th Dec 1870
The Actg: Secy: to Govt: of Madras
To
The Secretary to Govt:
Dated 13th December 1870
Received 21 —

Informs that certain detailed information has already been furnished in his letter of the 5th Instant No 3054 relating to the River improvements at Coconada and requests to send further instructions by Telegraph if necessary

No 120 - 16 Jany 71.

C/-2551

Govt. of [1870] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Acty Superintending Engr.
Pt. Cairine

Dated

Read. Encl.

G. O. 16 Lang 1. No. 126

Nos. 246 & 247

Cocanada Harbour. Papers

Orders on the letter from the Superintending Engineer Pt. Cairine calling certain information regarding the Cocanada Roads & Cocanada Harbour and requesting the Local Authority to proceed with the work.