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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 535-36 Press Mis.

480-82

Dated 23 - 2 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 480. Read the following Endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated 16th February 1871 —

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th January 1871, No. 263.

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Punrootty, 12th December 1870, No 330.

As requested in your Circular Memorandum, No 1,374, of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit the Trade Statistics of the two ports in this district, agreeably to the form appended to the Proceedings of the Board under date 26th October last, No. 7,948.

2. The other information asked for in the above Proceedings, regarding the improvements that have been made to the harbours, it is impossible for me to give with any certainty. I have addressed the Superintending Engineer on the subject, and his records no doubt contain more data than my own, and the result of our mutual deliberations will in due course be submitted to the Board

3. There is no other port worthy of the name in this district, besides the two of Cuddalore and Porto Novo, mentioned in the list appended to the Board's Proceedings of the 26th October 1869, No 7,948, but from the little knowledge I have of the latter port, and having lately made a cursory survey of it with Colonel Roberts, I am impressed most favourably with its natural advantages, and I believe it possesses facilities that might readily be turned to very valuable account, and at no great cost it might be rendered a very safe and commodious harbour. The backwater is at high water a very fine piece of water, with from 10 to 15 feet depth of water in it, and there is usually 9 feet at low water over the entrance bar. It seemed to present features readily capable of being utilized, so as to create an excellent harbour for vessels of large size, and I hope it will have the early attention of the Harbour Works Engineer who is expected from England. It will also be well that Government keep an eye on the Porto Novo Iron Works, and the ground they occupy, which adjoin the present Custom-house, and contains a very fine river frontage, all faced with iron-stone and refuse ore. This property, including land and buildings, is now to be sold for Rupees 7,500, with the exception of the engines, and there can be little doubt that if Porto Novo be converted into anything like a harbour, this property will at once rise in value and be eagerly bought up by merchants of the place or other speculators. I can, if Government desire it, at once secure its refusal, and I think, apart from the question of the harbour, it would be very advantageous to do so. The materials of the buildings and furnaces still standing would fetch, I imagine, some few thousands of rupees if sold piecemeal.

The attention of Government will be called to paragraph 3 of this letter

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Transferred to the Public Works Department

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 23rd February 1871.

No 481. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1871, No 535

CIVIL WORKS, No 33

ORDERED that Mr. Robertson be requested to visit Porto Novo and to favour the Government with his opinion of the capabilities of that harbour.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department
" Board of Revenue
" Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, *23rd February* 1871

No 482

No 536

To

G. ROBERTSON, Esq, C E.

CIVIL WORKS, No 34

SIR,—In continuation of my letters of the 27th January and 8th February last, Nos 261 and 38, respectively, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, and to request that, after your visit to Negapatam, you will be good enough to take the opportunity of examining the harbour of Porto Novo in the South Arcot District, with a view to favouring the Government with your opinion of its capabilities and of the expediency of taking any measures for its improvement.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P.W.D.
No 534

90

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No 265

From Pro. of the Bd of Revenue
Dated 19th January 1871.

FOR ORDERS.

I do not think we can do
anght beyond drawing the
Board's attention to Porto
Novo. If the Board is of
opinion that a port harbour at a
moderate cost be thought
the Land & Marine Officers
by Letter.

the

Sd/

ment
23rd Feby 1871
Evening

(1871)

that
I beg
visit Porto
Novo on the
opinion
duties of
the
6
Commission Engrs &c.

Copy of the above
with Engrs of the 5th Divn

Dispd 24/2/71.

In continuation of
Rey

P.W.D.
No. 534

9a

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 23rd Feby 1871

[illegible] 1871.

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visit Porto
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[illegible]

Dept. 24/2/71

In continuation of
my

FOR ORDERS.

to H 740/71

c2o Jamie

Pub D.
No 534

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 23 Feby 1871
Read the following
Endorsement.
From the Rev Deptt - H.E. dy 16 Feby 1871.

Ordered that
Mr Robertson be
requested to visit Porto
Novo and to favor the
Govt with his opinion
of the capabilities of
that Harbour.

No 536.

To G. Robertson Esqre C.E.

Sir,

In continuation of
my

To The Revr Deptt
" Board of Revr
" Supdg Engr of the 5th Dvn

Dept 24/2/71.

my letters of the 27th January and 8th February last Nos 261 and 38, respectively, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of the Progs of the Board of Revenue, and to request that, after your visit to Negapatam, you will be good enough to take the opportunity of examining the Harbour of Porto Novo in the South Arcot Dist, with a view to favoring the Govt with your opinion of its capabilities and of the expediency of taking any measures for its improvement.

GHS

Despe 24/2/71 with two Copies of Proc. 535 of 1871

Ao 29th December 69 Bl 666 - 66
" 27th January 70 - " 521 0523
" 8th Feby " 38 Ibid

Cost of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr Thomas Department

& Chyan

Dec

Rec'd

Ans

6 023 Telegram No. 535536.

Ended Nos. 480-487 & 482

Harbour at Porto Novo. In the South Arcot Dt:- Sir Robertson requesting Examination & Report on the Harbour at Porto Novo.

Letter

Requesting that the Harbour at Porto Novo may be examined & Reported upon.