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M.R.O. 1-10,006-23-2-50.

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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works. DEPARTMENT

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|-----------|-----------|-------|
| G.O. No.  | 318 B     | Press |
| B.P. No.  |           | Mis.  |
| 164C-164D |           |       |
| Dated     | 10-2-1844 | 105.  |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
10th February 1874.*

No. 164C. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. FAREWELL, Inspecting Engineer for Ports and Communications, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 23rd January 1874, No: 509-46 :—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G. O., No. 2,585, dated 4th November 1872, I have the honour to report that the District Engineer of Malabar has submitted surveys, sections, estimates, etc., etc., for the first three miles of the 3rd section of the West Coast Canal, and reports that, if sanction were accorded, he believes the amount allotted for the work in 1873-74 could be expended. I regret, however, I cannot submit these plans, sections, and estimates to Government in their present state. The scale to which the surveys are drawn is so small as to render them valueless as a record of the land now occupied by the canal and that still to be acquired by purchase from private individuals, while the scale to which the sections are drawn renders the survey equally useless to check the estimate, added to this the designs for the bridges have all to be altered in this office, as I consider cheaper descriptions of structures than those estimated for will answer the purpose required.

2. Under these circumstances, and as in great undertakings, like the proper completion of this grand line of inland navigation, it is very necessary that the surveys, plans, etc., etc., should be very complete and accurate, I am compelled to recommend that no work be undertaken on it during the present official year, the remainder of the year being employed in completing the plans, estimates, etc., of the first three miles from Ponany to Velliangode in such form as to allow of their submission to Government, and sanction being received before the beginning of the next working season.

3. The officer at present in charge of the range though a zealous, hard-working and useful officer, is not, I fear, sufficiently experienced to be any longer entrusted with the preparation of projects involving so great an outlay as those required for completing the inland navigation to Cochin and the improvement of the Cochin Harbour. These works are remote from the District Engineer's headquarters, and should, I think, be placed in the hands of an officer of considerable scientific attainments, departmental experience, and self-reliance. I trust Government will thoroughly understand that I make no complaint against the present Range Officer, whom I have already brought to the notice of Government as an earnest good officer, which he undoubtedly is; all I really wish to point out is that I do not think he is equal to what the important works he is engaged on require of him, and that he is much more suited to conduct the ordinary duties of a range.

4. The cause of most of the delay that has taken place in the submission of these plans, etc., is chiefly due to the Range Officer and his Overseer's attention having, for most of the year, been devoted to the Cochin Harbour, where they were engaged on a work of great importance that perforce demanded the Range Officer's constant presence on it, and thus he was unable, until late in the year, personally to take the surveys in hand, and the District Engineer has not had any one but a Range Maistry whom he could send to assist him; in addition to the plans under notice, I am informed that nearly the whole of the 3rd section (the first to be taken in hand) has been surveyed and the work is now being plotted.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
10th February 1874.*

No. 164D.

ORDER THEREON, 10th February 1874, No. 318B.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is disappointed to find that so little progress has been made with the preparations for improving the West Coast Canal ordered to be commenced in G. O., No. 2,585, of 4th November 1872. He accepts, as one reason for the delay, the occupation of the Assistant Engineer in charge, and of his establishment, on the important work of closing the Cruz Milagre Gap; but considers that the imperfections of the papers, now ready but withheld for revision, might have been obviated had precise instructions for the guidance of the Assistant Engineer been laid down by the Inspecting or District Engineer.

2. Admitting the necessity for the work being thoroughly well planned by an officer of some experience, His Excellency in Council looks to the Chief Engineer to propose such arrangements as may be suitable; and to the Inspecting Engineer to avail himself of the same by such personal instructions to the District Engineer, both in writing and on the spot, as may ensure the preparation of proper plans and estimates in time to admit of utilization of next year's grant for the commencement of the work.

3. Lieutenant-Colonel Farewell will also instruct the District Engineer in all the details of Mr. Parkes' system of constructing breakwaters, in order that he may cause to be prepared by the officer in charge of the canal, an estimate of the cost of constructing two such groynes as are recommended for the improvement of the Cochin Harbour in Mr. Robertson's report on that subject, the necessary surveys and soundings having meanwhile been taken.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspecting Engineer for Ports and Communications.  
District Engineer Malabar.

Erd. S. T. Austir  
Spare Copies

N<sup>o</sup> 309  
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Inspecting Engineer's Office for  
Ports & Communications  
Cheramb. Madras.  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 1874.

From  
The Inspecting Engineer for  
Ports & Communications.

To  
The Chief Engineer and  
Secretary to Government.  
Public Works Department.

Sir,

With reference to para 2 of  
G. O. No. 2,585, dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 1872,  
I have the honor to report that  
the District Engineer Malabar  
has submitted surveys, sections,  
estimates &c. &c. for the first  
three miles of the third section  
of the West Coast Canal and  
reports that, if sanction were  
accorded, he believes the amount  
allotted for the work in 1873/74  
could be expended. I regret, however,  
I cannot submit these plans, sections  
and

and estimates to Government in their present state. The scale to which the surveys are drawn is so small as to render them valueless as a record of the land now occupied by the Canal and that still to be acquired by purchase from private individuals, while the scale to which the sections are drawn renders the survey equally useless to check the estimate, added to this the designs for the bridges have all to be altered in this office as I consider cheaper descriptions of structures than those estimated for will answer the purpose required.

2. Under these circumstances, and as in great undertakings like the proper completion of this grand line of inland navigation, it is very necessary that the surveys, plans &c. &c. should be very complete and accurate, I am compelled to recommend that no work be

be undertaken on it during the present official year, the remainder of the year being employed in completing the plans, estimates of the first three miles from Ponnay to Velliangode in such form as to allow of their submission to Government and sanction being received before the beginning of the next working season.

3. The Officer at present in charge of the Range, though a zealous, hardworking and useful officer, is not, I fear, sufficiently experienced to be any longer entrusted with the preparation of projects involving so great an outlay as those required for completing the inland navigation to Cochin and the improvement of the Cochin Harbour. These works are remote from the District Engineer's Head Quarters, and should, I think, be placed in the hands of an officer of considerable

considerable scientific attainments, Departmental experience and self reliance. I trust Government will thoroughly understand that I make no complaint against the present Range Officer whom I have already brought to the notice of Government as an earnest good Officer which he undoubtedly is; all I really wish to point out is, that I do not think he is equal to what the important works he is engaged on require of him, and that he is much more suited to conduct the ordinary duties of a Range.

4. The cause of most of the delay that has taken place in the submission of these plans &c. is chiefly due to the Range Officer and his Overseer's attention having, for most of the year, been devoted to the Cochin Harbour where

where they were engaged on a work of great importance, that perforce demanded the Range Officer's constant presence on it and thus he was unable until late in the year personally to take the surveys in hand, and the District Engineer has not had any one but a Range Maistry whom he could send to assist him, in addition to the plans under notice I am informed that nearly the whole of the third section (the first to be taken in hand) has been surveyed and the work is now being plotted.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Yours most Obedt Servt.

W. S. S. S. Lieut. Colonel  
Inspecting Engineer for  
Ports & Communications.

N<sup>o</sup> 318 B. *W. H. W. 119*  
Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Read the following:-

From,  
The Inspecting Engineer } (H. E. No. 509 of 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan'y  
for Ports & Communications } 1874.)

His Excellency the Governor in Council is disappointed to find that so little progress has been made with the preparations for improving the West Coast Canal ordered to be commenced in G.O. No. 2585 of 4<sup>th</sup> November 1872. He accepts as one reason for the delay, the occupation of the Assistant Engineer in charge, and of his

*Mr 72*

*James Leitch transferred*

P.O. 1874 Department  
No. of Govt. for *Feb'y*  
From No. 438.  
The Inspecting Engineer  
for Ports & Comm.  
To The Chief Engineer &  
Secretary to Govt.  
P. W. Dept.

Dated 23 January 1874.  
Recd. 24 ———

N<sup>o</sup> 509  
46  
Reporting his inability to submit the plans, sections, and estimate for the West Coast Canal in their present incomplete state for reasons stated.

*C. H. H. C.*  
*125 Feb'y/74*

N<sup>o</sup> 318 B. 15 Feb'y/74

Establishment on the important work of closing the Prud'homme Gap; but considers that the imperfections of the papers, now ready but withheld for revision, might have been obviated had precise instructions for the guidance of the Assistant Engineer, been laid down ~~for him~~ by the Inspecting or District Engineer.

Admitting the necessity for the work being thoroughly well planned by an officer of some experience His Excellency in Council looks to the Chief Engineer to propose such arrangements as may be suitable,

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and to the Inspecting Engineer to avail himself of the same by such personal instructions to the District Engineer both in writing and on the spot, as may ensure the preparation of proper Plans and Estimates in time to admit of utilization of next year's grant for the commencement of the work. Lieutenant Colonel Lanevell will also instruct the District Engineer in all the details of Mr. Vastey's system of constructing Breakwaters; in order that he may cause to be prepared by the officer in charge of the

Canal, an estimate of  
the cost of constructing  
two such groynes as are  
recommended for the  
improvement of the Pochin  
Harbour in Mr. Robertson's  
Report on that subject;  
the necessary surveys  
and soundings having  
meanwhile been taken.

G.M.W.  
4.2.74

To The Insp<sup>t</sup> & Insp<sup>r</sup> for Ports & Comm<sup>s</sup> ✓  
" At Insp<sup>r</sup> Malabar ✓

h.s. Despatch to Insp<sup>r</sup> P & C 10/2/74 -  
P.C. - to Insp<sup>r</sup> 3/3/74

Cir 5 Feb/74

C/2 4382

Govt. of (1874) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

1. The Inspecting Engineer  
Ports & Communication

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1875, No. 318 B.

No. 164 B & 164 B

West Coast Canal.

Copying orders in letter from  
the Inspecting Engineer for Ports &  
Communications explaining  
the delay in the sub-  
mission of the plans & return  
for the West Coast Canal.