R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50

(1) Number of pages ——— /———

(2) Date of repair ———

(3) Initials of the Referencer ———

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	179	Press	Original
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~	
Dated	21 . 1 .	~~195~~	1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 373. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 16th November 1874, No. 3,399 :—

ADVERTING to G. O. of the 6th November 1874, No. 3,154, I have the honor to report that out of the allotment of Rupees 5,000 for deepening the Paumben channel, Rupees 1,550 had been expended up to the end of September last. The average expenditure in any year since the estimate was sanctioned in 1866 appears to have been only Rupees 1,600 per annum, or a total of Rupees 11,310 up to the 31st of March 1874 in seven years. This alone is sufficient to show how very inefficient the existing plant is, and totally inadequate for the purposes it is maintained; I did not, therefore, propose any great increase of this to the Government, but recommended that a really efficient and useful dredge should be obtained from England at once, so that the works might make proper progress.

2. In the event of a ship-canal being determined on hereafter, I do not suppose the line of the present channel would be abandoned; with really good dredges this can be easily converted into a canal for large vessels, and as so much work has been done in it there is no object to be gained by not utilizing this as much as possible.

3. I will, if the Government desire it, send in estimate for an additional hand-dredge and some more boats, as, with only one to work with, whenever this has to be taken into dock for repairs, the whole work comes to a stand-still, and it has been found impossible to maintain a greater depth than 10 feet at low water in parts of the channel. I am afraid, therefore, the Government will be disappointed in establishing a depth of 14 feet throughout this channel with such insufficient means as these hand-dredges are; a very strong current runs through this channel for months in the year, and carries an immense deal of sand into it, with such insufficient means as hand-dredges no proper uniform bed has been made for the channel, and the sand is deposited in several parts where obstructions exist; as fast as this is removed in one place it forms up in others, and as often as the single dredge available is taken in for repairs the sands form shoals, so that in reality the work now doing is nothing more than striving to keep up the canal to a depth of 10 feet at best with such means as are at hand. On the other hand, Clyde dredges would establish a ship-canal through this pass in less than three years; for there is really no serious obstacle existing to prevent this being done at once; it only requires the use of proper means, and the canal could be made available for large vessels in about one-tenth of the time which has been occupied in keeping it open to its present insufficient level of 10 feet only. As far as I can recollect, these operations at Paumben began at least thirty years ago, and up to this time nothing more has been done than keeping the channel open to the smallest class of trading vessels.

4. I regret to say, with reference to paragraph 2, that G. O. of the 4th October 1873, No. 22, is not on the file of this office, and I should be obliged by your sending me a copy of the same as soon as possible.

5. From what has been shown above, it will be quite apparent that no increase of allotment is necessary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,

21st January 1875.

No. 3[illegible] ORDER THEREON, 21st January [illegible], No. 179.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 23.

THE District Engineer of Madura has already been instructed by G. O., No. 3,154, of 6th November, to send in specific demands, accompanied by regular estimates, for any additional plant he may require to carry out the work of deepening the Paumben channel to 14 feet throughout, more expeditiously than has hitherto been done since its sanction in G. O., No. 721 of 2nd March 1866. Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer will now lose no time in submitting practical proposals for the supply of another hand-dredge that a reasonable rate of progress may be made annually with the work.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer will also arrange for sections of the portion of the channel estimated for being taken by the Overseer in charge within the month of January, at such intervals as shall, together with a line of longitudinal levels along the centre of the channel, show its exact state with reference to the proposed depth of 14 feet at low water estimated for. Bench-marks shall be laid down where possible and necessary, and the exact bearings of the sections marked on a Survey, so that these observations may be repeated every year for comparison.

3. The Government Order referred to by the District Engineer as not having been received is one simply forwarding copy of Mr. Robertson's second Report on Indian Harbours, in which a Report on the Paumben channel is included, and this doubtless will be found in the District Engineer's Office.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

3

District Engineer's Office
Madura 16 November 1874

No 3399

From

Lieut Colonel J F Fischer RE
District Engineer Madura

To

Colonel G H Walker RE
Secretary to Government

Sir,

Adverting to G O of the 6 November 1874. No 3154. I have the honor to report that out of the allotment of Rupees 5000 for deepening the Paumben channel Rupees 1550 had been expended up to the end of September last. The average expenditure in any year since the estimate was sanctioned in 1866, appears to have been only Rupees 1600 per annum, or a total of Rupees 11,210 up to the 31st of March 1874 in 7 years. This alone is sufficient to show how

very inefficient the existing plant is and totally inadequate for the purposes it is maintained & did not therefore propose any great increase of this to the Government but recommended that a really efficient and useful dredge should be obtained from England at once so that the works might make proper progress.

2. In the event of a ship canal being determined on hereafter I do not suppose the line of the present channel would be abandoned with really good dredges this can be easily converted into a canal for large vessels and as so much work has been done in it there is no object to be gained by not utilizing this as much as possible.

3. I will if the Government desire it, send in estimate for an additional hand dredge and some more boats as with only one to work with, whenever this has to be taken into dock for repairs the whole work comes to a stand still and it has been found impossible to maintain a greater depth than 10 feet at low water in parts of the channel. I am afraid therefore the Government will be disappointed in establishing a depth of 14 feet throughout this channel with such insufficient means as three hand dredges are - a very strong current runs through this channel for months in the year and carries an immense deal of sand into it with such insufficient means as hand dredges no proper uniform bed has been made for the channel and the sand is deposited in several parts where obstructions exist as

fast as this is removed in one place it forms up in others and as often as the single Dredge available is taken in for repairs the sands form shoals so that in reality the work now doing is nothing more than striving to keep up the canal to a depth of 10 feet at best with such means as are at hand. On the other hand Clyde Dredges would establish a ship canal through this pass in less than 3 years, for there is really no serious obstacle existing to prevent this being done at once. It only requires the use of proper means and the canal could be made available for large vessels in about 1/10 of the time which has been occupied in keeping it open to its present insufficient level of 10 feet only. As far as I can recollect these operations

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4. I regret to say with reference to para 2 that G.O. of the 4th October 1873 No 22 is not on the file of this Office and I should be obliged by your sending me a copy of the same as soon as possible.

5 From what has been shown above it will be quite apparent that no increase of allotment is necessary.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obt servant
Wm. T. Lucas Lieut Col RE
District Engineer.

Col Works (9)

W

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the 187

Read the following:—

179

From the District Engineer Madura } (M. E. No. 3399 & 16 Nov 74.)

The District Engineer of Madura has already been instructed by G. O. No. 3154 of 6th November to send in specific demands accompanied by regular estimates, for any additional plant he may require to carry out the work of deepening the Paumben channel to 14 feet throughout, more expeditiously than has

Rs 348

Rec'd 21-12-74.

Work to Commence 1st Jan 75

Rec'd 16 Nov 1874 Rs 348

Ans 21 Dec 1874 Std Estt 3399 Rs 348

To the Secretary to Government

Dated 16 Nov 74

Received 19 — —

Reporting circumstances for the Sanction of Government

Rs. Rs. 175. 21-1-75.

has hitherto been done since its sanction in G. O. No. 121 of 2nd March 1866 - His Excellency the Governor in Council is therefore dissatisfied to receive a second letter on the subject dealing with it in the same general and unsatisfactory manner as did the letter disposed of in the first order above referred to. Lieut. Colonel Fischer will now lose no more time in submitting practical proposals for the supply of another hand dredge

that a reasonable rate of progress may be made annually with the work.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Fischer will also arrange for sections of the portions of the channel estimated for being taken by the Overseer in charge within the months of January, at such intervals as shall together with a line of longitudinal levels along the centre of the channel, shew its exact state with reference to the proposed depths of 14 feet at

Low

Low Water estimated
for. Bench Marks shall
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for comparison.
3. The G.O. referred to
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been received is only
simply forwarding
copy of Mr. Robertson's
2nd Report on Sau-
-dian Harbours in
which a Report on
the Paumben Channel
is included. And this

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

(13)

doubtless will be
found in the District
Engineer's Office.

G.W.W

To the D. E. Madura

Dispd 22/1/76.

7263

Govt. of {1874} Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To.

The Director
Madras

Dated -

Rcd. Encl.

G. O., 21 January No. 179

Nos. 193-196.

Tambaram Channel

The Dr. Engr. Madras reports that he has submitted without loss of time detailed proposals for the supply of another hand dredge that a reasonable rate of progress may be made annually with work of deepening the channel to 16 feet ~~throughout~~ and also to

~~attempt~~ arrange for sections of the further of the channel estimated for being taken by the Overseer in charge within the month of January.