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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. D. DEPARTMENT

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1557

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

26th March 1878, No. 1,557 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

No. 393. Read again the following Proceedings in the Public Works Department, dated 28th February 1878, No. 984.

No. 393-A. Read also the following memorandum by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated 12th March 1878.

No. 394. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1878, No. 1,557 W.

THE claims preferred for compensation for damage to the land referred to in the papers above noted, on the plea that such is due to the construction of the Madras Harbour Works, not being borne out by facts, His Grace the Governor in Council cannot entertain them, the loss sustained being in reality attributable to surf action and other natural causes. He directs that the construction of the groynes, advocated by the Chief Engineer, for which estimates were called for in G.O., No. 984 W, dated 23th February 1878, be put in hand and completed as early as practicable, and that care be taken to efficiently maintain the existing groynes north of the Harbour Works.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works,
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts,
" Marine Department.
To Mrs. Sadler.

Frd. E. C. Shunker.
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Pubt. of (1878) 30th
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 310. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated Fort St. George, 29th November 1877, No. 2,218.

No. 310-A. From Mrs. C. SADLER, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Royapoorum, 28th November 1877.

I HAVE the honor to forward for the merciful consideration of His Grace the Governor in Council some particulars and correspondence regarding a case of very great hardship from which I am suffering.

I am the proprietrix of a piece of land near the sea beach at Royapooram, consisting of four grounds, the greater portion of which was enclosed by a wall and from its convenient position and security was used for storing timber and other cargo, and also being a very eligible building site. Since the construction of the north groyne of the Harbour, as His Grace is well aware, the sea has attacked the whole beach to the northward, damaging the Railway property, also Mr. Coleman's, and ultimately reaching mine, which has been more than half washed away and the remainder rendered valueless. There can be no moral doubt that the Harbour Works is responsible for this action of the sea. Several groynes have been run out to protect the roads and buildings nearest the works, but they were not carried far enough to secure mine, and my prayer is that His Grace the Governor in Council will grant me compensation for my heavy loss.

The Municipal Commissioner threatens to issue warrant of distress for the tax upon this unproductive piece of ground, a tax which I have hitherto always paid under the impression that I was under the same protection as other land-holders in this city, but as will be seen by his letter he refuses to be accountable for my loss.

The Harbour Works Superintendent without denying his obvious responsibility pleads no authority for giving me compensation, although the amount is small and would be almost invisible among such large expenditure, yet it is of the greatest importance to a distressed widow with a large family, the widow of a very meritorious public servant, the late Mr. Sadler, the Pier Master, through whose unremitting exertions the Pier was restored when abandoned by the Public Works Department as impossible to be repaired.

There is no doubt the Pier has proved during the famine the salvation of the lives of thousands by the facilities it has afforded for landing grain.

The sums quoted are those actually paid for the land and its belongings, and I respectfully ask of His Grace the Governor in Council that my just claim may be entertained and the compensation granted.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for disposal.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 310-B. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated Fort St. George, 9th February 1878, No. 223.

From A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 7th February 1878.

THE part of the foreshore enclosed by the two arms of the Harbour being in front of many banks and mercantile offices, its condition is a matter of interest to the members of the Chamber, and on this ground I am desirous to do myself the honor of moving the Government to give the insanitary condition of the locality their attention.

2. It will be known to the Government that there has been a large accumulation of sand between the two groynes, extending far beyond the extremity of the pipes from which the town's sewage used to be discharged direct into the sea. But no measures have been taken to divert the flow of sewage, and the pipes now discharge their contents on to the sand, which being saturated with the filth emits under a hot sun disgusting and dangerous effluvia. The idea of extending the pipes to the present limit of the sea, and allowing the sewage to be there discharged into the water has doubtless not commended itself to the Government, since it is a matter of great importance that the water within the Harbour walls should be kept as free as possible from pollution. But the Chamber, and probably the public, would be glad to learn that measures will be immediately taken for intercepting the sewage, and for arranging for its discharge at some point or points north or south of the Harbour. The expense of this diversion must be incurred some day, and it is thought by the Chamber that as the ultimate execution of the work is only a question of time it should not be delayed any longer.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department in continuation of endorsement, No. 125, dated 24th January 1878.

(Signed) D. P. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 310-C.

NOTE.

THE Chief Engineer has ascertained from the Superintendent of the Madras Harbour Works that of the several drains that discharge into the Harbour between the Piers only one, viz., the most southerly, has any flow of consequence, the whole of the remainder together not discharging more than one-tenth of this flow. From this he believes that under existing circumstances it is not necessary to incur the great expense of constructing an intercepting sewer along the whole length of the base of the Harbour, but would simply divert the principal drain noticed by taking it in pipes through the surf bank of the south pier which would comparatively speaking cost but little. The small discharge from the remaining drains will not, he thinks, cause any appreciable inconvenience to the Harbour, and therefore he recommends their not being interfered with at present. He further remarks that in Mr. Clarke's proposed system of draining Madras it is arranged that all the drains in question shall discharge into sewers landwards leading to the pumping wells.

2. In regard to the measures ordered to be undertaken to secure property in the vicinity of the beach north of the Harbour Works, he notes that further erosion may be arrested by the construction of a group of six or eight more groynes north of the existing group; and later in the year if found necessary that short groynes be inserted between each of the existing groynes. He has carefully inspected the beach and from the papers in his office on the subject records his conviction that the erosion cannot be solely attributed to the construction of the Harbour piers as years ago such took place and had to be arrested by the existing groynes. However on the same principle that then induced the Government to sanction them it appears desirable that the additional group be constructed.

3. To admit of lengthening the principal pipes discharging the Black Town main drain immediately north of and close to Fort St. George into the sea, the Chief Engineer recommends that the temporary pier lately built by the Master Attendant, now of no use, be dismantled and its materials used for taking the drain pipes further out to sea.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer and Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.
16th February 1878.

No. 311. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1878, No. 984 W.

CONCERNING with the Chief Engineer's remarks, the Governor in Council directs that estimates be without loss of time prepared for a fresh group of six groynes to be placed north of the existing groynes on the north side of the Harbour Works, and to be composed of the same materials as those of the existing groynes.

2. The Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, will also estimate for diverting the principal drain referred to by the Chief Engineer through the surf bank of the southern Harbour groyne in the manner proposed in the second paragraph of his memorandum above recorded.

3. The Government also approve the Chief Engineer's suggestion regarding the utilization of Captain Taylor's temporary pier, the materials of which will be jointly valued by the Master Attendant and the District Engineer, Presidency, and the sum realized credited to Port Funds; and the District Engineer, Presidency, will arrange for extending the pipes of the Black Town drain immediately north of Fort St. George. In connection with this point the Government observe that while the temporary evil will be averted by this device the drain mouth will also have to be kept clear in case of rainfall.

4. Separate orders will be passed regarding the claims for compensation on receipt of the Chief Engineer's further report.

(True Extract.)

E. A. Ford Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.

- " District Engineer, Presidency.
- " Marine Department.
- " Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
- " Financial Department.
- " Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
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BUILDING AND ROADS
CIVIL WORKS

Cont. of 118781 Address.
PUBLIC WORKS.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT,
HARBOUR AND CIVIL WORKS

FEBRUARY.

NO. 610-611.

Memorandum 1557
4

It must be in the face of
the deliberate opinion
we are requested to
to admit the claim for
compensation. But
I do not see on the
construction of the
adv. grounds & the
work of the existing
ones at first cost.
The land side probably
expressed & estimated
amounts of \$11,337.80

Non-form but I am
less & not being satis-
fied 14/12/78

With reference to
Paragraph 4 of J.D. no
984 W dated 28 Feb/78
after further search and
sugaring the Chief Engineer
can only adhere to the
opinion he has already
expressed viz. that the
erosion of the shore
north of the harbour
works cannot be attri-
buted to the construction
of these works in as
much as years before,
erosion existed, and
was counteracted
by the construction
of piers & groynes
as will be seen on

Referring to the plans
marked 1 and 2 as
comprising this paper.

2. In 1821 to protect
the foreshore from
erosion the embankment
named "McKavilands
Bulwark" see plan
No 1 was built from
Fort St George to Clerks
Battery. To further
protect and extend
the Beach in 1844-49
also in 1855 and 1856
groynes as shown in
plan No 2 (22 in num-
ber) were constructed,
extending from the
Public Works near
Offices at the bank
to the Police Barrack

the Police Barrack

North of the Harbour
Works. — (57)

3. No protection having
been afforded to the
land north of this point
the erosion of the beach
has gradually continued
reducing it to its pre-
sent condition and il-
lustrating what would
have befallen the pro-
tected portion, had no
measures been taken
to prevent it. The
groynes noted above,
from storms and surf
action, appear to have
been greatly shaken
and reduced in height
and length, and thus
in the heavy surf
of May June and July

1876, ceased to afford the protection hitherto due to them. They were repaired and strengthened and the foreshore has improved very much therefore. It of course rests with government, under legal advice, to decide if they consider themselves responsible for land so perilously situated as that for which compensation is claimed under the 22, evidently acquired when the condition of things must have been well known. It will be

I think the matter if properly put before the claimants. I have suggested to the top committee

Just before Sept 50th it was pointed out that the ground level on the foreshore was lower than it was in 1854.

1557
observed on reference to the survey that the land in question was waste land in 1854. The direction of the erosion of former years appears to have been precisely the same as that now complained of. The erosion generally occurs during the prevalence of South West and South winds and currents and its degree depends on the violence of the surf action at that period being sometimes more and sometimes less. During the northerly

Winds and currents
the shores pe-
forms but not always
to the extent it has
been swept away.

E. A. M. L. L. L.
Chas. M. M.

Fort St. George
12th Mar 1870

1557
7

No 1537 W Public Works Department.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT. (55)
UNDER date the 26 May 1908
again
Read the following:—

Pro. in the P. W. Dept. (A.C. No. 9844 Wd/28th Feb/78)

Read also the following

Memo: by Chief Engineer } (n. ——— d/12th March/78)
P. W. D }

The claims pre-ferred for compensation for damage to the land referred to in the papers above noted, on the plea that such is due to the construction of the Madras Harbour Works, not being borne out by facts, His Grace the Governor in Council, ^{was} ~~is~~ not prepared to entertain ^{them} ~~any~~ such claims which

~~he deems invariable~~, the loss
 sustained being in reality at-
 tributable to surf action and
 other natural causes. He
 directs that the construction
 of the groynes, advocated by
 the Chief Engineer, for which
 estimates were called for in
 G.O. No. 984 W dated 28th Feb.
 1878, be put in hand and
 completed as early as practicable,
 and that care be taken to
 efficiently maintain the exist-
 ing groynes north of the
 Harbour Works.

W.H.
 23.3.78
 GAT

Supt. Harb. Works
 to S.H.A. 5-8
 Marine Dept. 7-5
 Mr Sadler
 *also ref^{er} to his Let^r to the
 Chief Eng. dated 28-11-77/78

Conf. 3-1-78

S.H.A. on 25/3 1878

Govt. of (1873) Indus.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Harbour Supr.

Debit

Amount

By

Debit

G. O. 16 Mar 1873, No. 1307 W.

Recd.

Mrs Saddle's landed
property at Madras.

States that Govt cannot
entertain the claims pre-
ferred for compensation
for damage to —

S. A. Di. Rep.