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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1915W.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated 20-4-1878		197.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1915
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

20th April 1878, No. 1,915 W.

General.
Account.

Read the following papers:—

No. 222. From J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieutenant, R.N.R., Master Attendant, Administrative Department, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 5th March 1878, No. 1,887.

I HAVE the honor to report that having endeavored several times of late to utilise the canals leading from Madras for the purposes of inspection of minor ports and lighthouses in my department, not accessible by sea, I have found great inconvenience from the want of any rule of the road or any regular custom defining the proper action to be taken by meeting boats. I would beg to suggest that such a law be framed, as it is probable if the canals are at some future period opened right through the town incessant quarrels and accidents will arise as traffic increases for want of such regulations. As matters stand the largest boats or the one least likely to incur injury commands the situation; and, though being myself ignorant of the languages, I am informed that the expressions used by the boatmen in reply to any request for free space or passage are worthy of Billingsgate, and calculated, if understood, to lead to breaches of the peace. Moreover, no action for damage could well be maintained without some law. The best regulation would, perhaps, be the one used at sea, which provides that the helm shall be ported and the vessels pass one another on their respective left hands. This is in opposition to the rules of driving vehicles, but I think it more likely to be quickly understood, as whatever the expression for porting helm in the vernacular be it would soon become a household word; also I would beg to draw attention to the incivility and indifference of boatmen who are obstructing the passage, which very frequently occurs; they might be fined on production of evidence. Also some officer might be appointed to receive complaints regarding conservancy. On one visit I paid three weeks ago up the North Canal, at one of the bridges close to Madras I found a very large boat water-logged lying right across the piers of the bridges; as there was a wind and slight drift running my men had great difficulty in freeing the passage; on another trip last Saturday a water-logged boat was lying in the canal in the fairway, and my men assured me it was the same. Again, on coming up from Covelong, I found a fleet of loaded salt-boats blocking up the whole canal, the leading boat, which was a very large one, out of all proportion to the canal, being fast aground in the middle. I begged the Police in charge to allow it to be lightened and removed to a broader portion of the canal and then refilled so as to allow the road to be freed. They refused, saying their orders were that the salt should not be touched, and if it was for a week the encumbrance must remain. I only got through by collecting all the men of the twelve other boats and bodily carrying mine round the obstructing one. I think I have shown enough to prove that some stringent regulations are necessary if the canals are to be useful as highways.

No. 222-A. From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 13th March 1878, No. 4,286.

In reply to your memorandum, dated the 5th instant, No. 1,152, I have the honor to report that tolls can be conveniently levied on boats using the Buckingham

Canal at Kristnapatam, Tummalapenta, and Kanuparth. If the toll system is introduced in preference to the license system, I would recommend a toll at Cusbah also; this would divide the canal into reaches of about 50 miles each, and except at Cusbah there are treasuries at the stations selected in which the collections could be conveniently lodged.

2. I have been collecting information with a view of making proposals on this subject, and so far as I am able to offer an opinion at present I prefer the license system as more easily and safely managed and less troublesome to boat-owners.

3. I would, however, raise the scale of fees at present levied in the Godavery and the Kistna, and once a boat is licensed I would let it go anywhere the owner pleased to take it. Besides the license fee I would levy something in the shape of "Port Dues" on a small scale for loading and discharging at certain selected places where roads lead to and take away from the canal and where basins should be constructed for the convenience of boat traffic.

4. This is a mere outline of what I have intended to propose, and if it is approved I shall give it more in detail as soon as possible.

5. Boat building even at comparatively small villages is progressing in a very satisfactory manner, and boat-hire has increased which is also a promising feature in the prospects of the canal. The salt traffic of this district is capable of large extension, and now that salt can be taken to Madras and sent inland by rail instead of on donkeys and bullocks I anticipate a large increase of salt as well as canal revenue.

6. The full benefit of the canal will not, however, be arrived at until the lock at the junction with the Commamore Canal is constructed.

No. 223. ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1878, No. 1,915 W.

THE general question of levying tolls on the canals being now under consideration of Government in the Revenue Department, these papers will be transferred to that Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

(True Copy.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
" Master Attendant.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

915
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★
GENERAL
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NELLORE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 20th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 20th April 1878, No. 1,915 W.

APRIL
Nos. 222-223.

Tolls on Canals.— Transferring to the
Revenue Department papers amount —.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT.

1915/13 P 1
MADRAS,

Marine Office,

5th March 1878.

No. 1887.

From
THE MASTER ATTENDANT,
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT,

MADRAS,

To
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that
having endeavoured several times of late
to utilize the Canals leading from Chennai
for the purposes of inspection of minor ports
and Light-houses in my Department, not
accessible by sea. I have found great incon-
venience from the want of any rule of the
road or any regular custom defining the
proper action to be taken by meeting boats.
I would beg to suggest that such a law be
framed as it is probable if the Canals are
at some future period opened right through
the town in boats quarrels and accidents will
arise as traffic increases, for want of such
regulations. As matters stand the largest
boat is the one least likely to incur
injury commands the situation and
though being myself ignorant of the language
I am informed that the expressions used by
the boatmen in reply to any request for
file

free space or passage are worthy of Billings-
gate and calculated if understood to lead to
breaches of the peace. Moreover no action
for damages could well be maintained ~~etc.~~
without some law. The best regulation
would perhaps be the one used at sea ~~etc.~~
which provides that the helm shall be
ported and the vessels pass one another
on their respective left hands. This is in op-
-position to the rules of driving vehicles but
I think it more likely to be quickly
understood as whatever the expression
for porting helm in the vernacular
be it would soon become a household
word also I would beg to draw attention
to the incivility and indifference of boatmen
who are obstructing the passage which
very frequently occurs they might be
fined on production of evidence. Also some
officers might be appointed to receive com-
-plaints regarding Conservancy. On one visit
I paid three weeks ago up the north Canal
at one of the bridges close to the city
I found a very large boat water logged
lying right across the piers of the bridge
as there was a wind and slight drizzle
running my men had great difficulty

1915/12 P 2
in passing the passage on another trip last Saturday
a water logged boat was lying in the Canal in the
fairway and my men assured me it was the
same. Again on coming up from Coulong I
found a fleet of loaded salt boats blocking
up the whole Canal. The leading boat which
was a very large one out of all proportion
to the Canal being fast aground in the
middle. I begged the police in charge to
allow it to be lightened and removed to a
broader portion of the Canal and there refilled
so as to allow the road to be freed. They re-
-sisted saying their orders were that the salt
should not be touched and if it was for a week
with the encumbrance must remain. I only
got ^{thrust} by collecting all the men of the twelve
other boats and bodily carrying mine-
round the obstructing one. I think I have shown
enough to prove that some stringent regula-
-tions are necessary if the Canals are to
be useful as highways.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt

J. H. Taylor

Master Attendant
Administrative Department

No 4286

District Engineer Office
Nellore
13th March 1878

From,

The District Engineer,

To, Nellore

The Chief Engineer,

Public Works Department

Fort St. George.

Sir,

In reply to your memorandum
dated the 5th instant No 1152,
I have the honor to report that
Tolls can be conveniently levied on
Boats using the Buckingham canal
at Tristnapatam, Summalapudi
and Kannampalay. If the
Toll system is introduced in
preference to the License system
I would recommend a Toll at

From

The Master Attendant

Administrative Dept

to

The Secy. to Govt

Public Works Dept

Fort St. David Secy

Recd 5th March 1878

Porting out the goods
inconveniently arriving in
small yong mules with
small for meeting goods

Ci-16-4-78
To Coly 12-4-78

Currah also, this would divide the canal into reaches of about 50 miles each, and except at Currah there are Treasuries at the stations selected in which the collections could be conveniently lodged.

I have been collecting information with a view of making proposals on this subject and so far as I am able to offer an opinion at present I prefer the license system, as more easily and safely managed and less troublesome to boat owners.

I would however raise the scale of fees at present levied in the Godavary and the Krishna and once a boat is licensed

I would let it go anywhere the owner pleased to take it. Besides the license fee, I would levy something in the shape of "Port dues" on a small scale for loading and discharging at certain selected places where roads lead to and take away grain the canal and where basins should be constructed for the convenience of boat traffic.

This is a mere outline of what I have intended to propose and if it is approved I shall give it more in detail as soon as possible.

Boat building even at comparatively small villages is progressing in a very satisfactory manner and Boat hire has

increased which is also a promising
feature in the prospects of the
canal. The salt traffic of
this District is capable of large
extension and now that salt
can be taken to Madras and
sent inland by rail instead of
on Donkeys and Bullocks, I
anticipate a large increase of salt
as well as Canal Revenue.

The full benefit of the
canal will not however be
arrived at until the lock at
the junction with the Cannamore
canal is constructed.

Have the honor to be
Your most obedient servant
P. W. S. S. S.
District Engineer

From
The District Engineer
Mellore

To
The Chief Engineer
Public W. Dept.
Madras

No 4,286.

Dated 13th March 1878
Read

Reports that Tolls can
conveniently be levied on
roads using the Buckingham
ham canal at Srirangapatna
Tummalapenta & Hamparty

GP 18-6-61 No 1123.
" 27-7-61 " 1406.
" 23-12-61 " 2353.
" 16-1-64 " 97.
" 1-9-64 " 2525.
" 21-2-65 " 378.
" 12-8-65 " 2346.
" 10-10-72 " 1400 Rev. Dept.
" 16-11-75 " 1469 — do —
" 4-2-71 " 16 hrs.
CL 5-3-78 " 1152.

Civ-16-4-78.

To Govt. 12-7-78

1917/5 5
No 1915 W Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 20th April 78.

Read the following:—

From the Master attendant (No 1887 dated 5th March 1878)
From the District Ingr. Mellore. (No 4286 dated 13th March 1878)

The general question of levy-
-ing tolls on the ^{canals} ~~canals~~ ^{it}
now under consideration of
Government in the Revenue
Department; to which these
papers will be communi-
-cated. Transf. to the C.
Dept. 21/4

J.D.

I enclose this in

The Dist. Ingr. Mellore
The Master attendant
The Revenue Department
End: H.L. 26-4-78

2860

~~Star~~
Capt. of 1878 Indus.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 20 Apr 1878, No. 1915 W.

Nos.

Tolls on Canals

Transferring to the Res
Department papers sent —

Subd. Rep.