

1767

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

16th December 1878, No. 4,767 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 168. Endorsement of the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, dated Madras, 12th December 1878, No. 4,720.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, dated Madras, 11th December 1878, No. 1,963.

In reply to your letter, No. 4,590, dated 6th December 1878, I have the honor to state that I am unable to fix with any precision the particular amount of expenditure which may in my opinion be incurred with advantage to the State in keeping the Covelong bar open. I can only say that in the event of a continued failure of the north-east monsoon to fill the backwaters and burst it open it *must be opened at once at whatever cost.* The same may be said of the Ennore bar.

2. The urgency of this necessity may be estimated from a consideration of the following facts :—

The annual sales of salt at the Madras Salt Cotaurs may be taken at 15 lakhs of maunds. At least that quantity must therefore be manufactured on an average of years. The rule is that not less than two years' consumption shall be kept on hand, and considering the great public inconvenience which might be caused by a failure of the salt in store to meet the demand owing to the destruction of a large quantity by a cyclone or otherwise this rule is obviously a right one. The present stock is only $17\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds (on the 1st instant), or about 14 months' supply. If, therefore, owing to the bars not being opened, it should be impossible to manufacture an adequate supply of salt next season (i.e., between January and June 1879), it may be necessary to import largely very probably to the extent of 5 lakhs of maunds to meet the demand until the new salt of the following year comes in. But even if 5 lakhs of maunds could be procured from elsewhere, which is doubtful, the cost of importing so much would be immense, probably not less than 2 lakhs of Rupees, which sum is, therefore, in my judgment, the lowest maximum which can be fixed to the expenditure which might, under certain circumstances, profitably be incurred on keeping these two bars open.

3. It is of course not likely that the failure of next season's manufacture will be so complete as to render necessary the importation of as much as 5 lakhs of maunds of salt. It has never so happened previously. But the stocks at Madras are exceptionally low, while the sales are steadily increasing. It would not therefore be right to run any risks, and I therefore consider that any expenditure in reason to avert risk will be justified.

4. You will notice that my calculations are quite different to those made by Mr. Ricketts (*vide* his letter, No. 407, dated 26th April 1878, copy of which was forwarded you with the Collector's foot-note, No. 236, dated 6th May 1878). But Mr. Ricketts' calculations are based upon an obvious fallacy. He argues as if Government derived its salt revenue from the manufacture of salt instead of from its sale. The true measure of the loss occasioned by the bars not being open is not the decrease in the number of maunds manufactured, but the extra cost of the importation of salt from elsewhere to meet the demand which would otherwise have been

met by the salt which should have been, but was not, manufactured locally. The necessity of importation thus occasioned a loss in 1877-78 of Rupees 20,000. This was due to the cyclone of May 1877, not to the bars not being open; but the effect is precisely the same, no matter from what cause arises the necessity of importation.

5. I may add that if the north-east monsoon does not open the bars almost immediately I think it will be necessary to begin work upon them without much longer delay. Funds are not, I imagine, available from the Imperial grant for salt in the Public Works Department. Salt Department funds are, however, available; but as they cannot under present rules be transferred to the Public Works Department they will have to be spent by the Salt Deputy Collector under your instructions.

FORWARDED to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, with the urgent request that the undersigned be authorised to at once direct that the Ennore and Covelong bars be opened.

(Signed) P. O'CONNELL, Colonel, R.E.,
Supg. Engr., Third Circle.

No. 169. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1878, No. 4,767 W.

THE Superintending Engineer will take immediate steps for opening the bars, a rough estimate being submitted for formal sanction with the least practicable delay. As funds are not available in the Public Works Department a transfer must, with the sanction of the Government of India, be made from the Salt Budget. The Salt Commissioner will, therefore, after ascertaining the amount required, propose the requisite transfer.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle.
" Commissioner of Salt Revenue.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS,
CIVIL WORKS.

Sect. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
THIRD CIRCLE.
Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated December 1878.

Amount

Est.

Est.

G. O., 18th December 1878, No. 4767 W.

DECEMBER.

No. 188-189.

Ennore and Coravelly Bars.—The Superintending Engineer to take immediate steps for opening the —; the Salt Commissioners to propose requisite transfer of funds.

Correspondence Dept
No 1963.

Office of the Commr of Salt Revenue
Madras, 11th December 1878.

From
H. H. Bliss Esqre.
Commissioner of Salt Revenue
To Colonel P. O'Connell R.E.
Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No 4590 of December 6th, 1878, I have the honor to state that I am unable to give with any precision the particular amount of expenditure which may in my opinion be incurred with advantage to the State in keeping the Coravelly Bar open. I can only say that in the event of a continued failure of the North East Monsoon to fill the backwaters and burst it open, it must be opened at most at what-ever cost. The same may be said of the Ennore Bar.

2. The urgency of this necessity may be estimated from a consideration of the following facts:—

The annual sales of salt at the Madras Salt Cottars may be taken at 15 lacs of Maunds. At least that quantity must therefore be manu-

= gauged) on an average of years. The rule is that not less than 2 years' consumption shall be kept on hand, and considering the great public inconvenience which might be caused by a failure of the salt in store to meet the demand owing to the destruction of a large quantity by a cyclone or otherwise, this rule is obviously a right one. The present stock is only $17\frac{3}{4}$ laes of maunds (on the 1st instant) or about 14 months' supply. If, therefore, owing to the Bars not being opened, it should be impossible to manufacture an adequate supply of salt next season (i.e. between January and June 1879) it may be necessary to import largely - very probably to the extent of 5 laes of maunds to meet the demand until the new salt of the following year comes in.

But even if 5 laes of maunds could be procured from elsewhere, which is doubtful, the cost of importing so much would be immense, probably not less than 2 laes of Rupees, which sum is therefore, in my judgment, the lowest maximum which can be fixed to the expenditure which might, under certain circumstances,

laes

laes, probably he incurred on keeping these 2 Bars open.

3. It is of course not likely that the failure of next season's manufacture will be so complete as to render necessary the importation of as much as 5 laes of maunds of salt. It has never so happened previously. But the stocks at hand are exceptionally low while the sales are steadily increasing. It would not therefore be right to run any risks and I therefore consider that any expenditure in reason to avert risk will be justified.

4. You will notice that my calculations are quite different to those made by Mr. Ricketts (vide his letter No. 407 dated April 26th 1878, copy of which was forwarded you with the Collector's foot note No. 236, dated May 6th 1878). But Mr. Ricketts' calculations are based upon an obvious fallacy. He argues as if Government derived its salt Revenue from the manufacture of salt, instead of from its sale. The true measure of the loss occasioned by the Bars not being open is not the decrease in the number of maunds manufactured but the

extra cost of the importation of salt from elsewhere to meet the demand which would otherwise have been met by the salt which should have been, but was not, manufactured locally. The necessity of importation thus occasioned a loss in 1877-78 of Rs 20,000. This was due to the Cyclone of May 1877, not to the bars not being open, but the effect is precisely the same, no matter from what cause arises the necessity of importation.

5. I may add that if the North East Monsoon does not open the Bars almost immediately I think it will be necessary to begin work upon them without much longer delay. Funds are not, I imagine, available from the Imperial grant for salt in the Public Works Department. Salt Department funds are, however available, but as they cannot under present rules be transferred to the Public Works Department they will have to be spent by the Salt Deputy Collector under your instructions.

I have &c
Signed H. M. Bliss
Commissioner of Salt Rev.

No 4720.

True copy - forwarded

to

to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, with the urgent request that the undersigned be authorized to at once direct that the Ennore and Conlong bars be opened.

4767
1/5

Offnall Colonel R. B.
Super Engineer, 3rd Circle

3rd Circle Super Engineer's office -
Madras 12th December 1878
Depd 13

GO. 23rd June 76
" 21st Sept - "

15397

Dec. 1878

Public Works Department.
No. 4767 W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 16th Decr 1878. 4767

Read the following:—

from the Supg. Engrs: (N.E. No. 4720 of 12th Decr 78)
kindly write.

The Superintending Engineer will take immediate steps for opening the bars, a rough estimate being submitted for formal sanction with the least practicable delay.

As funds are not available in the P.W. Department, a transfer must, with the sanction

R.P.

of the Government of
India, be made from
the Salt Budget. The
Salt Commissioner
will, therefore, after
ascertaining the amount
required, propose the
 requisite transfer.

Wt
14.12.78

Supy. Engr. Shri. L. K. S. S.
Commissioner of Salt
Revenue
Bhamini R. W. Accts.
Revenue Department
14.12.78

14.12.78

Co 13892

ST. OF (1870)
PUBLIC WORKS

The ~~Supervisor~~ Third Civil

See note

17-78

Dec 16 Dec 16, 1876

No. 2.

Amuse & Corlaugbars

The Mayor to take im-
mediate steps for
opening the —; the
Salt Commissioners to
prepare appropriate transfer
of funds.

Carroll in Rep

Dec 19-12-78