Archives I :10,006—16-8 77.

(1) Number of pages 46
(2) Date of repair 4.5.87
(3) Initials of the Referencer Leng

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 2883-84. W Press. / Mis.

Dated 4. 11. 1882 ~~197~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

4th November 1882, No. 2883 W., Public Works.

2883/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 9.

Read—the following papers :—

From Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Company, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated Colombo, 6th September 1882.

Knowing that you are favorably disposed for the development of trade, we venture to place before you the desirability of cutting a passage through the island of Rámesvaram, and trust to have your cordial support.

Mr. Grindrod had a long interview with Sir James Longden yesterday, and he was strongly in favor of it, and as far as Ceylon was concerned he would give his cordial support.

He will allude to Mr. Grindrod's interview in his despatches home, but of course refused to promise any aid in carrying out the work, and further stipulated that the present channel should be kept open for native craft. In fact he said, "I have really nothing to do with it as Rámesvaram is in the Madras Presidency."

Surveys have already been carefully made, and we propose to adopt that of the Honorable J. Stoddart, at present acting Surveyor-General of Ceylon.

Our proposition is not to call upon your Presidency for any grant of money.

We are prepared to raise a Company at home with a capital of one million sterling if necessary, but we estimate the cost at five hundred thousand pounds.

In the work we should provide for docks, of which none exist between Calcutta and Bombay.

We trust that you will lend your aid towards carrying this important work.

Transferred to the Chief Secretary to Government.

(By Order.)

Camp, Palamcottah,
16th September 1882.

(Signed) A. AWDRY, Capt., R.E.,
Private Secretary.

No. 988.

Referred to the Public Works Department.

Ootacamund,
21st September 1882.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

doubts at present exist, which should be pointed out to the Company and a solution sought for them.

4. As soon as the fine season in January or February sets in, I would recommend that I should be allowed to make arrangements for the settlement of these questions, using the tug *Undaunted* for the purpose. So long as this cloud hangs over the prospects of the canal, it would not be prudent for the Company to take any irrevocable steps in the matter.

No. 9-B.

From the same Officer, dated Madras, 20th October 1882, No. 9045.

In continuation of my letter of this day's date regarding the Pámban canal, I think it advisable to state that I do not propose making a survey of the shoals north of Point Pedro; that will be an elaborate and lengthy operation, and could be conducted while the canal was being cut. I merely wish to place beyond doubt the existence or otherwise of a 6-fathom passage in one or both of the situations I have marked out on the chart. This would not occupy much time, and would settle the question of a canal and its advantage.

No. 9-C.

From Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Company, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated Colombo, 16th October 1882.

We had the honor to address you a short time since on the subject of cutting the Rámesvaram canal, and have since received an acknowledgment from your Private Secretary to our letter. We beg to thank you for the prompt reply.

On the 20th ultimo we forwarded to England full information as regards estimates for constructing, and possible returns on the expenditure.

As far as starting this very important work there should be no delay. To-day we have received a telegram from our friends advising us that we must get the concession, and that can only be obtained by your permission and authority, and we trust that no difficulty will arise with your good Government to forward a work which would in the long run prove of great advantage to the capital of Madras. The whole undertaking is far advanced as regards the work to be done. It would be placed in the hands of Mr. John Kyle, a very able Engineer, who is at present engaged in the construction of the breakwater at this port.

Rámesvaram, as you are no doubt aware, is simply a barren waste island, and if we are successful, of which there is no doubt, it will give congenial employment to a large number of natives, and permanent employment to many more.

Hoping that you will give this your serious and prompt attention.

READ—again—

G.O., dated 19th October 1882, No. 2726 W., Public Works.

No. 10.

ORDER—dated 4th November 1882, No. 2883 W., Public Works.

In their letters recorded above, Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Company of Colombo propose the cutting of a ship-channel through the island of Rámesvaram, and, to enable them to do this, ask for certain concessions from the Madras Government, the exact nature of which is not clear from the correspondence. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council will however be glad to further the undertaking by such support as it may be in the power of the Local Government to afford; no money guarantee being, it is understood, desired by the projectors.

2. Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Company will now be furnished with a copy of the Proceedings of Government, dated 19th October 1882, No. 2720 W., with which are printed the results of the boring operations recently undertaken by order of Government. The firm will also be furnished with copies of the papers recorded with these Proceedings, among which is a report * by the Master Attendant, Madras, giving practical hints as to the present condition and probable requirements of the route which would be taken by vessels in the event of the canal being constructed.

* No. 9031, dated 20th October 1882.

3. Captain Taylor's proposal in paragraph 6 of his letter No. 9031, and in his subsequent letter No. 9045, to take advantage of the next fine weather for investigating the existence or otherwise of a 6-fathom passage in the situations indicated on the chart, is approved. Arrangements should be made accordingly.

4. Ordered that the following letter be addressed to Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Company.

(Here enter No. 2884 W., dated 4th November 1882.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Offg. Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
" Superintending Engineer, Sixth Circle.
" Marine Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin,
Spare Copies

2883/3

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 4th.

Recd. *Excd.*

G.O., 4th Nov. 1882, No. 2883 W.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 9-10.

Cutting of a Ship-channel through the Island of Ramesvaram.

Passing orders on proposals made by Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Company.

4th November 1882, No. 2884 W., Public Works.

2883/4

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 11.

Letter—from

Colonel J. SHAW-STEWART, R.E.,
Ag. Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras,

To

Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Company,
Colombo.

Gentlemen,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your communications dated 6th September and 16th October 1882, addressed to the Right Honorable the Governor, on the subject of a ship-channel through the island of Rámesvaram which you desire to construct. I am to inform you in reply that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is prepared to support the enterprise as far as possible. I am however to ask for further and full information as to the nature and details of the "concession" sought from this Government, which does not, it is understood, include any guarantee or involve any grant of money.

I am also to forward for your information copies of the papers recorded with the Proceedings of Government, No. 2726 W., dated 19th October, and No. 2883 W., dated 4th November 1882, which may afford you useful information.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Ootacamund,
4th November 1882.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

2883/5

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 4th.

Recd

Read

4th Nov. 1882, No. 2884 W.

NOVEMBER.
No. 11.

Cutting of a Ship-channel through the Island of Rameswaram.

Requesting full information as to the nature and details of the "concession" sought from this Government for the — .

Petition from Grindrod Jenkins & Co. Columbo 6th Septr 1882

4th Nov/82 No 2884 W

Chief Secy

2883
6

BRADBRIDGE, JENKINS & Co LONDON.
GRINDROD, JENKINS & Co COLOMBO.

COLOMBO. 1st Septr 1882

To
His Excellency Sir Grant Duff
Governor of Madras

Sir,

Knowing that you are favorably disposed for the development of trade, we venture to place before you the desirability of cutting a passage through the Island of Rameswaram, and trust to have your cordial support.

Mr Grindrod had a long interview with Sir James Longden yesterday and he was strongly in favour of it, and so far as Ceylon was concerned he would give his cordial support.

He would allude to Mr Grindrod's interview in his despatches home, but of course refused to promise any aid in carrying out the work, and further stipulated that the present channel should be kept open for native craft. In fact he said "we have really nothing to do with it as Rameswaram is in the Madras Presidency."

Surveys have already been carefully made, and we propose [illegible] that of the Hon'ble J. [illegible] at present acting Surveyor General of Ceylon. Our proprietor is [illegible] to call upon you [illegible]

Presidency

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1882) Madras.

Petition from Grindford
Jenkins & Co. Columbo.
6th Septr 1882

P.2

Presidency for any grant of money.

We are prepared to raise a company at home with a capital of one Million sterling if necessary, but we estimate the cost at five hundred thousand pounds.

In the work we should provide for docks of which none exist between Calcutta and Bombay.

We trust that you will lend your aid towards carrying this important work

We have the honor to remain
Sir,
your obedient Servants
Grindford Jenkins & Co

62/30-10
Cir 28/10

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1882) Madras
PUBLIC WORKS

2883/D

Petition from Grindford
Jenkins & Co. Columbo.
6th Sept 1882

2883/8

P 3

Transferred to the Chief
Secretary to Government
(By order)
A. Awdry, Captain R.E.
Private Secretary

Camp
Palamcottah
16th September 1882

~~Ootacamund~~
21st Sept/82

Marine Dept

~~No.~~ 988.

Referred to
the P. W. Dept.

Chief Secy.

From
The Private Secretary
to H. E. the Governor

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Dated 16th September 1882

Transfers a petition from
Grindford Jenkins & Co
on the subject of cutting a
passage through the island
Ramasseram

P. W. Dept
Ootacamund, 16th October 1882

No. 900 E.

2883/9

MARINE OFFICE, MADRAS
18 OCT 82
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Endorsement - Marine Dept. - No. 988
of 21st September 1882 on petition from
Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co. of
6th September 1882

No. 900 E P 5

Referred to the Master Attendant,
Madras, for any remarks he may wish
to offer.

2. An early reply is requested.

Col, R.E.

Ag Secretary to Govt P. W. D.

To,

The Master Attendant, Madras,
Original to be returned

R.S.

Administrative Department.

Madras,
Marine Office,
20th October 1882.

No. 9031.

From

J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieut., R.N.R.,
Master Attendant,
Administrative Department,
Madras,

2883/10

To

Colonel J. H. M. Shaw-Stewart R.E.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Works Marine Department,
Fort Saint George.
Ootacamund.

Sir,

I have the honour to return the letter from Messrs. Grindrod Jenkins and Co. of Colombo, relating to the Canal through Rameswaram, and respectfully to remark that the question of a Canal between Ceylon and India has been so often and strongly urged upon public attention that nothing but a practical effort to solve the problem will ever be satisfactory.

2 Not being able, for reasons set forth in my letter dated 19th September 1881 No. 8157, to recommend it as a measure demanded either by Imperial necessity or any requirements of this Presidency, I am very glad to see a public Company stepping forward to construct a Canal upon Commercial principles,

which

which seem in the opinion of the Company to promise pecuniary success. As money is not asked for, it does not appear easy to suggest any mode in which direct support can be given to the project, except perhaps a free grant of the land upon Rameswaram Island required for the Canal. The use of it when finished will no doubt depend upon the facilities it will offer. It should, however, be pointed out that the choice of a line through Rameswaram with a water passage, which must be maintained between the Island and the South of India will cut off the latter from all the advantages that might have been secured to it from Sir John Hay's project of a cut through Ramnad with harbour and docks within Southern India itself. The letter speaks of careful survey having been made, but I am not aware of any, nor have I any knowledge of the track called Honorable J. Stoddart's. But as several tracks have received much notice lately from Colonel Sankey and myself, I think it not improbable that it may be not far from the one selected by Colonel Sankey along which I have had

a

a complete line of borings made. A copy of these borings and the various sections of the soil might be forwarded to the Company by Government, and would prove invaluable in drawing up a tolerably correct estimate of the Canal itself. But the further measures of protection to the ships and to the entrance of the Canal will cost much, and if a dock is added and light houses, which will be also an imperative necessity, a million seems to me a very insufficient sum.

2883/11

3. But if little more can be done at present by Government than promising a full measure of support, as Sir J. Longden has done, it will be necessary to warn them upon one point of great importance, I might say vital importance, to the success of the scheme, and that is want of proper surveys of the sea about Point Pedro, for until a clear and safe channel for vessels of large draft is discovered and marked out at A, the Canal cannot be called practicable, and if that channel proves navigable, then a similar clear channel must be found at B, failing which the only alternative route would be along shore until the end of Point Pedro shoal is reached, a distance of 40 miles from

Vide chart

point C on the chart herewith sent, and then a return to the Northward of nearly the same distance; the two combined making up a sum greater than any advantage promised by the Canal over the Dondra head route via Colombo. I have made a circle over the doubtful portions. The chart is 40 years old and shoals have a general tendency to increase. Some of the British India Steam Navigation Steamers do go through this water B safely to Tondimanar, but they are of light draft, and not the first class vessels upon which the Canal will depend for dividend. Lights in this part of the passage will also be imperative. It may be that the survey proves satisfactory, but it is my duty as Marine Adviser to Government to point out that grave doubts at present exist, which should be pointed out to the Company and a solution sought for them.

4. As soon as the fine season in January or February sets in, I would recommend that I should be allowed to make arrangements for the settlement of these questions, using the Tug "Undaunted" for the purpose. So long as this cloud hangs over

the

the prospects of the Canal, it would not be prudent for the Company to take any irrevocable steps in the matter.

2883/12

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
J W Taylor
Master Attendant
Administrative Departmt.

2883/13

S W (188) DEPARTMENT.

C No. 7297

From

THE MASTER ATTENDANT,
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT,
Madras,

To

THE ~~Chief~~ SECY. TO GOVERNMENT,
P.W. ~~Marine~~ DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

No. 9031

Dated 29 Oct 1882

Received

No.

Enclos: 1 Chart

Subject

Returning Messrs. Grimrod Jenkins' letter regarding cutting canal across Ramessaram with remarks.

P.C. 30/10
Cir 30/10

Administrative Department.

89

MADRAS,
Marine Office,
No. 9028.
20th October 1882.

2883/14

From

J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., LIEUT., R.N.R.,
Master Attendant,
Administrative Department,
Madras,

To

Colonel J. H. M. Shaw Stewart R.E.
Acting Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Works ~~Marine~~ Department,
~~Fort Saint George.~~
Ootacamund.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of this day's date regarding the Pamban Canal, I think it advisable to state that I do not propose making a survey of the shoals North of Point Pedro, that will be an elaborate and lengthy operation, and could be conducted while the Canal was being cut. I merely wish to place beyond doubt the existence or otherwise of a six fathom passage in one or both of the situations I have marked out on the Chart. This would not occupy much time, and would settle the question of a Canal and its advantage.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
J. H. Taylor
Master Attendant
Administrative Department

M.

S.W. (188) DEPARTMENT.

23/10

From

THE MASTER ATTENDANT,
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT,
Madras,

To P.W.C. No 7298

THE ~~CHIEF~~ SECY. TO GOVERNMENT,
P.W. ~~MARINE~~ DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

No. 9045

Dated 20 Oct 1882
Received

No.

Subject.

Offering further remarks on the subject of cutting Canal across Rameswaram.

Ord 20/10
Cen 28/10

---

(4)

BRADBRIDGE, JENKINS & Co LONDON
GRINDROD, JENKINS & Co COLOMBO

P 10

Recd. 24th Oct.
A.L.

COLOMBO 16th October 1882

2853/15

To His Excellency the Governor of Madras.
Madras.

Sir,

We had the honor to address you a short time since on the subject of cutting the Rameswaram Canal and have since received an acknowledgment from your private Secretary to our letter, we beg to thank you for the prompt reply.

On the 2nd ultimo we forwarded to England for information as regards estimates for constructing and possible returns on the expenditure.

As far as starting this very important work there should be no delay. To day we have received a telegram from our friends advising us that we must get the concession, and that can only be obtained by your permission and authority and we trust that no difficulty will arise with your good Government to forward a work which would in the long run prove of great advantage to the Capitals of Madras. The whole undertaking is far advanced as regards the work to be done. It would be placed in the hands of Mr. John Kyle, a very able Engineer who is at present engaged in the construction

of

811

P.W.C. No 7562

of the breakwater at this port.

Rammeseram, as you are no doubt aware, is simply a barren waste Island, and if we are successful, of which there is no doubt, it will gi congenial employment to a large number of natio and permanent employment to many more.

Hoping that you will give this your serious a prompt attention

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient Servants

Griswood Jenkins & Co

Recd 30/10/82

No 900 E. 16-10-82.
921 E. 19 " "
Gob 2720 W. 19-10-82
Dec: No 730 of 1881
G.O. 2924 W. 23-11-81
" 2454 W. 6-10-81
1341 W. 28-5-81.

Rd 30.10

Ar ~~28~~ 30/10

Rly 7/11

S.W. (188

From

No. 2883

2883
1645A

S. W. (188

No 2883

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th Nov/82.

Read the following:—

Messrs Grindrod

2883/10

(H. E. Columbo d/6th Septr 1882)

No 988 dated

INDIAN TELEGRAPH

2883/11

Madras

2883/12

Grindrod

Buthnot

2883/17

H E Rights 7.10.82

No objection whatever to give for the reference but refer unless as you must put everything on paper if you wish the Government to consider

GR

recorded

Grindrod

Columbo

of a

S. W. (188

[illegible]

No. 2883

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th Nov/82.

Read the following :—

from Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co (H. E. Colombo d/6th Septr 1882) 2883/10

[illegible]

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

P Ootacamund Madras

2883/18

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

Class FP	Ootacamund	From (Station) Colombo		Local No.
Words 17	Day 18	Hour 10	Minute 35	Readdressed at Ms

To (Person) Excellency the Governor

From (Person) Barton Grindrod

2883/17

Everything will be
put on paper
expect to arrive
on tuesday

Recd. from		L. N.	Sent to		L. N.
At	Hrs.	Mts. By	At	Hrs.	Mts. By Rama Telegraph Master.

Date OOTACAMUND 18-10-82

In their letter recorded above, Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co of Colombo propose the cutting of a

S. W. (188

No. 2883

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th Nov/82.

Read the following:—

from Meſsrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co (H.E. Columbo d/ 6th Septr 1882) 2883/10

ment, Marine Deptt on above [illegible]

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

Ootacamund to Madras

24	6	25 12	6

2883/18

To The Governor

From Grindrod Arbuthnot

Have brought plan
of Remiseram where
could I leave
it for safe
Keeping must return
to Colombo twenty seventh

Hames Telegraph Master.

OOTACAMUND 25-10-82

In their letter recorded above, Meſsrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co of Columbo propose the cutting of a

ex 20/10

S.W. (188

⑥ From Govmt
To N. Grindrod & Co. [illegible]
Pray ~~[illegible]~~ Such
arrangements as
you deem best for
the custody of your
own property [illegible]

Despatched
[illegible]

25.10.82 –

№ 2883 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th Novr/82.

Read the following:—

2883/10

Letter from Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co } (H.E. Colombo d/ 6th Septr 1882)

Endorsement, Marine Deptt on above (" No 988 d/ 21st " ")

Letter from the Master Attendant Madras } (" " 9031 d/ 20th Octr ")

Do — do (" " 9045 d/ 20th " ")

Letter from Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co } (" " Columbo d/ 16th " ")

Read again—

G.O. dated 19th October 1882 No 2726 W.

In their letter recorded above, Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co of Colombo propose the cutting of a ship channel through the island of Rameswaram, and, to enable them to do this, ask for certain concessions from the Madras Government, the exact nature of which ~~are~~ is not clear from the correspondence. The Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council will however be glad to further the undertaking by such support as it may be in the power of the Local Government to afford; no money guarantee being, it is understood, desired by the Projectors.

2. Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co. will now be furnished with a copy of the

8/14

2883/21

Proceedings of Government ~~of the~~ dated 19th October 1882 No. 2726 W, with which are printed the results of the boring ~~and levelling~~ operations ~~[illegible]~~ recently undertaken by order of Government. The firm will also be furnished with copies of the papers recorded with these Proceedings, among which is a report by the Master Attendant, Madras, giving some practical hints as to the present condition and probable requirements of the route,

& No. 9031 d/20 Octr 1882

which would be taken by vessels in the event of the canal being constructed.

3. Captain Taylor's

proposal in paragraph 4 of his letter No. 9031 and in his subsequent letter No. 9045, to take advantage of the next fine weather for a ~~passage so as~~ investigation to ascertain the existence or otherwise of a six fathom passage in the situations indicated on the Chart, is approved. Arrangements should be made accordingly.

4. Ordered that the following letter be addressed to Messrs Grindrod Jenkins & Co.

(H.E. No. [illegible])

40/4

Master Attendant ✓
Madras
S.E. 6th Circle ✓
Marine Dept ✓

(In, Despd 28-11-82.
The Chief Secy. to Govt for countersignature)

P.W. (R) Department
Ootacamund, 4th ~~Dec~~ Nov/82

No. 2884 W

f75

To/ 2883/27

Messrs Grindrod, Jenkins & Co.
Colombo

24/2

Gentlemen,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Communications ~~of the~~ dated 6th September, and 18th Octr. 1882, addressed to the Rt. Honble the Governor, on the subject of a Ship Channel through the Island of R~~ameswaram~~ which you ~~are desirous~~ desire to construct ~~of undertaking~~. I am to inform you in reply that the Rt. Honble the Governor in Council is prepared to support the enterprise as far as possible. I am however to ask for further and full

The Hon H. S. Sullivan

full information as to the nature and details of the "Concession" sought from this Government, which does not it is understood, include any guarantee or involve any grant of money.

I am also to forward for your information copies of the papers recorded with the Proceedings of Government No 2726 W dt/ 19th October and No. 2883 W dated 4th Novr 1882 which may ~~possibly~~ afford you useful information.

Copy

Desptd with encs: 8-11-82.

RS/

Co 2/10 R.P. 1/4

2883/23

75762 Ven

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

4/11/82

G. O., 4th Novr 1882, No. 2883W.
2554W

Nos. 9 to 11

Cutting of a
ip Channel through
Island of Rameswaram

assing orders on
oposals made by
apt Grindrod Jenkins
& for —— .

utting of a Ship Channel
through the Island of Rames
waram.

equesting full information
to the nature & details
the "Concession" sought
on this Govt for the
ed in Receipt Regtr