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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
P DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 3210
B.P. No.

Press.
Mis.

Dated 6 - 12 - 1882 ~~197~~.

V. S. M

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3210W

6TH DECEMBER 1882, No. 3210 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 41.

READ—the following papers :—

From Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Company, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Colombo, 20th November 1882.

Rameswaram Canal.

With reference to our letter of the 16th instant, our London friends, under date of the 27th ultimo, allude to a paragraph in the *Daily News*, stating that some Engineers on account of Lesseps were surveying the Pamban channel with a view of forming a French Company to carry out the work.

2. We need scarcely point out that a concession to a French Company would be very unwise in many respects.

3. When in Madras Mr. Grindrod mentioned this to Captain Taylor. Our partner, Mr. Jenkins, had an interview with Mr. Colvin, Chief of the Correspondence Department at the India Office, Sir Louis Mallet being away. He gave it as his opinion that the Home Government would consent, provided no pecuniary help was asked for.

4. At his request we sent in a formal application for the concession, and we beg to enclose a copy which runs very much as ours of the 16th ultimo.

5. Again, we might point out the advantage to sailing vessels calling at Galle or Colombo for orders, it would take them a very considerable time to reach any port in the Bay of Bengal, whereas, with powerful steam-tugs, we could place them in the Bay in a very short time.

ENCLOSURE

From Messrs. BRADBIDGE, JENKINS and Company, to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, W., dated London, 26th October 1882.

We wish to address you with reference to granting us a concession for cutting a ship canal through the island of Rameswaram, which will enable mail and other large steamers to pass from the Gulf of Manar to Palks Straits and *vice versa* (instead of going round the island of Ceylon), and thereby save about three days steamings, both ways, in the passage of vessels bound from England or Colombo for any port in the Bay of Bengal.

We do not ask for any pecuniary assistance from the Madras or Home Governments, but simply permission to cut the canal.

We, with other friends, will form a Company with capital sufficient to carry out the work, according to the plans proposed by Mr. J. Stoddart, Government Engineer at Colombo, and shown in the Parliamentary Papers upon the Pamban channel, marked C. 761, 1873. Mr. Stoddart's plans will be adopted, with any modifications which may be shown to be of advantage.

But before taking definite steps in forming the Company, it is necessary for us to have a concession granted for a long lease, and we shall therefore be glad to know that the Government are prepared to grant our request, and that an agreement may be entered into forthwith.

On September 8th, our Colombo partner, Mr. Barton Grindrod, addressed a letter to Mr. Grant Duff, Governor of Madras, upon the subject.

Mr. Grindrod has also had a long interview with Sir James Longden, Governor of Ceylon, who fully approves of the scheme, and also promised to report favorably.

We shall be pleased to call upon you with reference to the above proposal, and to give any information in our power, to facilitate the Government coming to a favorable decision.

We wish to add that shortening the voyage to Calcutta, Madras, &c., cannot but be of great service to all shipowners, passengers, and merchants.

No. 41-A.

From Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Company, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated Colombo, 27th November 1882.

We have the honor to acknowledge your letters of the 13th November, 1882, Nos. 81 and 82 and 2983 and No. 83, the former containing Mr. Grindrod's letter to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated the 18th October, and a letter, No. 81-A, appended from Captain Taylor, Master Attendant of Madras, which has our particular attention. The chart of 40 years old was shown to Mr. Grindrod, but since his departure from Madras he has seen charts, dated 1878, of the Palks Straits, which look very favorable as compared with that of 1848-52. Both Colonel A. Cotton's and Captain Biden's reports allude to the Pamban Passage, but we propose to leave that alone and take up a position entirely different. Our Master Attendant at Colombo, Captain Donnan, in the course of conversation with Mr. Grindrod, said he saw no very great difficulty in the way.

In case the concession is granted, then we place ourselves in the hands of competent Engineers, who will again make their own surveys.

We beg to thank you for copy of your order, No. 82, granting permission to Captain Taylor to take steps for the examination of the passage, and we await with interest his report.

It is our earnest wish, and to the benefit and interest of all concerned, that the work should be thoroughly well done and a credit to those who undertake it.

In our letter of the 16th November the terms of concession are not quite in order. We place them again—

- 1st. A concession to cut the canal.
- 2nd. That no pecuniary aid whatever is required from the Madras Government.
- 3rd. Remains as stated in our letter of the 16th November.
- 4th. We refer to this at the conclusion of our letter.
- 5th. } Could stand as they are.
- 6th. }
- 7th. }
- 8th. }

With regard to No. 4, we think that the Government of Madras should not claim for any title or royalty; we merely mentioned it as a point that might arise, but we are of opinion that the port of Madras would derive some benefit from the undertaking.

We should be pleased to receive from you any suggestions that you could make, and in conclusion have to thank the Madras Presidency for the promptitude and ready spirit they have evinced in taking up the object we have in view.

No. 41-B.

From BARTON GRINDROD, Esq., to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated Colombo, 27th November 1882.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th November, No. 2100 C., calling my attention to the communications of your Government of the 4th and 15th November, to which I make further allusion in a separate letter.

Line of the 16th November, addressed to Colonel J. Shaw-Stewart, R.E., will give you the heads of the concession required.

I am pleased to get instructions as to the address of my letters in future upon this subject, and beg you will convey to His Excellency my warmest thanks for his great courtesy in receiving my communications, for I was somewhat in doubt as to whether I was not infringing the rules of etiquette.

No. 42.

ORDER—dated 6th December 1882, No. 3210 W., Public Works.

Recorded with reference to G.O., No. 2982 W., dated 4th November 1882, paragraph 2.

(True Extract.)

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

H.M. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobt. of [1882] Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 6th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 6th Dec. 1882, No. 3210 W.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 41-42.

Ramesvaram Island.

Letters from Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins
and Company on the subject of cutting a Ship
Channel across the —, recorded.

BRADBIDGE, JENKINS & CO LONDON
GRINDROD, JENKINS & CO COLOMBO.

Ramesvaram Canal.

COLOMBO

20th Nov 82

32/3

Colonel I Shaw Stewart R. E.
Acting Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras.

Sir,
With reference to our letter of the 16th Inst., our
London friends under date of the 27th ultimos allude to
a paragraph in the Daily News, stating that some
Engineers on account of ~~the~~ were surveying the
Ramesvaram Channel with a view of forming a French
Company to carry out the work.

We need scarcely point out that a concession to a
French Company would be very unwise in many
respects.

When in Madras Mr Grindrod mentioned this to
Captain Taylor. Our partner, Mr Jenkins, had an
interview with Mr Colvin chief of the correspondence
Department at the India Office. His time
was being away. He gave it as his opinion that
the Home Government would consent, provided
sufficient help was asked for.

At his request we sent in a formal application
for the concession and we beg to enclose a copy
which was very much as ours of the 16th ultimos.

Yours
Again

Yours obedient servant
Gerrit Smith

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~~Handwritten scribbles and lines in the middle section.~~

~~Handwritten scribbles and lines in the lower middle section.~~

~~Handwritten scribbles and lines at the bottom of the page.~~

3210
4BRADBIDGE, JENKINS & CO LONDON.
GRINPOD, JENKINS & CO COLOMBO.

Encl

London
Colombo. 26th Oct 18823210
4To the Under Secretary of State
India Office
W.

Sir,

We wish to address you with reference to granting us a concession for cutting a Ship Canal, through the Island of Ranciscran, which will enable Mail & other large Steamers to pass from the Gulf of Mannar, to Palk Strait & vice versa (instead of going round the Island of Ceylon) & thereby save about 3 days steaming, both ways, in the Passage of vessels bound from England or Colombo for any Port in the Bay of Bengal.

We do not ask for any pecuniary assistance from the Madras or Home Governments, but simply permission to cut the canal.

We, with other friends, will form a Company with capital sufficient to carry out the work, according to the Plans proposed by Mr. J. Stoddart - Government Engineer at Colombo, and shown in the Parliamentary Papers upon the Pambour Channel, marked C 761-1873. Mr. Stoddart's Plans will be adopted, with any modifications which

may

may be shown to be of advantage.

But before taking definite steps in forming the Company, it is necessary for us to have a concession granted, for a long lease, & we shall therefore be glad to know that the Government are prepared to grant our request & that an agreement may be entered into forthwith.

On September 6th our Colombo Partner, Mr. Barton Grindrod addressed a letter to Mr. Grant Duff, Governor of Madras, upon the subject.

Mr. Grindrod has also had a long interview with Sir James Langdon, Gov^r of Ceylon, who fully approves of the scheme, & has promised to report favorably.

We shall be pleased to call upon you with reference to the above proposal, & to give any information in our power, to facilitate the Government coming to a favorable decision. We wish to add that shortening the voyage to Calcutta, Madras &c. cannot but be of great service to all ship owners, passengers, and merchants.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient Servants
Edw. Bradbridge Jenkins & Co.

NO 47A

COLOMBO

3210
6

To the
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras.

Sir,
We have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 10th inst. regarding the proposed purchase of the former containing Mr. Quindlen's letter to the Secretary the Government of Madras dated the 24th October, and a letter of the 21st inst. regarding the same. The latter has been particularly attended to.
The object of the present is to have the same done. Since his departure from Madras he has been absent for some time of the Public Works which has been somewhat compared with that of 1880-81. Both the latter and the former reports relate to the same but the latter we propose to have that alone and back up of position is truly different. Our Madras attendant, Mr. Colborne, Captain Brown, in the course of conversation with Mr. Quindlen said, he saw no very great difficulty in the way.
In case the concession is granted, the same place will be in the hands of competent engineers, who will again make their own survey.

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We beg to thank you for copy of your order, allowing permission to Captain Taylor to be absent for the examination of the passengers, and we are with interest his report.

It is our earnest wish, and to the benefit and interest of all concerned, that the worst should be thoroughly well done and a credit to those who undertake it.

In our letter of the 11th inst., the terms of our request are not quite in order. We place them again

- 1st A concession to suit the cause.
- 2nd That no pecuniary aid whatever is required from the Madras Government.
- 3rd pecuniary aid to be in the form of a grant.
- 4th We refer to this at the conclusion of our letter.
- 5th {
- 6th {
- 7th {
- 8th {

With regard to the 5th we think that the Government of Madras should not claim for any title or right, and merely mentioned it as a point that might arise. But we are of opinion that the Port of Madras would derive some benefit from the undertaking.

We should be pleased to receive from you any suggestions that you could make, and in conclusion

Yours

BRADBRIDGE, JENKINS & CO LONDON
GRINDROD, JENKINS & CO COLOMBO

COLOMBO.

32/11/88

have to thank the Madras Presidency for the promptitude and ready spirit they have evinced in taking up the object we have in view.

We have the honor to be

Sirs,

Your obedient Servants
Frederick Jenkins & Co

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
CIVIL WORKS

BRADBIDGE, JENKINS & CO LONDON.
GRINDROD, JENKINS & CO COLOMBO.

COLOMBO. 27th Nov 1882

To The
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras.

3210
10

Sir,
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th Nov 1882 calling my attention to the communications of your Government of the 9th & 10th Nov to which I made further allusion in a separate letter.

None of the 16th Nov addressed to Colonel J. H. Stewart R. E. will give some of the heads of the commissions required.

I am pleased to get instructions as to the address of my letters in future upon this subject, and beg you will convey to His Excellency my warmest thanks for his great courtesy in receiving my communications, for I was somewhat in doubt as to whether I was not infringing the rules of etiquette.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant
Rector Grindrod

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Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated

7/12

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 6 Dec. 1882, No. 3210.

Nos.

41-42

Rameswaram Island.

Letters from Messrs
Srinivasan, for kind of
in the subject of cutting
a ship channel across
the — recorded

24
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8/12

Auto-Receipt kept