

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from G. T. WALCH, Esq., Officiating Superintending Engineer, First Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 7th August 1883, No. 1336 G.D. :—

As ordered in your telegram of 1st, the Steamer *Godavari* was not put up for sale; but the order was not received in time to enable notices to be published so as to prevent inconvenience to intending purchasers.

2. The date for the sale, 6th instant, was settled in consultation with the Collector on the 21st of April last, and a considerable sum has been expended in advertising the sale, which now at the last moment is stopped.

3. The steamer has been thoroughly examined, and I send a copy of the report on her. I have myself inspected her and find the report correct; and it will be a long time, even if the estimate for repairs, which will be large, be sanctioned, before she can run again.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. JOPP, Esq., Assistant Engineer in charge Head Works Sub-division, to the Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, dated 4th August 1883, No. 301.

The Steamer *Godavari* was returned to the Boat Office on the afternoon of the 1st August from the Rajahmundry Ferry Work.

2. As the machinery and steamer generally was in a bad state of repairs, I put her under steam and inspected her this morning, and I beg to report as follows :—

Boiler and belongings.—The means of feeding the boiler is very precarious; the feed is intended to be made either by a donkey engine or by two injectors. I was unable to get the donkey engine into motion at all, and was told that even then it would not pump water up into the boiler. One of the two injectors is out of order and will not work at all, the other only when there is more than 60 lb. of steam pressure; this last cannot be depended on. A hole about 2 inches square has been burnt in the bottom of the smoke box.

The Steam Pipes.—The flange joints of the steam-pipes, with a few exceptions, leak excessively, the connection with the steam reservoir of the boiler being the worst. The Engine Driver reports that they cannot be kept steam-tight by packing, and in this case the flanges all require "graining." All the lagging has come off the steam-pipes, and the pipes themselves much corroded on the outside.

Machinery.—There is a serious crack in the slide valve steam-chest, through which steam escapes. The steam-chest may at any time burst, leaving the steamer powerless. An entirely new casting is the only way of remedying this. There is something radically wrong with the star-board piston, the nature of which cannot be ascertained until the cylinder is opened out; both pistons require new rings, and the petcocks of the cylinder are out of order. A part of the wooden lagging of the cylinder has been destroyed. All the brasses of the moving parts are out of order, and either require rebushing or renewing; those of the link motion and the facing to the piston rod slides being quite worn out.

The Steam Capston.—The two cylinders are quite loose on their bedding, and when at work the whole machine shakes backwards and forwards through perhaps 2 or 3 inches. This, however, could not be closely examined, as there was so violent a rush of steam from the leaky connections with the steam-pipes that it was impossible to stay in the confined space in which the engine lies.

Paddle Wheels.—In the star-board wheel there is not a single tie-rod in position. These are all hanging by one end, flying about in all directions as the wheel revolves. The port wheel is nearly as bad. The arms of the paddles are in both wheels loose on the shafts, and some of the floats are broken. All the bolts and bushes of paddle arms and excentrics require renewal.

The hull of the steamer leaks in several places.

3. The steamer is not in a fit state to work, and in my opinion should have been laid up for repairs months ago. I am informed that during the last twelve months she has absolutely not had a single day's rest, nor have the indents of the Engine Driver for sundry repairs from time to time been complied with; hence the unsatisfactory state in which she now is. It would have been well had the condition been made, when hiring her to the ferry, that the steamer should be periodically (say once in a fortnight) sent to Dowlaishweram for inspection and repair if necessary.

ORDER—dated 3rd September 1883, No. 2469 W., Public Works.

The Collector will be called on, in the Revenue Department, for a report as to the circumstances under which the Steamer *Godavari* has been allowed to fall into the condition described in these papers, and as to the person responsible for the neglect of timely repairs.

2. The sale of the steamer by auction has already been ordered in separate Proceedings,* conditionally on the ferry not being prepared to meet all expenses of repair and working, which will now necessarily be very heavy. An estimate of the cost of repairs should be made as quickly as possible, and the length of time during which such repairs may be expected to keep the vessel serviceable reported. On receipt of this information, a decision can be come to as to whether the Steamer *Godavari* should be bought for the ferry or not. Even if a new steamer is purchased, it may be advantageous to have a second vessel for use when the new one is taken off for repair.

3. These papers indicate the necessity for better arrangements being made for the care of the new steamer which it is proposed to purchase (G.O., No. 2294 W., dated 16th August 1883). In addition to the responsibility which will devolve on the Master and Engineer for the condition of the vessel, periodical inspections at Dowlaishweram should be arranged for.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, First Circle.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1883) Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 3rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 3rd Sept. 1883, No. 2469 W.

SEPTEMBER.

Steamer "Godavari"

Passing orders on a report by the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, on the present condition of the — .

16TH AUGUST 1883, No. 2294 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers :—

G.O., dated 26th July 1883, No. 914, Revenue.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th July 1883, No. 1980.

Read—the following G.O., dated 24th March 1883, No. 403, Revenue :—

Read—the following G.O., dated 13th March 1883, No. 818 W., Public Works :—

Read—the following letter from G. T. WALCH, Esq., Officiating Superintending Engineer, First Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 17th February 1883, No. 2783 G.D.

With reference to G.O., No. 3172 W., 2nd December 1882, I have the honor to ask a reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., Revenue Department, No. 921, 4th August 1880, in which it is distinctly said that, in addition to the rent, the Canal and Ferry Fund should provide for current repairs.

2. The steamer and her engines are old, and if Government consents to keep her in repairs, the rent will probably be almost all swallowed up.

3. It would be better to sell the steamer to the ferry for a small sum, say Rs. 8,000, than to hire her out at the present rate and keep her in repair.

Order—dated 13th March 1883, No. 818 W., Public Works.

The Government are of opinion that it would be better to sell the steamer. She will accordingly be put up to auction, when she can be purchased for the ferry if considered desirable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

Order—dated 24th March 1883, No. 403, Revenue.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, who will consider the desirability of purchasing the steamer for the Godavari Ferry, and instruct the Collector as to the action he should take in the matter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Secretary to Government.

Reference, dated 6th April 1883.

Communicated to the Collector of Godavari for early report.

(Signed) J. A. DAVIES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

From C. L. B. CUMMING, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of the Godávári District, dated Rajahmundry, 4th May 1883, No. 207; and Endorsement by W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godávári District, dated 11th June 1883.

In reply to your letter, No. 239, dated the 18th ultimo, I have the honor to state that I have inspected the Steamer *Godávári*, now used for the steam ferry. By appearance she is old, and Mr. Gaitane, the Head Engine Driver, reports that the engines are nearly worn out, and will probably be useless in a short time. The hull also needs repair, and is said to be full of holes. Mr. Gaitane says that the steamer is useful in the flood season, as, from her size and weight, she can make head against a strong current, but she burns a great deal of wood, and is consequently an expensive boat. He advises the purchase of a lighter boat for all seasons, except the flood season, when the *Godávári* might be used if purchased at a cheap rate from the Department of Public Works.

2. I am no judge of boats, but she does not appear to me to be worth the 8,000 rupees named, but if put up to auction, I think we might bid as far as 5,000 rupees. If the engines, however, give way entirely in a short time, I do not see who is to repair them; and I would, on the whole, advise the purchase of a new steamer built on a somewhat similar model, but of lighter make, and to burn less wood, and with similar stowage room for passengers. The upper deck of the *Godávári* is covered with iron plates, which make it very heavy, and the object of which is not clear.

No. 283.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue in reply to their reference on Government Register No. 1321, dated 6th April last.

2. The *Godávári* is hardly worth purchasing, as she is nearly worn out and very expensive to work; but if she goes cheap, it may be worth while to buy her for use when the new steamer which the ferry requires is laid up for repairs.

3. The experience already gained shows that a steam ferry will nearly, if not quite, pay its way, but it ought to be maintained even if the tolls levied fall short of the expenditure, the deficit being met from the Canal and Ferry or other Local Fund. It does not seem necessary to prove at length that general funds may justly be made chargeable for providing facilities for crossing passengers and goods over a river like the *Godávári*.

4. The steamer recommended by Mr. Foster, in his letter, dated 1st December 1879, No. 334, and approved by the Board in their Proceedings, Mis. No. 12194, dated the 24th idem, would be of very little use. The ferry steamer must have power and weight as well as large accommodation for passengers. Carts horses, and cattle have to be taken across in great numbers. Economical working requires that the steamer should not make more than two or three trips a day. She must have, therefore, size and power enough to carry half the passengers and tow the flat boats carrying half the carts and goods likely to be passed across in a single day. For this a steamer like the *Godávári* is required; but she should have some simple form of high pressures engines so as to burn as little wood as possible.

5. The Public Works Department of the Government should be asked to provide a new steamer of a suitable description. The Canal and Ferry Fund of this district can afford to pay 50,000 or even 60,000 rupees, if necessary, for a suitable boat. The undersigned would prefer to leave the details to Engineers who understand them.

6. The *Godávári* is to be sold by auction on the 6th August. If a new steamer cannot be provided by 1st August, and it is not thought advisable to buy the *Godávári*, the steam ferry cannot be worked after that date. If the Board think the *Godávári* should be bought, the figure up to which permission is given to bid should be communicated confidentially. A private purchaser would break her up and sell the materials.

Resolution—dated 11th July 1883, No. 1980.

The Board have no means of forming an independent judgment of the value of the Steamer *Godávári*; but if the Collector is satisfied, by local professional opinion, that the steamer will serve as a ferry-boat for another year or two, without undue risk to the public, he is authorised to bid up to one thousand rupees beyond the figure named by the Sub-Collector. It is noted that the engines are said to be "nearly worn out," and that the hull is said to be "full of holes."

2. With regard to the purchase of a new steamer, the Board would leave to the professional advisers of Government both the selection of a vessel of the type thought most suitable and the question as to whether the hull should be built at Dowlaishweram, as suggested by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in paragraph 4 of the office note, printed with G.O., dated 4th August 1880, No. 921, Revenue Department.

The Board accordingly request that Government will be pleased again to refer this matter to the Public Works Department for final settlement.

The Board would suggest that a limit of Rs. 50,000 might be named as the highest figure that should be sanctioned for the new steamer, delivered at Rajahmundry in working order.

The Collector's remarks in paragraph 4 *supra* appear to deserve particular consideration.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. M. WINTERBOTHAM,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Order—dated 26th July 1883, No. 914, Revenue.

The Board's Proceedings are approved.

2. The subject of paragraph 2 will be referred for consideration in the Public Works Department as suggested.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. BOWEN, Major R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
for Secretary to Government.

ORDER—dated 16th August 1883, No. 2294 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, who will, in communication with the Collector, draw up a specification for a new steamer for the *Godávári* Ferry, which should be sent to the Calcutta Dockyard for plans and estimates.

2. It would appear from the letter of the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, recorded with G.O., No. 921, dated 4th August 1880 (Revenue Department), that plans and specifications for two steamers were obtained from the Secretary of State. These documents are now probably with the Collector, and may be referred to. The smaller of the two steamers was considered suitable by the Board of Revenue.

3. The Superintending Engineer should specially consider whether a wooden hull would not be more suitable than a steel one.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, First Circle.

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. Fernandez.

Spare Copies

9-172

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of 1883 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated August, 16th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 16th Aug. 1883, No. 2294 W.

AUGUST.

Steamer for the Godavari Ferry

The Superintending Engineer, First Circle, ordered, with remarks, to draw up a specification for a new—.

18TH AUGUST 1883, No. 2325 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers :—

Telegram from KHAJAH MAHOMED AMIN KHAN *alias* DODA SAIB, Town Khajee, Rajahmundry, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor of Fort St. George, Nellore, dated 25th July 1883.

Sub-Collector ordered Godavari ferry steamer be sent for auction to Dowlaishweram by Department Public Works 1st proximo. Godavari is in full freshes. Month ago boat sunk, forty passengers died. In previous years also boats were sunk; great loss sustained to passengers and cargo. People fear to cross the river on boats. Humbly request orders to keep the steamer permanently; postpone sale of Godavari steamer till new one supplied; to prohibit passengers going on boats to save loss of lives. Paid for correspondence. Mahajars forwarded. Reply prepaid, two rupees.

Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, to the Superintending Engineer, Dowlaishweram, dated 1st August 1883.

“Defer sale of Steamer *Godavari* till further orders.”

No. 258 E., Public Works.

Copy of the above, and of the telegram from Rajahmundry, dated 25th July, addressed to His Excellency the Governor, forwarded to the Revenue Department with reference to G.O., No. 818 W., dated 13th March 1883, and for expression of opinion as to the retention, or otherwise, of the steamer.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
1st August 1883. Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department.

G.O., dated 3rd August 1883, No. 3206, Revenue.

Read—endorsement of the Public Works Department, dated 1st August 1883, No. 258 E.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding copy of a telegram from Rajahmundry, and of another to the Superintending Engineer, regarding the sale of Steamer *Godavari*, and requesting an expression of opinion as to the retention, or otherwise, of the steamer.

Order—dated 3rd August 1883, No. 3206, Revenue.

The Government in the Revenue Department is decidedly of opinion that the retention of the Steamer *Godavari*, until she can be replaced by a new steamer to be purchased from the Canal and Ferry Fund, is advisable. The fund is in a position to pay for the use of the *Godavari* such rates of hire as may, in the opinion of the Public Works Department, be necessary to cover the cost of repair; and it is desired that this question may be considered in that department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.

ORDER—dated 18th August 1883, No. 2325 W., Public Works.

There is no objection to the retention of the steamer for the use of the ferry, provided all charges, including cost of repair and working expenses, are paid from Ferry Funds. There would be no separate charge for hire.

2. Should the Ferry Fund not be prepared to meet the expense, the steamer will be sold by auction as already ordered in G.O., No. 818 W., dated 13th March 1883, when she can be bought by the Ferry Fund if considered desirable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, First Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

9592
GENERAL
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1883) Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated August, 18th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 18th Aug. 1883, No. 2325 W.

AUGUST.

Steamer "Godavari"

Agreeing to retain the — for the use of
the Rajahmundry Ferry, provided all charges
thereon are paid from Ferry Funds, including
cost of repair and working expenses.

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of the Public
Works Department, dated 3rd Sept^r 1883,
No. 2469 W, passing orders on a report
by the Superintending Engineer, First
Circle, on the present condition of the
Steamer "Godavari".

Order thereon, 11th September 1883, No. 3735.

Communicated to the Board
of Revenue.

2. The Collector should be instructed
to furnish the report called for, at once.

(True Extract)

(Sd/-) H. E. Stokes.

Asy. Secy to Govt.

(True Copy)

C. Unwin. Major R. E.

Under Secy to Govt. P. W. D.

for Secretary to Govt.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

1. Endorsement of the P. W. Department No. 285 E, dated 16 August 1883, transferring with remark, telegram from Town Khajee Mahomed Amer Khan, Rajahmundry, praying that the ferry steamer may be ordered to be put under repair immediately and that meanwhile provision may be made for another steamer.

2. Telegram from the Collector of Godavari dated 18 August 1883:—

"Steamer Godavari was taken off the ferry from 1st August. Engineers say she is unsafe without extensive repairs, engine almost worn out, no accident since. In May passenger boat capsized many passengers drowned. Watch refuses another steamer."

3. Proceedings of the Public Works Department, dated 16 August 1883, No. 2294 H, ordering, with remarks, the Superintending Engineer, First Circle, to draw up a specification for a new steamer for the Godavari ferry.

Order

SW 1
9320/13

9-1-92

NO. 9320

Order thereon, 19 October 1883, No. 4217

Recorded with reference to India:
G.O. dated 11 September 1883, No. 3735.

(True Extract)

C. Unwen. Major R. E.

Under Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.
for Secretary to Govt.

Rev 25/10/13

The Board of Revenue with copies

Cms 5219 & 5258 and one rupee stamp.

P.W. Dept with copy of the notes
G.O. quoted.

A 2294 & 16. P. D. B.
2328 & 18. D. D. B.
2469 & 349 B.

No. 3054 & 29th Oct/83.

Recorded

Recorded

Cy.
26/10

270

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Subd. Receipts