

N.C. No 1012

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

B. No 401 w of 5 Feb 1883

Communicated to
the Supt Engineer
First Circle

Att

372/83

Issued

F.L.C

Recd.

3/2/83

Encl.

G.O., 29th January 1883, No. 176.

JANUARY.

CH 62

B. No 401 w of 5. 2. 83

Port of Cocanada.

Authorising the Accountant-General to hold
the sum of Rs. 53,608 at the disposal of the Master
Attendant on account of improvements to the —.

Dg 62

62

S. E. First Circle
Office

Jan 20/83

Northward
Subd. to Receipts

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., dated 20th November 1882, No. 1735, Financial.

Read—the following G.O., dated 31st October 1882, No. 2852 W., Public Works.

Read—the following letter from J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieut., R.N.R., Master Attendant, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 13th October 1882, No. 8761.

Administrative Department.

I have the honor to forward herewith a more complete statement regarding the port of Cocanada than that afforded in my letter of 29th August last, No. 7581.

2. I must first, however, express my regret that the Government Order relating to the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer's assistance did not reach me until my return to Madras, so that I lost the benefit of their advice and co-operation. However I hope, if they approve generally of the extension of the groynes, the information I have secured will enable Government to come to a decision on a point so very important to the interests of the port.

3. I find that great changes have taken place in the river, which has greatly deepened and assumed a compact form, so that, instead of the ebb water and freshes of the Godáviri spreading silt all over Cocanada Bay as formerly, it may fairly be assumed that it will in future go out to sea, and the numerous streamlets which did so much mischief gradually dry up. This action is already going on. Thus one difficulty in the way of improving the Cocanada river seems much diminished. I send the chart (to be returned) I took with me on which the new river is drawn over the old one and a good idea afforded of the probable advantages to the bay. Then a very great point will be carried by turning the river mouth to the north-east, which cannot be done without great addition to the length of the groyne, for the sand in the bight formed by the north pier has a tendency to accumulate and overlaps now the present pier end. The tides from the north will enter the river mouth without any divergence, and the ebb from the bay and river leading to Yanam and Coringa will sweep north-eastwards along the side of the groynes, and, joined by the river ebb, will, I consider, greatly help to reduce the bar. I may observe here that my brother, Commander A. D. Taylor, late Superintendent, Marine Surveys of India, is with me now, and, after a thirty years' surveying acquaintance with Cocanada, is able to speak confidently about it. He is of opinion that the easiest and most hopeful method of improvement is to lengthen and curve the groynes as proposed. We hope there will not be the same inducement to form bar as heretofore. Another important circumstance in favor of this method of improvement is the universal favor in which it is held by the whole community. This general opinion is founded upon experiences of boatmen, observation of intelligent inhabitants, opinion of ship-masters, &c., and is

the conclusion arrived at after years of discussion; so strong is this conviction that I am able to forward with this letter a memorial from the European merchants and Chamber of Commerce, to which is added the signatures of the Native merchants, which I thought it advisable to procure to satisfy Government as to the universal desire.

4. This memorial suggests and approves the levy of a small tax upon all articles landed or shipped, and is sufficient to provide for a sinking fund and interest upon the capital borrowed for the occasion, amounting to about Rs. 6,000 per annum,—a sum so small in proportion to the trade of this flourishing port that it will be inappreciable in its effects. Now, as the work cannot be—and is admitted by the mercantile community not to be—a legitimate charge upon Port Funds, particularly now that all Imperial contribution has ceased, the method proposed is one that strongly recommends itself, and the sum may reasonably be lent on such conditions out of the unexpended balance of Port Funds. I may mention in connection with this subject that I took the opinions of as many European merchants as I could find at Masulipatam, Vizagapatam, and Bimlipatam, and found them all in favor of similar arrangements for any improvement to their several ports. This seems to me to be evidently the method by which moderate measures of relief can be granted in future, and I beg respectfully to recommend it to the attention of Government. I have caused tenders to be called for in connection with the contemplated extension, and out of seven tenders I find that sent in by Messrs. Thalatum Swami and Vasireddi Kamarazu is the lowest, and the tenderers are prepared with good security.

5. Their tender of Rs. 53,608-5-0 brings the work into a much more favorable position than that presented by the first estimate, and the sum may well be lent on the terms offered. It will, however, be necessary, if Government approves and entertains the scheme, that the short Harbour Bill for Madras now preparing for the levy of dues on goods should be extended to Cocanada. In this event also I would respectfully advise that, as the interests of the merchants will be more directly affected than heretofore, a Board should be invited to co-operate with the Port Officer in carrying out the work and satisfying the community that the contractor's agreement is duly carried out, and also generally assist in the conservancy of the river. The public will thus acquire a better idea of the difficulties that reasonably arise in such a situation, and will not be able to bring complaints before Government until all reasonable efforts have failed from their own point of view. The Port Officer, Mr. Gilham, would necessarily be the executive officer, and for this large increase to his work and exposure I think the enterprise should be charged with some reasonable addition to his present pay. He has not received any increase for the extra work of dredging and attending to the plant and other duties that used to be carried out by the Department of Public Works, but which since 1875 have fallen upon him.

6. As other members of the Board I would suggest Mr. Nixon, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, who is warmly interested in the improvement of the port; Mr. Bryce, Agent for the British India Steam Navigation Company; and Mr. Ramakrishna, a Native gentleman who is most widely and favorably held in estimation wherever good has to be done in the public interest. The size of the boats will then be one matter that will engage their attention. It is admitted that they must, from the nature of things, be of large size, but there may be a limit to draft of water, which the altered condition of things will impose.

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Order—dated 31st October 1882, No. 2852, W., Public Works.

The Government approve of the proposals of the Master Attendant for the improvement of the Port of Cocanada at an approximate cost of Rs. 53,608. An estimate in proper form will be framed under the orders of the Superintending Engineer and submitted for formal sanction.

2. Meanwhile the question of the provision of the requisite funds will be considered in the Financial Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) ROSS THOMPSON, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
" Superintending Engineer, First Circle, with Chart and Estimate.
" Financial Department.

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Before finally approving any scheme for providing the requisite funds in the manner suggested, the Collector of Godavari will be requested to consult the Local Chamber of Commerce and submit a report upon Captain Taylor's proposals.

2. In the meantime the papers will be communicated to the Select Committee on the Madras Harbour Dues Bill in view to the addition of a clause to that Bill giving Government the power to extend its provisions to other ports.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Hon. H. E. Sullivan,
" the Advocate-General, } Members of the Select Committee
" T. Rama Rao,
" A. Mackenize,
" Collector of Godavari.
" Master Attendant, Madras.
" Public Works Department.

READ—also the following papers:—

Extract from a Report of the Select Committee, dated Madras, 21st November 1882.

Para. 6. We have considered the suggestion referred to us by Financial Proceedings of Government, No. 1735, dated 20th November 1882, to take power in the Bill to extend its provisions to other ports. We think that there are serious difficulties in the way of inserting a clause to this effect, and that the prior sanction of the Governor-General would probably be required. As this would entail delay we think it better to omit the provision suggested.

From W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godáviri District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Peddakonda Hill, 23rd December 1882, No. 3.

In reply to G.O., 20th November 1882, No. 1735, Financial, I have the honor to inform you that the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, entirely approves of Captain Taylor's, proposals for the improvement of the Port of Cocanada, and is anxious to see the work put in hand at the earliest possible date.

2. The trade of the port last year amounted to 143 lakhs, and is steadily increasing. The tax on this trade, required to raise Rs. 6,000 a year will be quite inappreciable, and the amount raised will recoup the whole outlay before, even on the worst supposition, navigation can be seriously impeded by the formation of a fresh bar.

3. The gentlemen named by Captain Taylor in paragraph 6 would make very good members of the Board, but I would prefer leaving the nomination to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chairman for the year should always be on the Board.

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2. The Local Board, which has been suggested to co-operate with the Port Officer in carrying out the work, will consist of the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, and two other members to be nominated by the Chamber of Commerce.

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G. A. Taylor
Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant.

„ Collector of Godáviri.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Aubert.

N.C. No 10/2

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North India
Sd/- to Receipt Book

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Order—dated 31st October 1882, No. 2852, W., Public Works.

The Government approve of the proposals of the Master Attendant for the improvement of the Port of Cocanada at an approximate cost of Rs. 53,608. An estimate in proper form will be framed under the orders of the Superintending Engineer and submitted for formal sanction.

2. Meanwhile the question of the provision of the requisite funds will be considered in the Financial Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) ROSS THOMPSON, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.

" Superintending Engineer, First Circle, with Chart and Estimate.
" Financial Department.

Order—dated 20th November 1882, No. 1735, Financial.

Before finally approving any scheme for providing the requisite funds in the manner suggested, the Collector of Godavari will be requested to consult the Local Chamber of Commerce and submit a report upon Captain Taylor's proposals.

2. In the meantime the papers will be communicated to the Select Committee on the Madras Harbour Dues Bill in view to the addition of a clause to that Bill giving Government the power to extend its provisions to other ports.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Hon. H. E. Sullivan,

" the Advocate-General, } Members of the Select Committee
" T. Rama Rao,
" A. Mackenize,
" Collector of Godavari.
" Master Attendant, Madras.
" Public Works Department.

READ—also the following papers:—

Extract from a Report of the Select Committee, dated Madras, 21st November 1882.

Para. 6. We have considered the suggestion referred to us by Financial Proceedings of Government, No. 1735, dated 20th November 1882, to take power in the Bill to extend its provisions to other ports. We think that there are serious difficulties in the way of inserting a clause to this effect, and that the prior sanction of the Governor-General would probably be required. As this would entail delay we think it better to omit the provision suggested.

From W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godáviri District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Peddakonda Hill, 23rd December 1882, No. 3.

In reply to G.O., 20th November 1882, No. 1735, Financial, I have the honor to inform you that the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, entirely approves of Captain Taylor's, proposals for the improvement of the Port of Cocanada, and is anxious to see the work put in hand at the earliest possible date.

2. The trade of the port last year amounted to 143 lakhs, and is steadily increasing. The tax on this trade, required to raise Rs. 6,000 a year will be quite inappreciable, and the amount raised will recoup the whole outlay before, even on the worst supposition, navigation can be seriously impeded by the formation of a fresh bar.

3. The gentlemen named by Captain Taylor in paragraph 6 would make very good members of the Board, but I would prefer leaving the nomination to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chairman for the year should always be on the Board.

ORDER—dated 29th January 1883, No. 176, Financial.

As the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, entirely approves of the proposals for the improvement of the Port of Cocanada, and is anxious to see the work put in hand at the earliest possible date, the Accountant-General is authorised to hold the sum of Rs. 53,608 at the disposal of the Master Attendant. The amount will be lent from Port Funds on the conditions specified in paragraph 4 of the Master Attendant's letter, recorded in G.O., No. 1735, dated 20th November 1882. But as legislation will be needed to make the imposition of the tax legally obligatory, the Government of India will be addressed.

2. The Local Board, which has been suggested to co-operate with the Port Officer in carrying out the work, will consist of the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada, and two other members to be nominated by the Chamber of Commerce.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant.

„ Collector of Godáviri.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Erd. A. Aubert

P. W. Septt

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 29th January 1883, No. 176.

JANUARY.

No 401 Wd 5 February 83.

*Communicated to
the Suppl. Engrs, Fort. Cich*

*sd/JP
24.11.*

Port of Cocanada.

Authorising the Accountant-General to hold
the sum of Rs. 53,608 at the disposal of the Master
Attendant on account of improvements to the —.

J. M. Suppl. Engrs, Fort. Cich