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MIL NADU ARCHIVES

ERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

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Dated 27. 6. 1884. 197 .

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1618-19
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from J. C. SHAW, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Ootacamund, dated Madras, 19th June 1884 :—

The Chamber has to acknowledge the courtesy of the Madras Government in obtaining from the Government of India sanction for the communication of the Home Government's decision to keep open the eastern entrance of the Madras Harbour.

2. It is incumbent upon me to inform you that the Chamber cordially endorses what it has reason to believe is the objection of this Government to the maintenance of an eastern entrance. The opinion in favor of that entrance, which has been expressed by the Special Committee of distinguished Civil Engineers appointed by the Secretary of State to consider the subject, is one that necessarily commands the respect of the Chamber; but, on the other hand, the personal experience of the conditions of this port and coast, and a keen appreciation of the drawbacks that have attended the original plan, should be accepted as ample excuse for the expression of the Chamber's dissent from the Committee's conclusion. The Chamber is under the impression that the eastern entrance was condemned by General Sir Arthur Cotton, R.E., before the work was begun; and, in regard to this matter, it feels constrained to attach more value to the very extensive local knowledge and great professional attainments of that distinguished officer than it can give to the decision of a committee formed of gentlemen who, however professionally distinguished, are, so far as the Chamber is aware, unacquainted personally with the Coromandel Coast. Moreover, the Chamber's confidence in professional as distinct from local knowledge has not been strengthened by the obvious failure of the harbour as an engineering work. It yielded to the first strain of any magnitude that was put upon it, and that strain was small as compared with what the work would have been subjected to had it been in existence when the cyclone of 1872 visited Madras.

3. The Chamber earnestly submits that it is essential to the procuring of smooth water within the harbour, even in comparatively mild, and much more then in positively rough, weather, that the harbour should be protected by an unbroken breakwater or pier from the extreme eastern end of the southern pier to a point opposite the corresponding end of the north pier. The Chamber bases its opinion of the necessity for this continuous breakwater or pier, not upon the observation of the disturbed state of the water since the eastern piers were wrecked, but by a recollection of the swell that rendered shipping operations difficult when the harbour was on the point of completion. The sea rushed through the narrow opening, and immediately it penetrated into the harbour, the swell extended right and left and made the enclosed water tumultuous, as compared with the state of the water on the leeside of the harbour. The entrance at the north-eastern corner, which has the approval of the local authorities, seems to the Chamber to be far preferable from every point of view than the proposed return to a plan which has been tried and has failed.

4. The Chamber would, therefore, beg that the Government of India may be informed that the Chamber has given due consideration to the subject, and has been driven to the conclusion that it would be hazardous and impolitic to disallow the recommendation that has been made by local authorities for a north-eastern, in lieu of an eastern, entrance to the Madras Harbour.

1618-19
1

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ORDER—dated 27th June 1884, No. 1618 W., Public Works.

Ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India, in continuation of letter No. 1437 W., dated 9th June 1884.

(Here enter No. 1619 W., dated 27th June 1884.)

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Marine Department.

Exd. P. L. Percira.
Spare Copies

1618-19/2

2

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated June, 27th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 27th June 1884, No. 1618 W.

JUNE.

Madras Harbour

Letter from the Madras Chamber of Commerce objecting to the Home Government's decision to keep open the eastern entrance of the —, ordered to be forwarded to the Government of India.

27TH JUNE 1884, No. 1619 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

1618-19
3

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

LETTER—from

COLONEL J. SHAW-STEWART, R.E.,

Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Adverting to my letter, No. 1437 W., dated 9th June 1884, I am directed to forward, for the consideration of the Government of India, a copy of the accompanying letter from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, in which the proposal to maintain an eastern opening for the Madras Harbour is strongly objected to. The Chamber of Commerce consider that the proposed entrance at the north-eastern angle is "far preferable from every point of view," while they are of opinion that experience has already proved the eastern opening to be a failure.

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

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

OOTACAMUND,
27th June 1884.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.
Spare Copies

3

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of Madras, 1884

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated June, 27th.

Recd. *Encl.*

27th June 1884, No. 1619.

JUNE.

Madras Harbour

Copy of letter from the Madras Chamber of Commerce objecting to the Home Government's decision to keep open the eastern entrance of the —, forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India.

16/8-9

Chamber of Commerce

Madras 19th June 84.

From

The Chairman,

Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

To

The Secretary to Government, P.W.D,

Ootacamund.

Sir,

The Chamber has to acknowledge the courtesy of the Madras Government in obtaining from the Government of India sanction for the communication of the Home Governments' decision to keep open the Eastern entrance of the Madras Harbour.

It is incumbent upon me to inform you that the Chamber cordially endorses what it has reason to

believe

believe is the objection of this Govern-
-ment to the maintenance of an Eas-
tern entrance. The opinion in favour
of that entrance which has been ex-
pressed by the Special Committee
of distinguished Civil Engineers appoin-
-ted by the Secretary of State to consider
the subject is one that necessarily commands
the respect of the Chamber, but, on the other
hand, the personal experience of the
conditions of this port and Coast, and
a keen appreciation of the draw-backs
that have attended the orginal plan,
should be accepted as ample excuse
for the expression of the Chamber's dis-
-sent from the Committees conclusion.
The Chamber is under the impression
that the Eastern Entrance was con-
-demned by General Sir Arthur
Cotton R.E. before the work was
begun

1618-19 1/2

begun, and in regard to this matter
it feels constrained to attach more
value to the very extensive local know-
ledge and great professional
attainments of that distinguished
officer than it can give to the decision
of a Committee formed of gentlemen,
who, however professionally distinguished
are, so far as the Chamber is aware,
unacquainted personally with the
Coromandel Coast. Moreover the
Chamber's confidence in professional
as distinct from local knowledge
has not been strengthened by the
obvious failure of the Harbour as
an engineering work. It yielded
to the first strain of any magni-
-tude that was put upon it, and
that strain was small as com-
pared with what the work would
have been subjected to, had it been

SA. in

in existence when the Cyclone of 1872 visited Madras.

The Chamber earnestly submits that it is essential to the procuring of smooth water within the Harbour, even in comparatively mild, and much more than in positively rough weather, that the Harbour should be protected by an unbroken breakwater, or pier, from the extreme Eastern end of the southern pier to a point opposite the corresponding end of the north pier. The Chamber bases its opinion of the necessity for this continuous breakwater, or pier, not upon the observation of the disturbed state of the water since the Eastern piers were wrecked, but by a recollection of the swell that rendered shipping operations difficult when the Harbour was on the

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The Chamber would, therefore, beg that the Government of India may be informed that the Chamber has given due consideration to the subject, and has been driven to the conclusion that

it

1618-19
6

it would be hazardous and impoli-
tic, to disallow the recommendation
that has been made by local autho-
rities for a north-eastern, in lieu
of an eastern entrance to the Madras
Harbour.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obed[t] Servant,
H. Law
Chairman

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Gov. Coss 1335=64, 1436=64, 1437=64

23 JUL 84

1618/27 June 1884

0/S. 87/16.

Civ

No: 1618 W

1618 P.W. & Marine

P.W. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

under date the 27th June 1884

Read the following:—

Letter from the Chairman
Chamber of Commerce
Madras — N.E. No — d/ 19 June/84.

Ordered to be for=
=warded to the Govern=
=ment of India, in con=
=tinuation of letter No
1437 W d/ 9th June/84.

(N.E. No 1619 d/ 27th)

To
The Secretary to the
Government of India
P.W. Dept.

Sir,

Adverting to my
letter No 1437. W dated

Marine Dept.

9th June/84, I am directed
to forward for the Con-
sideration of the Govern-
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experience has already
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opening

opening to be a failure.

1618/84
to 1621.
23-6-84

9

Recd 27/9/84

1/7/84

25 JUN 84
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1618-19
11

Mss. 87/6 Lia. 23/6.
Refd

(63)
(64)
Mar 31
Dec 1st

27 January 1812

Prudent Baubien

W/N 22

Letter from Mr Prudent
Chamber of Commerce
Ogdensburg to the Hon
Secretary of State
with Decision to keep
open the Eastern Custom
House
of this
ordered to be forwarded
to the Collector of Customs
at Sackets Harbor

Copy of Letter from the
Regents Chamber of Commerce
Ogdensburg, to the Hon Secty of
State, with Decision to keep open the
Eastern Custom House of the
District of the Carleton and
Sackets Harbor

P.S. 87/6 Lic 23/6.
Refd