To

His Excellency the Right Honorable
Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff
Governor of the Presidency
of Fort St. George, and its
Dependencies

May it please your Excellency

We the undersigned + Inhabitants of St. Thomé respectfully beg to invite your Excellency's attention to our Petition dated 25th March 1882. praying that the nuisance from the swamps around the Quibble Island may be remedied.-

Up to this moment nothing has been done to alleviate the evil, & it is with much regret we bring to your Excellency's notice the prevalence of Small pox and malarious Fever in St. Thomé.-

Begging that the subject
of

of our petition may receive
Early attention.

We beg to remain
Your Excellency's
most Obedient Servants

St. Thomé
~~July~~ 1883
20th Augt.

J. B. Gonsalves
W. Grant.
E. M. Lungelo N.C.S.
Donald Zalden
F. C. Hammer
E. H. Ellis
Bauchew.
Wm. A. P. Reu Conke by Sm.
B. Hennessy
J. N. Jackson
H. Pereira
Thomas Lazaro
A. J. Bush
G. Wm. Hensweny Chief

Sir John S. Pixley
G. Rochdale Murray

Fml

13

12

PW Re. 11
~~10983/83~~
~~259/84~~
3661

CHIEF SECRETARY
23 AUG 83
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

2
Rev: 3239/84

W. No. 160 E d 27-5-82
" 360 E d 5-7-82
" 171 E d 29-5-82

No. 1714

Transferred to the Public Works Dept: in continuation of petition d the 25th March 1882.

(By Order)

FW

Ag Under Secretary

otacamund
Septr /83

S 5.9
Ci 7/9 R 10/9

3
Rw: 3239/84

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[9]

Rev. No. 7842
10983

Financial (1883) Dept.

From the Inhabitants of Saint Thome Madras

No. 2609

Dated 20 Augt /83
Received 23 do
~~Recd 12/9/83~~
Enclosures /

SUBJECT.

Praying that the nuisance from the swamp around the Quibble Island may be remedied.

8
Rw 7453/83

1
Rw 270/84

No. 2354

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
5TH CIRCLE, MADRAS,
Chepauk, 26th September 1883.

From
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
5TH CIRCLE,

To
THE Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

Enclosures.

SIR,

With reference to G.O. No. 2607 W dated 15th Instant. I have the honor to report that the Executive Engineer of the Buckingham Canal has taken cross sections, but not prepared an estimate. The Deputy Collector of Madras lately asked if there was any objection to the transfer of the Swamp to the Municipality with a view to its being reclaimed for Casurina plantation

Pw. CW. 7842

plantation, and the Executive Engineer said in reply on the 24th Ultimo, that there was no objection. The Executive Engineer then considered that the P. W. Department would have nothing further to do with the Project.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt Servant

Andw Prendergast Colle R.E.
Superintg Engr
5th Circle

Chepauk
4th Octr. /83

No. 1870 C

Referred to the Financial Deptt for favor of information as to what action the Municipality propose to take in the matter —

2. The previous papers are forwarded in original, to be returned

(By order)

C. Unwin. Major R.E.
Under Secretary to Govt, P.W.D.

4
Rev. 3239/84

10/9
~~[illegible]~~
Ir. No. 8384
~~4974/[illegible]~~
~~1496[illegible]~~
~~4[illegible]/84~~
3861

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
5TH CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer
P.W.D.

Dated 26th
Recd. 28 } September 1883.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 2354

Reclamation of the Swamp near St. Thome by the Madras Municipality — Reporting about the —

Referred

No 1965

Referred to the Presidt Madras Municipality for early report.

(By order)

Ag Under Secretary

Note—This ^file of^ papers should be returned with reply.

Ootacamund, 8 OCT 83

5
Rev. 3239/84

9[…]

Fuel 1883.

Public Works Department.

10
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8

P.W. ~~993/83~~
~~109/83~~
~~259~~/84
3689

No. 1870-C

Dated 4th October 1883

Despatched

Received 5 —

CURRENT No. 3182

SUBJECT.

Referring for favor of information letter from the Superintending Engineer 5th Circle regarding the reclamation of the swamp near St. Thome —

CHIEF SECRETARY
6 OCT 83
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

7
Rev 7463/83

6
Rev 2710/82

P. W. C. No. 1053.

Municipal Office,
PUBLIC WORKS AND CONSERVANCY DEPARTMENT,
Madras, 6th November 1883.

From A. J. Arundel Esq.
President, Municipal Commission,

To The Honble C. G. Master,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

SIR,

In returning the papers accompanying the Under Secretary's endorsement No. 1965 dated 8th October I have the honor to inform you that the proposal for reclaiming the swamp south of St. Thomé forms the subject of my letter No. 663 dated 25th July 1883, on which the orders of Government are still awaited.

2. I understand from the report of Col. Burton R. E. that there is no objection to the scheme on the part of the D. P. W. and I propose with the approval of Government to carry out this most desirable improvement

from

from Municipal Funds. I beg if the measure be sanctioned that the swamp may be made over to the Municipality for occupation free of Quit-rent in order that such portions as can be reclaimed may be utilized for Casuarina plantations and other similar purposes. The area of the swamp is I believe entered as Perumboke or Unassessed Waste so that the ordinary Quit-rent rules do not apply to it.

8/9
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E
~~9971/83~~
~~10983~~
~~257~~/84
3861

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

A. T. Arundel
President
Municipal Commission.

C.S.
338
CM

6
Rev. 3239/84

No. 2157

Transferred to the Public Works department with reference to endorsement D. 4th October 1883. No 1870. C —

(By order)

~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]
10/11/83 [illegible] Under Secy.

7
Rev. 3239/84

P.W. C. No. ~~9971~~
~~4983/82~~
~~259/82~~
366/n

1883.

Madras Municipality.

FROM

THE PRESIDENT,
Municipal Commission,
MADRAS.

To The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

P.W. C. No. 1053

Dated. CURRENT No. 3594

Despd. 6. Nov. 1883

Recd. ~~Recd 12/11/83~~

Enc. 11. 3 + 1 file

Subject.

Returns the papers which accompanied the Under Secy's Endorsement No 1965 dated 8th Oct. & request to make over the swamp near St Thome free of quit rent for reclamation —

6
Rev. 7153/83

S. A. 5

5
Rev. 2107/84

Revenue Department.

No. 421.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

With reference to Memorandum of the Public Works Department, dated 23rd November 1883, No. 2308 C, it is requested that the boundaries of the land which can be transferred to the Municipality may be marked on the tracing, which forms an accompaniment to the letter of the President of the Municipality dated 25th July last, and that the Executive Engineer's report of the 29th June preceding, referred to in the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 12th November No. 2856, may be furnished for reference.

2. The papers received with the Memorandum under acknowledgement are herewith returned.

Fort Saint George
7th December 1883

[illegible]
Secretary to Govt.

To
The Public Works Department,
with 8 original enclosures.

D.M.

Reg No 4739

D.W. C. No 14983
257/84

Chepauk
15th Decr/83

No. 2503C

Forwarded to the Supdg Engr: Fifth Circle in view to the boundaries being marked on the tracing

The previous papers are forwarded for reference and return.

(By order)

C. Unwin. Major R.E.
Under Secy to Govt PWD

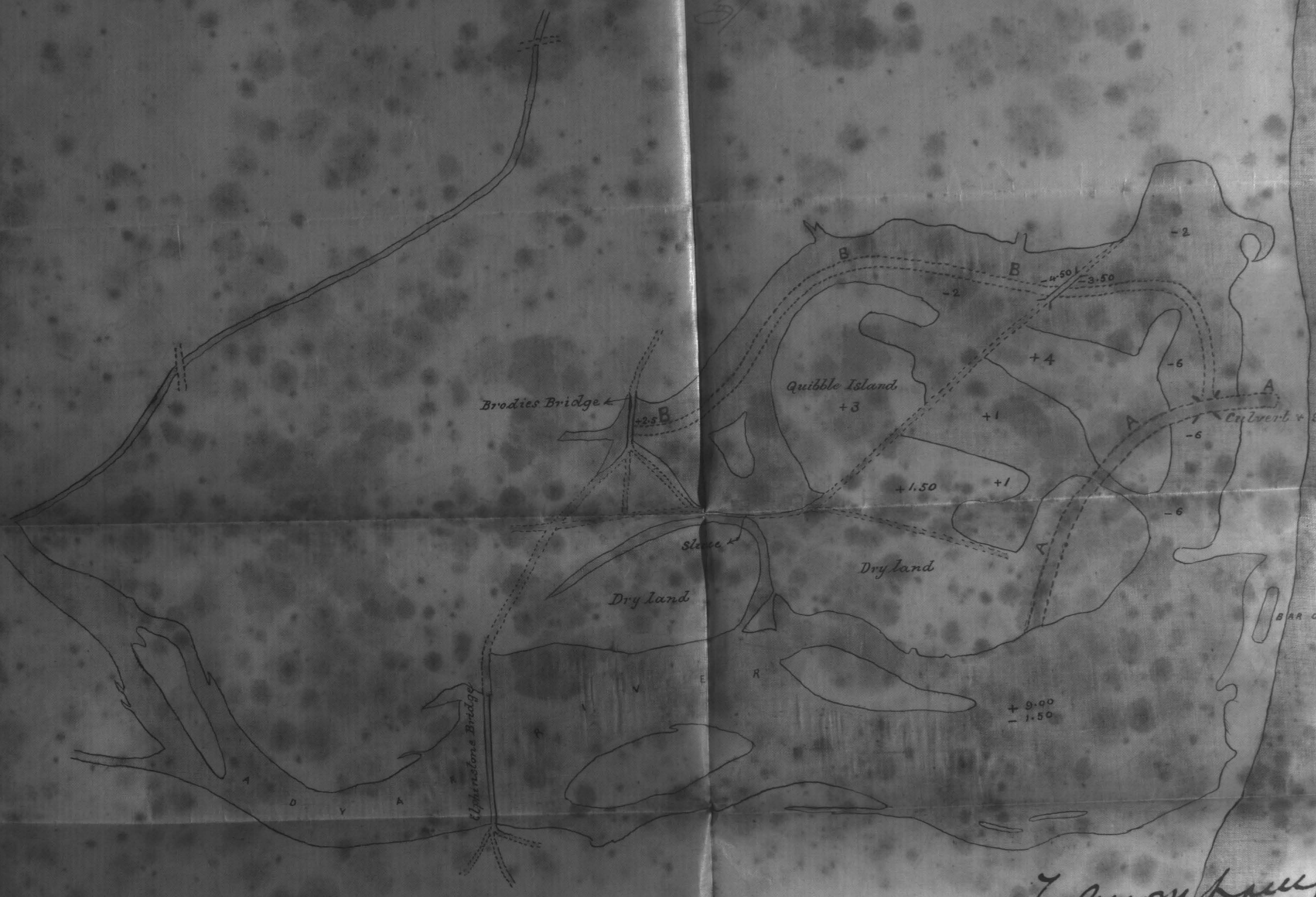
~~Rec 10/12/83~~

Enc 12 (+ plan)

Forwarded

Madras
St Thomé 25th March 1882

St Thomé 25th March 1882



To accompany Report of this date to the Chief Engineer

W H Burton
Lt. Col. R.E.

20/5/82

No 4739

Chikaak

D.W.C. No 4983
259/14

Madras
St. Thomé, 25th March 1882.

Chepauk

Madras
St. Thomé, 25th March 1882.

CURRENT No. 1057

To

His Excellency

The Right Honorable

Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant-Duff,

GOVERNOR OF THE PRESIDENCY OF

FORT ST. GEORGE AND ITS DEPENDENCIES,

MADRAS.

May it please your Excellency,

We, the undersigned landowners and residents of St. Thomè, beg most respectfully to address your Excellency on a subject which we feel is of vital importance to us, and we earnestly solicit that your Excellency would be graciously pleased to accord to it the consideration commensurate with its gravity.

2. Your Excellency is doubtless acquainted with the situation of the Quibble Island which lies between the two not unimportant suburbs of Madras—St. Thomè and the Adyar—and is formed by the back water of the Adyar river inundating the surrounding lowlands. These lowlands, being lower than the level of the Adyar river, get submerged both during the monsoons and when freshes in the Adyar set in, and once submerged the water stagnates and rapidly decomposes, thus contaminating the atmosphere and spreading the germs of disease round about the locality. This takes place even when the bar is open, thus clearly proving that the outlet to the sea is altogether insufficient. During the hot season, the danger is a hundred-fold increased. The low lands now present one huge plague-spot, being, at this time of the year, converted into an extensive marsh which traverses a length of a mile and a half inland, and forms the boundary line dividing off St. Thomé from the Adyar.

3. This marsh is disgusting alike to the sight and smell. Saturated with bilge water and strewn with dead fish and noxious vegetation in the various stages of decomposition, the miasmata that must necessarily exude therefrom poison the whole neighbourhood, and are, by the aid of a strong long shore wind which blows for the greater part of the year, carried into the adjacent suburbs of Mylapore and the Luz. If we trace the course of the Adyar, we find that it runs through Sydapett underneath the Marmalong Bridge, the notorious haunt of Dhobies; and a great part of the filth that is thus brought down to the Adyar must necessarily escape into the marsh and add to its reputation for being a huge cesspool.

4. We know of no time of the year in which St. Thomè experiences an immunity from fevers and other kindred diseases, and we have no hesitation in pointing to the marsh and low lands as the hot-bed of those malignant and virulent diseases which render the popular suburb of St. Thomè particularly unhealthy. Of these evils, Surgeon-General Cornish is perfectly aware, as we are informed that he spoke of them to the Secretary to the Managing Committee of the St. Thomé Dispensary when he inspected St. Thomé during the outbreak of cholera in December last.

5. Since the last few years, St. Thomé has become studded with Seminaries and Orphanages,—for instance the Famine Orphanage, which is now located at Leith's Castle, in front of which lies a vast portion of this very marsh which is the subject of our grievance,—and it will be no unreasonable assumption to view these institutions, if once seized by any epidemic, as so many touch-wicks that would spread the infection and enable it to linger long in the neighbourhood.

6. From the above, your Excellency will see that sanitary reform in this locality is much needed, and is indeed, in a very great degree, more urgent than elsewhere in the Presidency Town.

To find a remedy for these evils has engaged our attention for some time, and if we are permitted, we would, with all due deference, submit for your Excellency's kind consideration alternative schemes which suggest themselves to us, for the removal of the nuisance.

7. *Firstly.*—The extension of the Buckingham Canal from Brodie's bridge to the Adyar bar, bringing it around the Quibble Island cemetery, right through the marsh, thereby draining the back water of the Adyar now forming the marsh, and confining it within the proposed branch canal, as shown in the accompanying survey of the locality. The proposed branch is supposed to be of about a mile and a half in length, of which only half a mile will be entirely a new work, while the remaining one mile will need but very little dredging and excavating along most of its length.

8. The advantages of this scheme will, amongst other things, be the availability of large tracts of the reclaimed land for casuarina and other plantations, which would be productive of benefit to the people and Government alike.

9. *Secondly.*—The filling up of the marsh.

Some fifteen years or so ago, this marsh had an outlet, the site of which is the present Volunteer Butts, formed by a process of reclamation—a process that may be advantageously pursued, if it is determined that the marsh should be filled up.

P.W. Ent. 5
432

~~P.W. Ent. 5
3381~~

10. Both the above schemes will entail some outlay, which may be appreciably reduced by the employment of convict labour. But expense, whatever it be, must not be put in competition with the great advantages that would accrue from the accomplishment of such a work. And let us confidently hope that this will be numbered among the many good works with which your Excellency's regime in this Presidency is to be associated.

11. Finally, we respectfully beg to submit that this is not the first occasion that the subject of this marsh has been urged for the consideration of Government; for we are told by some of the oldest inhabitants of the place, that so far back as the year 1848, estimates were *sanctioned* for protective works for confining the waters of the Adyar, and traces of these works are still to be seen near the cemetery bridge. Indeed, we have cause to suspect that even at an earlier period, the subject seemed to have occupied the attention of Lieut-General SIR FREDERICK ADAM, the then Governor, some time between the years 1832 and 1837.

12. Sanguine that the foregoing circumstances will be favorably viewed,

We beg most respectfully to remain,
Your Excellency's most obedient servants.

With 5 Spare
Copies –

J. B. Gonsalves
M. Kenny
E. H. Elliot
J. W. Jackson
P. Scorplett
F. Nowlandz
W. Grant
G. Rosdale Murray
R. Brannon
W. Branson
J. A. Smith

Donald Calder
R. Parsons
F. C. Hammer
R. Pereira
F. Michael
E. Flanders
A. P. DeCeles
S. Sutton
W. H. Wilkins
Geo. La Fontaine
H. Mower
John S. Kirby
Geo. Thomson
J. L. Oughton
C. Bush
C. D. Castellas
D. Savarimuthu
John Rodrigues

Wm. R. M. Fitzgerald
Thos. Hector
J. Hilbert
A. S. Pringle
E. A. Shute
S. Ramasawmy Moodelliar
E. M. Angelo
Gopaul Mahadeva Chetty
L. H. D'Cruz
P. Vencatachellum
S. de Souza
F. J. Pires
P. Woodman
A. O'Neill
W. C. Jordan
J. Dinnley
J. H. Castor

1/314
18-4-82

EMh 245
10/4/82

3/1325
2/6/82

P. W. Sm.4 of 82
4327

~~P.W. Sml.4~~/82
~~3328~~

Petition from *The Residents of Saint Thomé.*

Dated *25th March 1882.*

TRANSFERRED to *Chief* Secretary to Government, ~~Department.~~

(By Order.)

A. Awdry. Captain R.E.

Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
31st Mar 1882.

(1882) DEPARTMENT

From

THE Private SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

Chief SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
~~DEPARTMENT.~~

Dated } 31st Mar 1882.
Recd. }

ENCLOSURE.

No. 6

Subject.

Praying for se Sanitary reform in their locality:-

Represent that the swamps around the Quibble Island are disgusting alike to the sight and smell & are hot-beds of poison, which is carried into the adjacent suburbs of Mylapore & the Luz.

Pray that this state of things may be remedied either by the extension of the Buckingham canal from Brodie's bridge to the Adyar bar, bringing it right through the marsh, or that the marshy ground may be filled up.

No. 9 E.

P.W.C. 314 / 18-4-82

Referred to the Supg. Engineer 5th Circle for report.

2. Apart from the proposed diversion of the Canal the feasibility of reclaiming much of the at present useless backwater might be considered.

R H Sankey Col: R.E.

Secy: to Govt. P.W.D.

14th April 1882.

To,
The Supg. Engr. 5th Circle
in original to be retd.

P.W.C. No. ~~2343~~

Petition (1882) DEPARTMENT.

1/1325 · 245 / 20/4/82

Fruit

From Messrs J. B. Gonsalves E. H. Elliot and others, landowners + residents of St Thome

No.

Dated 25th } March }
Recd. 4th } April } 1882.

Encl. one petn. & 5 spare copies of petn.

Recd 17 [illegible]

CURRENT No. 1057

SUBJECT.

Sanitation

Referred

Rw 11/10/82

Enclosure
1 Sketch tracing

No. 583 Supt. Engrs Office
5th Circle Bangalore 20th May 1882
Despd. 22nd

From
The Offg. Superintdg. Engineer
5th Circle

To
The Chief Engineer
P.W.D.

Sir

I have the honor to make a preliminary report in view of your Reminder No. 9 E dated 11th May 1882 concerning the possible drainage of Quibble Island & the petition relating thereto.

I am unable to send the petition, as on its first receipt from you. I delivered it to the Executive Engineer Buckingham Canal with a request that he would have certain levels taken. there being no data whatsoever obtainable on this essential point: Mr. Ottmann has now gone up the Canal and is out of reach: & has furnished no levels.

From other & various enquiries made

I believe the condition of the Adyar water is generally this, when its bar is open, at every low tide its level goes down to the level −1, or 1′ below Mean Sea Level - When the bar is closed the level of Adyar water may be up to, but will not as a rule exceed; ✗ 7.50 above Mean Sea Level: there is very great variation in the height but this will not affect the following Remedy.

X under existing orders the bar should always be opened when the level is 3.5′ above MSL

To prevent the Swamping complained of by the petitioners, as far as is probably possible, it will probably be necessary to keep out the tidal and land water [which raises the Adyar & the Swamp &ca around Quibble Island to the level +4.55 & 7.50 at times] by some embankment sited at A A A

Of course over all the low lying land, as it now is, without drainage of any kind, is covered with water, the water ~~it~~ takes a long time to drain off again. It will be necessary therefore to keep out the tide by such an embankment. Again a certain amount of land water drains now into the swamp from which there being no outlet provided, it cannot escape except by evaporation.

After I get the levels asked for, it will be probable that a pair of parallel embankments B B B can be raised along dotted line ·············· and lead up to a sluice made ▥ in the cross ——— tidal embankment; top of this latter embankment should be +10.00: there would be a sluice, sill of which would be perhaps −.00 with shutters worked by manual labour during the wet season, and during the time the bar is open.

This

This Scheme would remedy 75 per cent of the evil complained of.

As regards that part of the Petitioners proposal which includes a new junction of the Buckingham Canal with the low swampy ground which undoubtedly requires drainage = this proposal appears to me to be without object and most mischievous. the land, through which the line of drain as drawn by the Petitioners runs, is not swampy so far as I can learn (I have never seen it in the wet season) and to effect an open junction of any drain running by Quibble Island with the Canal would let all the Canal water out and [illegible] of the reduce its level to below a working level as regards navigation.

The portion of the petition therefore which proposes a Canal junction I would propose to dismiss; the question of the drainage proper being left open until an inspection can be made at the proper season of the year.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servt.

W H Burton Lieutt. Coll. R.E.
Offg. Superintg. Engr.
5th Circle

No 9 Ed/ 14-4-82

Mems No 16 Ed/ 27th May 1882

The Chief Engineer consider that it will be best to hold over the question of the drainage of Quibble Island, till all the requisite cross levels have been taken and Major Drake-Brockman has had time to study the project

(S.) R.H. Sankey, Col. R.E.
Chf Engineer P.W.D.

(S.) R.S.

To,
The S.E. V Circle

21/57

aly 23/5 Despatched 27/5/82

From, P.W.C. No 3284,
The Supty Engr
5th Circle.

To,
The Chief Engineer
P. W. Deptt
Madras.

Dated 20th } May 1882.
Despd 22nd }
Recd 23. }

Enclosure. 1.
(+ one tracing)

No 583.
No 160 E d/ 27th May 1882
Quibble Island.

Makes a prelimi-nary report concerning the possible drainage of —

With Memorandum

No 719

Office of the Executive Engineer
Buckingham Canal Division
Chepauk 29th June 1882

From
The Executive Engineer
Buckingham Canal Division

To
The Superintending Engineer
5th Circle. Madras.

Encls. 3.
1. Petition
1. Endorsement
1. Plan

Sir

With reference to your endorsement No 747 dated 2nd June/82 relative to the petition presented to Government by the residents of St Thome, requesting that the Backwater be reclaimed and that a branch canal be carried from it up to the Junction Canal, I have the honor to report that I have inspected the localities indicated in the petition, and am of opinion that it is neither necessary nor advisable to give effect to the latter suggestion of excavating the branch Canal. The Junction Canal is is already connected with the Adyar river, and it has been found necessary to construct a lock on the left bank of the latter to hold up the waters of the river Cooum thereby as long as possible. If the branch canal as suggested were excavated, a similar costly masonry work would likewise be necessary at the point of offtake from the Junction Canal.—

2. As regards the reclamation of the Backwater, I do not hesitate in recommending that it be forthwith sanctioned and measures taken to carry it into effect. From the levels which I have taken over the present backwater, I find that the ~~area~~ enclosed by the St Thomé High Road on the west, and the red ink dotted lines on the North & South mark the boundaries of the land submerged by the average of the High Tides taken over the 6 months September to February, during which the Adyar Bar is open. During the months of September & February this area is still further reduced.—

3. It is true that Spring Tides submerge a considerably greater area even, as is shown on the Survey by the wash thereon of Neutral tint, but this only occurs at New & Full moon periods, leaving these higher tracts damp, oozy, and noisome for the times between those events. The average High Tide readings on the Adyar Gauge for the months of September to February, including Spring Tide disturbances, are as follow

2.21; 2.82; 3.52; 3.35, 2.75; 2.09 for September October, November, December, January and February respectively. The general average of these comes out to 2.79.—

4. I would propose therefore that the land which lies within a contour run at the level of 6" below average High Tide level or 2.29 on the Adyar Gauge

gauge be retained for the purposes of a tidal estuary, and the outlying area be reclaimed from the effects of tide, or of flood level in the river. I have taken this Contour at 6" below average High Tide level, as it is inadvisable to have an area over which only 6" of water at that tide would stand for only 4 hours in the day, allowing the Sun and air to act on this moistened Surface during the remaining period of the 24 hours. It will be noted moreover that this level of 2·29 which I recommend is still somewhat higher than the average High Tide level of September and February.—

5.— The level of the water in the Backwater (the Bar being at present closed) now stands at 1·70 and the present Season is therefore the most favorable owing to the absence of rain that has yet occurred for carrying out the reclamation, and I would recommend that no time be lost in setting the works in hand.

6. All of the tidal channel west of the St. Thome Road I would eliminate from the effects of the tide by a self acting shutter placed in the vent of the Cemetery Bridge, opening seawards. Since the excavation of the Junction Canal, no drainage of any extent flows into this creek, as it is in a great measure intercepted by the Canal.—

7. I would mention, *en passant* that an order was passed by Govt. in the Revenue Department No. 1855 dated 30th May 1877 objecting to "the reduction by reclamation of the area of the Swamp or backwater, which needs to be maintained for tidal action. Diminution of the area cannot but act prejudicially on the bar". The principle which guided His Excellency the Governor in Council on that occasion was I admit correct, but

+ not recommd

but would only apply in practice to those estuaries where the tidal variations are great and the Scouring action of the Ebb tides on the river bars proportionally effective. In the present instance, this variation is so small that the good effect of the Ebb tides may be reckoned as "nil".—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
R. Drake-Brockman
Major R.E.
Executive Engineer. B Canal

30-6-82

6 / 327

From

The Executive Engineer
Buckingham Canal

To

The Supdg Engineer
5th Circle

Dated 29th
Recd } June 1882.

No 719

Encls. 3

No 360 Ea/ 5 July 1882

Backwater around the Quibble Island Adyar river

Affords his opinion on the representation made by the residents of St Thome regarding the ———

10
Rw 2/10/84

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
5TH CIRCLE, MADRAS,
Chepauk, 30th June 1882.

No. 1206.

From
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
5TH CIRCLE,

To
THE Chief Engineer
D.P.W.

Enclosures. 3
1. Petition.
1. Map.
1. Report.

* No 719 of 29th June 1882.

SIR,

I have the honor to return your Endorsement No 9E dated the 14th April 1882, and to forward a Report* of the Executive Engineer Buckingham Canal upon the proposal to reclaim the swamp between the Adyar and St Thome.

2. It is clearly unadvisable to make a branch from the Canal, to run round Quibble island to the Adyar bar, as the control over the level of the Canal would, thereby be lost.

There can also I think be no doubt of the advantages to be gained by reclamation; but the question of cost must be the first consideration, and I presume the Government will require a detailed Survey and estimate to be laid before them before passing definite orders on the Scheme proposed.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt Servt
Hew Drendey Lt Coll R.E.
Superintg Engr 5 Circle

No 360 E. d/ 5th July 1882

It is, the Chf Engineer observes, quite clear that no such means as those proposed by the memorialists would answer in the present case, but as the desiccation of the swamps all round Quibble Island is a matter of great importance, it is desired that the Ex: Engr. should see whether this cannot be effected cheaply by some such embankment as XX shewn in pencil on the accompany Map with self acting shutters at Y, to the east of which a pond would be excavated with the object of receiving all drainage between it and Brodies' Bridge.

2. Should this proposal on examination be found feasible, an estimate of the cost should be framed and submitted for sanction.

3. The Colltr. might be consulted as to the best use to put the reclaimed land to, as if valuable for planting, the whole of the expense of the work would be recouped to Government (Sd.) R.H. Sankey Col. R.E. Chief Engineer

(Sd.) RP

Despd. 6/7

copy 1/7

Id. 2-7

To The S.E. Fifth Circle with Map

No. 160 ...
171 E d/ 29.5 ...
P.W.C. No. 1327

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

5TH CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer
P. W. Deptt.
Madras.

Dated 30th June 1882.
Recd. 18th July 1882

Map returned

ENCLOSURES. 3

No. 360 E d/ 5th July 1882

No. 1206.

Quibble Island.

Forwards report of the Ex: Engr. Buckingham Canal Divn. upon the proposal to reclaim the swamp between the Adyar & St. Thome.

14
Rev: 3239/84

9
Rev. 2/10/84

With Memo

19TH JUNE 1884, No. 773, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., President of the Madras Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 25th July 1883, P.W.C. No. 662:—

Complaints have often been made of the nuisance arising from the swamp lying between St. Thomé and the Adyar around what is known as Quibble Island. When the sand-bar of the Adyar river is open and the fresh water has escaped into the sea, the sea-water enters at high tide, flooding the swamp. After the north-east monsoon no fresh water, except from occasional showers, enters the swamp, which then becomes flooded with sea-water alone. The bar of the Adyar closes early in the year, and the gradual evaporation of the salt water in the swamp gives rise to offensive exhalations, which are carried over St. Thomé by the southerly winds. The only large house immediately north of the swamp has for years been uninhabited owing to its notorious unhealthiness. On consultation with the Vice-President Mr. Jones (now on leave) I found that there would be little difficulty in preventing the influx of salt water into the swamp by the erection of one or more low bunds. After the salt of the soil has been sufficiently washed out by the fresh water received from local drainage, a considerable area of the swamp could be permanently reclaimed.

2. As a means of making this very desirable improvement to the neighbourhood of St. Thomé eventually remunerative to the Municipality, I have the honor to request that the Government will be pleased to make over the area of the swamp, consisting of about 130 acres, to the Municipality free of quit-rent or assessment, or at a nominal rate. Such portions as may be found suitable for the purpose will gradually be planted with casuarinas with a view to supplying the Municipality in course of time with the fire-wood which will be required in increasing quantities for the steam-pumps to be used in connection with drainage throughout the town.

3. I enclose a tracing showing the position of the swamp with reference to St. Thomé and to the Adyar. The area to be reclaimed is colored pink and lies north of Greenway's Road and of the place marked in plan as "site for bund."

No. 1465.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
3rd August 1883.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Ag. Under Secretary.

Mis. No. 3235.

Referred to the Collector of Madras for report through the Board of Revenue.

OOTACAMUND,
4th August 1883.

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

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821 :—

* * * * * *

Read—the following letter from R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, to the Collector of Madras, dated 29th August 1883, No. 708 :—

With reference to your endorsement, dated 8th August 1883, No. 1025, and its two enclosures, I have the honor to inform you that the swamp in Adyar marked pink in the sketch plan received from the President of the Municipal Commission, and which is proposed to be reclaimed, has not a survey number assigned to it, and the whole of it is treated as part of the Adyar river.

2. The Executive Engineers of the Presidency and of the Buckingham Canal have been addressed by me with the view of learning from them if the proposed transfer of the swamp is in any way objectionable to them, and they both have approved the transfer.

3. A portion of the swamp, however, adjoining Quibble Island, measuring 18 cawnies, 2 grounds, 1,507½ square feet, is private property, under A, Form Certificate No. 956, dated 20th June 1871, and the limits of the certificate are marked in the sketch by a red line.

4. I beg to refer you to the G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, which appears to prohibit the reclamation of the swampy land in question.

5. The original letter from the Municipal President, with Government Order thereon, applying for the transfer of the swamp, is returned, and the sketch received therewith will follow as soon as it is received from the Public Works officer, to whom it has been forwarded for reference, but not returned with the letter.

Read—the following letter from R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, to the Collector of Madras, dated 5th September 1883, No. 734 :—

I have the honor to return the sketch, just received, from the Buckingham Canal Executive Engineer relating to the swamp at Adyar and referred to in paragraph 5 of my letter, dated 28th August 1883, No. 708.

Endorsement by R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, in charge, dated 6th September 1883, No. 374.

Submitted to Government, through the Board of Revenue, with reference to their endorsement, Mis. No. 3235, dated the 4th August 1883, Revenue Department, herewith returned with its enclosure.

Resolution—dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821.

Submitted to Government.

2. There appears no objection on the part of the Revenue authorities to the transfer of the land to the Municipality, with the exception of that portion which is private property, but with reference to G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, it would appear advisable further to consult the Public Works Department in the matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department, with Government endorsement
returned and a map.
Copy to the Collector of Madras.

Mis. No. 4047.

Referred to the Public Works Department with copy of G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, for favor of remarks.

OOTACAMUND,
8th October 1883.

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

No. 1987-C.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, for opinion, with reference to the G.O. of 1877 above quoted.

(By Order.)

CHEPAUK,
17th October 1883.

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

READ—also the following Memorandum from the Public Works Department, dated Madras, 23rd November 1883, No. 2308-C.

Endorsement in the Financial Department, No. 1714, dated 5th September 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 2354, dated 26th September 1883.

Endorsement in the Financial Department, No. 2151, dated 10th November 1883.

Endorsement in the Revenue Department, No. 4047, dated 8th October 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 2853, dated 12th November 1883.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for the further necessary action.

2. There is no objection in the Public Works Department to the transfer of the land in question to the Madras Municipality to the extent specified by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, in his letter, No. 2853, of the 12th November 1883.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter from Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 12th November 1883, No. 2853.

In returning your endorsement No. 1987-C, dated 17th ultimo, I have the honor to report that it appears to be necessary that the land which lies within the contour line run at the level of 6 inches below ordinary high tide should be reserved for tidal action. This matter is dealt with by the Executive Engineer in his report No. 719, dated 29th June 1882, sent with my letter, No. 1206, dated 30th June 1882.

Endorsement No. 1987-C, of 17th October 1883, on Proceedings, Board of Revenue, No. 2821, of 19th September 1883.
Docket of Government endorsements, Nos. 1465 and 3235, of 3rd and 4th August 1883.
Letter from President, Madras Municipality, No. 663, of 25th July 1883.
Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 1855, of 30th May 1877.
Sketch tracing.

READ—again the following official memorandum from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to the Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 7th December 1883, No. 421.

With reference to memorandum of the Public Works Department, dated 23rd November 1883, No. 2308-C, it is requested that the boundaries of the land which can be transferred to the Municipality may be marked on the tracing, which forms an accompaniment to the letter of the President of the Municipality, dated 25th July last, and that the Executive Engineer's report of the 29th June preceding, referred to in the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 12th November, No. 2853, may be furnished for reference.

2. The papers received with the memorandum under acknowledgment are herewith returned.

READ—also the following letter from Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 12th January 1884, No. 3557 :—

I have the honor to return your endorsement, No. 2503-C, dated 15th ultimo. The land on the Adyar which can be transferred to the Municipality is shown by a flat shade of pink on the sketch tracing, and the boundary is marked by a red dotted line.

No. 101-C.

Transferred to the Revenue Department, and the previous papers returned. :—

2. The following papers are also forwarded for reference and return.

Chief Engineer's Endorsement, No. 9-E, dated 14th April 1882.
Do. do. „ 160-E, „ 27th May 1882.
Do. do. „ 360-E, „ 7th July 1882.

(By Order.)

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

15th January 1884.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084 :—

Read—the following official memorandum from H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 17th January 1884, No. 17 :—

In forwarding the accompanying papers to the Board of Revenue, the undersigned is directed to request that the approximate extent of the land which the Public Works Department consider can be transferred to the Municipality and its probable value may be ascertained and reported for the information of Government.

1. Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, dated 12th January 1884, bearing Public Works Department transfer endorsement, dated 15th idem, No. 101-A.
2. Sketch tracing referred to in the above.

2. It will be observed that the land in question is part of that referred to in Board's Proceedings, dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821.

* * * * * *

Reference on the above, dated 24th January 1884.

Referred to the Collector of Madras for report.

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Madras, with memorandum and two enclosures in orginal to be returned.

Read—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th March 1884, No. 73 :—

In reply to reference on Sub-Register No. 99, dated 24th January 1884, I have the honor to state that, taking scale measurement on the survey plan, the area of the Government portion of the swamp is approximately 111 cawnies, the value of which may be taken at Rs. 100 a cawny if sold in small lots. No assessment has as yet been fixed.

2. These lands form nearly the whole of the land referred to in Board's Proceedings, No. 2821, dated the 19th September 1883. The remainder, measuring about 13 cawnies and 21 grounds, is private property.

3. I would propose that the Government, if they grant the land now, reserve the right to revise the arrangement in five years' time either by resuming part or whole on equitable terms as to compensation or by imposing a suitable quit-rent. The Municipality are undertaking a considerable work. The erection of bunds will cost perhaps two or three thousand rupees, and return from planting will be slow ; witness the operations at the Powder Mills in Vysasurpady. At the same time the area applied for is extensive and the plan is designed to make an important change in the Adyar neighbourhood and property, and I think Government should retain a hold in the matter.

4. The fishermen make a certain amount of use of the land when covered ; but, with a view to public interests, I think this may be neglected.

5. The enclosures to the reference under reply are returned.

Resolution—dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084.

Submitted to Government.

2. The land applied for by the Municipality is, with the exception of a small plot, all "Poramboke," *i.e.*, the bed of the river Adyar. In 1877 its reclamation was forbidden by Government on the ground that the area of the swamp was required to be maintained for tidal action, as any diminution thereof would act prejudicially on the bar (G.O. of 30th May 1877, No. 1855). The Municipality now propose to plant it up and offer to pay a nominal quit-rent for it, but would prefer to have it free of all quit-rent or assessment.

3. The Board do not recommend that the land be granted free of quit-rent ; they would impose quit-rent at the rate of eight annas an acre for a term of (say) thirty years. At the end of that period the land should revert to Government, and if at any time after (say) seven years from date of grant the Government should wish to re-enter, they should retain power to do so on giving six months' notice of their intention to the Commissioners.

4. The Board do not think the reclamation proposed would materially affect the bar, more especially now that the Cooum and the Adyar are connected with each other and with the Covelong and Ennore backwaters.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with two original enclosures returned.

Copy to the Collector of Madras.

READ—again the following official memorandum from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 25th April 1884, No. 197 :—

In forwarding (to be returned) Board's Proceedings, 25th March 1884, No. 1084, and enclosures, the undersigned begs to observe that there appears to be some mistake. From Major Drake-Brockman's report it would seem that only such part of the swamp as lies more than 6″ below average tidal level is to be transferred to the Municipality, but the boundary as marked on the tracing and referred to in the Superintending Engineer's letter, dated 12th January 1884, No. 3557, includes the whole swamp. It is understood that, if the area within a contour line, as above described, is reserved, the

influence of tidal action will be preserved, and that this is necessary (Superintending Engineer's letter, 12th November 1883, No. 2853). No such reservation appears contemplated according to his letter of January above quoted. It is requested that he may be called upon to explain and correct the sketch if necessary.

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

Read—also the following letter from Colonel W. H. BURTON, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 17th May 1884, No. 626 :—

Chief Engineer's memorandum, No. 942-C, dated 1st May 1884, with fourteen enclosures.

In returning your endorsement, No. 942-C, dated 1st instant, I have the honor to report that I have carefully considered with Major Drake-Brockman the principles under which it would be necessary to reserve a tidal area as defined by the 6″ contour (see Executive Engineer's letter, No. 719, dated 29th June 1882,) and that he withdraws his previous proposals on this point. No tidal reserve would, therefore, appear to be now necessary, and Mr. Arundel's proposal in his letter, No. 1053, dated 6th November 1883, might be generally accepted by the Public Works Department on the condition that the Municipality undertake to put as soon as practicable, and maintain always, the swamp in a sanitary condition.

No. 158-E.

Transferred to the Revenue Department, with reference to memorandum in that Department, No. 197, without date, and the original papers returned.

Ootacamund, (Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
19th May 1884. Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

Order—dated 19th June 1884, No. 773, Revenue.

Land Revenue, No. 91.

The foregoing papers refer to a proposal of the President of the Madras Municipality to reclaim the swamp lying between St. Thomé and the Adyar around the spot known as "Quibble Island," which, owing to the malarious exhalations produced by the sea-water collecting and stagnating in it, has been a source of unhealthiness to the town adjoining on the north. Mr. Arundel asks that the swamp may be transferred to the Municipal Commissioners free of assessment or at a nominal quit-rent, in order that they may execute the works necessary to shut out the influx of sea-water and plant such portions of it as may be found suitable for the purpose with casuarina trees, thus reimbursing themselves the outlay involved.

2. On a former occasion a proposal to grant a lease for planting this plot of land was negatived (G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855) on the ground that it required to be reserved for tidal action in order that the diversion of the tides might not affect the bar of the Adyar river prejudicially. Now, however, the Public Works Department does not consider a tidal reserve at this locality necessary, while it is generally admitted that sanitary considerations render the reclamation of the swamp highly desirable.

3. The question then for consideration is on what terms the swamp may be transferred to the Municipality. The Board's suggestions in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084, commend themselves generally to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, but he would not levy any quit-rent for the first twenty years of the lease. It should be distinctly stipulated that a proper outlet shall be provided for drainage, and that the locality shall be put as soon as practicable, and shall be maintained during the term of the lease, in a sanitary condition. The lands should not be used for sewage farms or for deposit of sweepings. It should also be stipulated that no permanent buildings shall be erected on the land.

4. On these conditions, and with the reservation of a right of re-entry at any time after seven years as suggested by the Board, the Municipality may have a lease of the whole area of the swamp (about 147 acres excluding the portion which is private property) for thirty years subject to a quit-rent of eight annas per acre for the last ten years of the lease.

(True Extract.)

H E Stokes

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Financial Department, with a tracing.
" Public Works Department, with seven enclosures received with Nos. 2308-C and 101-C.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

70 Copies.

20.5/ [illegible] be sent to Madras [illegible]

No 3602. 975-7.82.

No. 1784 w of 21st July/84

Communicated to the Suptg: Engineer V Circle

9.7.84

7/7/84.

15.7.84

S. E. V Circle
C. E. for I.

21/7/84

No. Clu 5726

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

REVENUE.

20.S.C

6.S.C

Issued

Recd. 9/7/84 Encl. 1/84

G.O., 19th June 1884, No. 773.

No. 1784 w of 21st July/84

JUNE.

Swamp

between St. Thomé and the Adyar.—Grant of a lease of — to the Madras Municipality for thirty years on certain conditions, sanctioned.

2 Copies Sent for [illegible]

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Communicated to the Supg. Engineer V Circle

Sd/ J.S.S.

S. E. V Circle

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P.W.D

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3. The question then for consideration is on what terms the swamp may be transferred to the Municipality. The Board's suggestions in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084, commend themselves generally to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, but he would not levy any quit-rent for the first twenty years of the lease. It should be distinctly stipulated that a proper outlet shall be provided for drainage, and that the locality shall be put as soon as practicable,

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I have the honor to return the sketch, just received, from the Buckingham Canal Executive Engineer relating to the swamp at Adyar and referred to in paragraph 5 of my letter, dated 28th August 1883, No. 708.

Endorsement by R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, in charge, dated 6th September 1883, No. 374.

Submitted to Government, through the Board of Revenue, with reference to their endorsement, Mis. No. 3235, dated the 4th August 1883, Revenue Department, herewith returned with its enclosure.

Resolution—dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821.

Submitted to Government.

2. There appears no objection on the part of the Revenue authorities to the transfer of the land to the Municipality, with the exception of that portion which is private property, but with reference to G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, it would appear advisable further to consult the Public Works Department in the matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with Government endorsement returned and a map.

Copy to the Collector of Madras.

Mis. No. 4047.

Referred to the Public Works Department with copy of G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, for favor of remarks.

OOTACAMUND,
8th October 1883.
(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Secy. to Government.

No. 1987-C.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, for opinion, with reference to the G.O. of 1877 above quoted.

(By Order.)

CHEPAUK,
17th October 1883.
(Signed) C. BOWEN, Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

READ—also the following Memorandum from the Public Works Department, dated Madras, 23rd November 1883, No. 2308-C.

Endorsement in the Financial Department, No. 1714, dated 5th September 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 2354, dated 26th September 1883.

Endorsement in the Financial Department, No. 2151, dated 10th November 1883.

Endorsement in the Revenue Department, No. 4047, dated 8th October 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 2853, dated 12th November 1883.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for the further necessary action.

2. There is no objection in the Public Works Department to the transfer of the land in question to the Madras Municipality to the extent specified by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, in his letter, No. 2853, of the 12th November 1883.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter from Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 12th November 1883, No. 2853.

In returning your endorsement No. 1987-C, dated 17th ultimo, I have the honor to report that it appears to be necessary that the land which lies within the contour line run at the level of 6 inches below ordinary high tide should be reserved for tidal action. This matter is dealt with by the Executive Engineer in his report No. 719, dated 29th June 1882, sent with my letter, No. 1206, dated 30th June 1882.

Endorsement No. 1987-C, of 17th October 1883, on Proceedings, Board of Revenue, No. 2821, of 19th September 1883.
Docket of Government endorsements, Nos. 1465 and 3235, of 3rd and 4th August 1883.
Letter from President, Madras Municipality, No. 663, of 25th July 1883.
Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 1855, of 30th May 1877.
Sketch tracing.

READ—again the following official memorandum from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to the Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 7th December 1883, No. 421.

With reference to memorandum of the Public Works Department, dated 23rd November 1883, No. 2308-C, it is requested that the boundaries of the land which can be transferred to the Municipality may be marked on the tracing, which forms an accompaniment to the letter of the President of the Municipality, dated 25th July last, and that the Executive Engineer's report of the 29th June preceding, referred to in the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 12th November, No. 2853, may be furnished for reference.

2. The papers received with the memorandum under acknowledgment are herewith returned.

19TH JUNE 1884, No. 773, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., President of the Madras Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 25th July 1883, P.W.C. No. 663 :—

Complaints have often been made of the nuisance arising from the swamp lying between St. Thomé and the Adyar around what is known as Quibble Island. When the sand-bar of the Adyar river is open and the fresh water has escaped into the sea, the sea-water enters at high tide, flooding the swamp. After the north-east monsoon no fresh water, except from occasional showers, enters the swamp, which then becomes flooded with sea-water alone. The bar of the Adyar closes early in the year, and the gradual evaporation of the salt water in the swamp gives rise to offensive exhalations, which are carried over St. Thomé by the southerly winds. The only large house immediately north of the swamp has for years been uninhabited owing to its notorious unhealthiness. On consultation with the Vice-President Mr. Jones (now on leave) I found that there would be little difficulty in preventing the influx of salt water into the swamp by the erection of one or more low bunds. After the salt of the soil has been sufficiently washed out by the fresh water received from local drainage, a considerable area of the swamp could be permanently reclaimed.

2. As a means of making this very desirable improvement to the neighbourhood of St. Thomé eventually remunerative to the Municipality, I have the honor to request that the Government will be pleased to make over the area of the swamp, consisting of about 130 acres, to the Municipality free of quit-rent or assessment, or at a nominal rate. Such portions as may be found suitable for the purpose will gradually be planted with casuarinas with a view to supplying the Municipality in course of time with the fire-wood which will be required in increasing quantities for the steam-pumps to be used in connection with drainage throughout the town.

3. I enclose a tracing showing the position of the swamp with reference to St. Thomé and to the Adyar. The area to be reclaimed is colored pink and lies north of Greenway's Road and of the place marked in plan as "site for bund."

No. 1465.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
3rd August 1883.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Ag. Under Secretary.

Mis. No. 3235.

Referred to the Collector of Madras for report through the Board of Revenue.

OOTACAMUND,
4th August 1883.

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

No. 1784 wap 21st July/84

Communicated to the Supdg: Engineer V Circle.

Sd/ J. S. S.

S.E. V Circle
C.E. for I

P. W. D

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 19th June 1884, No. 773.

No. 1784 wap 21st July

JUNE.

Swamp

between St. Thomé and the Adyar.—Grant of a lease of — to the Madras Municipality for thirty years on certain conditions, sanctioned.

With order

influence of tidal action will be preserved, and that this is necessary (Superintending Engineer's letter, 12th November 1883, No. 2853). No such reservation appears contemplated according to his letter of January above quoted. It is requested that he may be called upon to explain and correct the sketch if necessary.

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

READ—also the following letter from Colonel W. H. BURTON, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 17th May 1884, No. 626 :—

Chief Engineer's memorandum, No. 942-C, dated 1st May 1884, with fourteen enclosures.

In returning your endorsement, No. 942-C, dated 1st instant, I have the honor to report that I have carefully considered with Major Drake-Brockman the principles under which it would be necessary to reserve a tidal area as defined by the 6″ contour (see Executive Engineer's letter, No. 719, dated 29th June 1882,) and that he withdraws his previous proposals on this point. No tidal reserve would, therefore, appear to be now necessary, and Mr. Arundel's proposal in his letter, No. 1053, dated 6th November 1883, might be generally accepted by the Public Works Department on the condition that the Municipality undertake to put as soon as practicable, and maintain always, the swamp in a sanitary condition.

No. 158-E.

Transferred to the Revenue Department, with reference to memorandum in that Department, No. 197, without date, and the original papers returned.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
19th May 1884. Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

ORDER—dated 19th June 1884, No. 773, Revenue.

Land Revenue, No. 91.

The foregoing papers refer to a proposal of the President of the Madras Municipality to reclaim the swamp lying between St. Thomé and the Adyar around the spot known as "Quibble Island," which, owing to the malarious exhalations produced by the sea-water collecting and stagnating in it, has been a source of unhealthiness to the town adjoining on the north. Mr. Arundel asks that the swamp may be transferred to the Municipal Commissioners free of assessment or at a nominal quit-rent, in order that they may execute the works necessary to shut out the influx of sea-water and plant such portions of it as may be found suitable for the purpose with casuarina trees, thus reimbursing themselves the outlay involved.

2. On a former occasion a proposal to grant a lease for planting this plot of land was negatived (G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855) on the ground that it required to be reserved for tidal action in order that the diversion of the tides might not affect the bar of the Adyar river prejudicially. Now, however, the Public Works Department does not consider a tidal reserve at this locality necessary, while it is generally admitted that sanitary considerations render the reclamation of the swamp highly desirable.

3. The question then for consideration is on what terms the swamp may be transferred to the Municipality. The Board's suggestions in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084, commend themselves generally to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, but he would not levy any quit-rent for the first twenty years of the lease. It should be distinctly stipulated that a proper outlet shall be provided for drainage, and that the locality shall be put as soon as practicable, and shall be maintained during the term of the lease, in a sanitary condition. The lands should not be used for sewage farms or for deposit of sweepings. It should also be stipulated that no permanent buildings shall be erected on the land.

4. On these conditions, and with the reservation of a right of re-entry at any time after seven years as suggested by the Board, the Municipality may have a lease of the whole area of the swamp (about 147 acres excluding the portion which is private property) for thirty years subject to a quit-rent of eight annas per acre for the last ten years of the lease.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Financial Department, with a tracing.
„ Public Works Department, with seven enclosures received with Nos. 2308-C and 101-C.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

70 Copies.

2. These lands form nearly the whole of the land referred to in Board's Proceedings, No. 2821, dated the 19th September 1883. The remainder, measuring about 13 cawnies and 21 grounds, is private property.

3. I would propose that the Government, if they grant the land now, reserve the right to revise the arrangement in five years' time either by resuming part or whole on equitable terms as to compensation or by imposing a suitable quit-rent. The Municipality are undertaking a considerable work. The erection of bunds will cost perhaps two or three thousand rupees, and return from planting will be slow; witness the operations at the Powder Mills in Vysasurpady. At the same time the area applied for is extensive and the plan is designed to make an important change in the Adyar neighbourhood and property, and I think Government should retain a hold in the matter.

4. The fishermen make a certain amount of use of the land when covered; but, with a view to public interests, I think this may be neglected.

5. The enclosures to the reference under reply are returned.

Resolution—dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084.

Submitted to Government.

2. The land applied for by the Municipality is, with the exception of a small plot, all "Poramboke," *i.e.*, the bed of the river Adyar. In 1877 its reclamation was forbidden by Government on the ground that the area of the swamp was required to be maintained for tidal action, as any diminution thereof would act prejudicially on the bar (G.O. of 30th May 1877, No. 1855). The Municipality now propose to plant it up and offer to pay a nominal quit-rent for it, but would prefer to have it free of all quit-rent or assessment.

3. The Board do not recommend that the land be granted free of quit-rent; they would impose quit-rent at the rate of eight annas an acre for a term of (say) thirty years. At the end of that period the land should revert to Government, and if at any time after (say) seven years from date of grant the Government should wish to re-enter, they should retain power to do so on giving six months' notice of their intention to the Commissioners.

4. The Board do not think the reclamation proposed would materially affect the bar, more especially now that the Cooum and the Adyar are connected with each other and with the Covelong and Ennore backwaters.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with two original enclosures returned.

Copy to the Collector of Madras.

Read—again the following official memorandum from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 25th April 1884, No. 197:—

In forwarding (to be returned) Board's Proceedings, 25th March 1884, No. 1084, and enclosures, the undersigned begs to observe that there appears to be some mistake. From Major Drake-Brockman's report it would seem that only such part of the swamp as lies more than 6" below average tidal level is to be transferred to the Municipality, but the boundary as marked on the tracing and referred to in the Superintending Engineer's letter, dated 12th January 1884, No. 3557, includes the whole swamp. It is understood that, if the area within a contour line, as above described, is reserved, the

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following letter from A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., President of the Madras Municipal Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 25th July 1883, P.W.C. No. 663:—

Complaints have often been made of the nuisance arising from the swamp lying between St. Thomé and the Adyar around what is known as Quibble Island. When the sand-bar of the Adyar river is open and the fresh water has escaped into the sea, the sea-water enters at high tide, flooding the swamp. After the north-east monsoon no fresh water, except from occasional showers, enters the swamp, which then becomes flooded with sea-water alone. The bar of the Adyar closes early in the year, and the gradual evaporation of the salt water in the swamp gives rise to offensive exhalations, which are carried over St. Thomé by the southerly winds. The only large house immediately north of the swamp has for years been uninhabited owing to its notorious unhealthiness. On consultation with the Vice-President Mr. Jones (now on leave) I found that there would be little difficulty in preventing the influx of salt water into the swamp by the erection of one or more low bunds. After the salt of the soil has been sufficiently washed out by the fresh water received from local drainage, a considerable area of the swamp could be permanently reclaimed.

2. As a means of making this very desirable improvement to the neighbourhood of St. Thomé eventually remunerative to the Municipality, I have the honor to request that the Government will be pleased to make over the area of the swamp, consisting of about 130 acres, to the Municipality free of quit-rent or assessment, or at a nominal rate. Such portions as may be found suitable for the purpose will gradually be planted with casuarinas with a view to supplying the Municipality in course of time with the firewood which will be required in increasing quantities for the steam-pumps to be used in connection with drainage throughout the town.

3. I enclose a tracing showing the position of the swamp with reference to St. Thomé and to the Adyar. The area to be reclaimed is colored pink and lies north of Greenway's Road and of the place marked in plan as "site for bund."

No. 1465.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

(By Order.)

Ootacamund,
3rd August 1883.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Ag. Under Secretary.

Mis. No. 3235.

Referred to the Collector of Madras for report through the Board of Revenue.

Ootacamund,
4th August 1883.

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

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821 :—

* * * * * *

Read—the following letter from R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, to the Collector of Madras, dated 29th August 1883, No. 708 :—

With reference to your endorsement, dated 8th August 1883, No. 1025, and its two enclosures, I have the honor to inform you that the swamp in Adyar marked pink in the sketch plan received from the President of the Municipal Commission, and which is proposed to be reclaimed, has not a survey number assigned to it, and the whole of it is treated as part of the Adyar river.

2. The Executive Engineers of the Presidency and of the Buckingham Canal have been addressed by me with the view of learning from them if the proposed transfer of the swamp is in any way objectionable to them, and they both have approved the transfer.

3. A portion of the swamp, however, adjoining Quibble Island, measuring 18 cawnies, 2 grounds, 1,507$\frac{1}{2}$ square feet, is private property, under A, Form Certificate No. 956, dated 20th June 1871, and the limits of the certificate are marked in the sketch by a red line.

4. I beg to refer you to the G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, which appears to prohibit the reclamation of the swampy land in question.

5. The original letter from the Municipal President, with Government Order thereon, applying for the transfer of the swamp, is returned, and the sketch received therewith will follow as soon as it is received from the Public Works officer, to whom it has been forwarded for reference, but not returned with the letter.

Read—the following letter from R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, to the Collector of Madras, dated 5th September 1883, No. 734 :—

I have the honor to return the sketch, just received, from the Buckingham Canal Executive Engineer relating to the swamp at Adyar and referred to in paragraph 5 of my letter, dated 28th August 1883, No. 708.

Endorsement by R. RAGOONATH ROW, Deputy Collector of Madras, in charge, dated 6th September 1883, No. 374.

Submitted to Government, through the Board of Revenue, with reference to their endorsement, Mis. No. 3235, dated the 4th August 1883, Revenue Department, herewith returned with its enclosure.

Resolution—dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821.

Submitted to Government.

2. There appears no objection on the part of the Revenue authorities to the transfer of the land to the Municipality, with the exception of that portion which is private property, but with reference to G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, it would appear advisable further to consult the Public Works Department in the matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department, with Government endorsement
returned and a map.

Copy to the Collector of Madras.

Mis. No. 4047.

Referred to the Public Works Department with copy of G.O., dated 30th May 1877, No. 1855, for favor of remarks.

OOTACAMUND,
8th October 1883.

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

No. 1987-C.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, for opinion, with reference to the G.O. of 1877 above quoted.

(By Order.)

CHEPAUK,
17th October 1883.

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

READ—also the following Memorandum from the Public Works Department, dated Madras, 23rd November 1883, No. 2308-C.

Endorsement in the Financial Department, No. 1714, dated 5th September 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 2354, dated 26th September 1883.

Endorsement in the Financial Department, No. 2151, dated 10th November 1883.

Endorsement in the Revenue Department, No. 4047, dated 8th October 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, No. 2853, dated 12th November 1883.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for the further necessary action.

2. There is no objection in the Public Works Department to the transfer of the land in question to the Madras Municipality to the extent specified by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, in his letter, No. 2853, of the 12th November 1883.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter from Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 12th November 1883, No. 2853.

In returning your endorsement No. 1987-C, dated 17th ultimo, I have the honor to report that it appears to be necessary that the land which lies within the contour line run at the level of 6 inches below ordinary high tide should be reserved for tidal action. This matter is dealt with by the Executive Engineer in his report No. 719, dated 29th June 1882, sent with my letter, No. 1206, dated 30th June 1882.

Endorsement No. 1987-C, of 17th October 1883, on Proceedings, Board of Revenue, No. 2821, of 19th September 1883.
Docket of Government endorsements, Nos. 1465 and 3235, of 3rd and 4th August 1883.
Letter from President, Madras Municipality, No. 663, of 25th July 1883.
Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 1855, of 30th May 1877.
Sketch tracing.

READ—again the following official memorandum from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to the Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 7th December 1883, No. 421.

With reference to memorandum of the Public Works Department, dated 23rd November 1883, No. 2308-C, it is requested that the boundaries of the land which can be transferred to the Municipality may be marked on the tracing, which forms an accompaniment to the letter of the President of the Municipality, dated 25th July last, and that the Executive Engineer's report of the 29th June preceding, referred to in the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 12th November, No. 2853, may be furnished for reference.

2. The papers received with the memorandum under acknowledgment are herewith returned.

READ—also the following letter from Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 12th January 1884, No. 3557 :—

I have the honor to return your endorsement, No. 2503-C, dated 15th ultimo. The land on the Adyar which can be transferred to the Municipality is shown by a flat shade of pink on the sketch tracing, and the boundary is marked by a red dotted line.

No. 101-C.

Transferred to the Revenue Department, and the previous papers returned. :—

2. The following papers are also forwarded for reference and return.

Chief Engineer's Endorsement,	No.	9-E,	dated	14th April 1882.
Do. do.	,,	160-E,	,,	27th May 1882.
Do. do.	,,	360-E,	,,	7th July 1882.

(By Order.)

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

15th January 1884.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th March 1884, No. 1084 :—

Read—the following official memorandum from H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 17th January 1884, No. 17 :—

In forwarding the accompanying papers to the Board of Revenue, the undersigned is directed to request that the approximate extent of the land which the Public Works Department consider can be transferred to the Municipality and its probable value may be ascertained and reported for the information of Government.

1. Letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, dated 12th January 1884, bearing Public Works Department transfer endorsement, dated 15th idem, No. 101-A.
2. Sketch tracing referred to in the above.

2. It will be observed that the land in question is part of that referred to in Board's Proceedings, dated 19th September 1883, No. 2821.

* * * * * *

Reference on the above, dated 24th January 1884.

Referred to the Collector of Madras for report.

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Madras, with memorandum and two enclosures in orginal to be returned.

Read—the following letter from C. D. MACLEANE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th March 1884, No. 73 :—

In reply to reference on Sub-Register No. 99, dated 24th January 1884, I have the honor to state that, taking scale measurement on the survey plan, the area of the Government portion of the swamp is approximately 111 cawnies, the value of which may be taken at Rs. 100 a cawny if sold in small lots. No assessment has as yet been fixed.

Arch