GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 17th December 1883, No. 3804 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th September 1883, Mis. No. 7824 :—

Read—the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 31st August 1883, No. 275 :—

With reference to Court's Proceedings, No. 2043, dated 16th July 1883, I have the honor to submit, for their orders, copies of two letters, dated 13th and 16th instant, with a rough survey showing the proposed course of the canal, received from Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co., of Colombo.

2. The channel proposed to be cut is the one in the middle, as marked in pencil in the sketch.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Co., to the Collector of Madura, dated Colombo, 13th August 1883.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of $\frac{1st}{3rd}$ instant, handing us a copy of the resolution passed by the Court of Wards.

In the course of a day or two we hope to send you a rough draft showing the position, &c., of the proposed canal. In the meantime we beg to state that we are prepared to submit to the conditions which the Court would impose, viz. :—

(1) To pay compensation to any tenants whom it may be necessary and competent to the Court of Wards to oust.

(2) To provide and maintain such ferries across the canal as may be sufficient to maintain the present rights of way.

(3) To pay in cash Rs. 200 per acre for the land required.

We should be glad to be informed whether it would be in accordance with the views of the Court to receive payment for the land in instalments as it is required to be taken over for the work. Payments to be made after due formation of the company.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Co., to the Collector of Madura, dated Colombo, 16th August 1883.

Referring to our letter of 13th instant, we have now the honor to hand you a tracing of the island of Rámesvaram showing the position of the proposed canal. This channel is selected in preference to any other, as the southern entrance is protected by the Kurusaddi and Shingle islands.

P.S.—It would be of material service to us if you could now supply us with some document which we could lay before the financiers.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Survey Map.

Resolution—dated 15th September 1883, Mis. No. 7824.

Before submitting these papers for the orders of Government, the Court of Wards desire information on the following points:—

(1) Whether, in addition to the main road from Pámban to Rámesvaram, the proposed canal cuts any public line of road.
(2) The positions and number of the proposed ferries and the exact responsibilities of the Canal Company in respect of them in the matter of maintaining and working them free of cost to the public.
(3) Whether any temples or objects of religious veneration will be interfered with by the canal.
(4) What occupied lands will be taken up.

The information should be submitted at the earliest possible date.

The lands may be paid for by instalments, payment in all cases being made before lands are entered upon.

A copy of Board's Resolution, No. 2043, dated 16th July 1883, is herewith forwarded for despatch to Messrs. Grindrod and Jenkins; but it must be understood that the matter will be finally disposed of only after receipt of the orders of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) F. A. NICHOLSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura, with copy of
Board's Resolution, No. 2043, dated 16th July 1883.

Read—again the following letter from T. RAJARAM ROW, Honorary Deputy Collector and Manager, Ramnad, to the Acting Collector of Madura, dated Thangachimadam, 19th November 1883, No. 293:—

With reference to your letter, No. 230, dated 26th September last, and the marginally-noted papers relating to the proposed ship canal through the island of Rámesvaram, I have the honor to report as follows.

(1) Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 2043, dated 16th July 1883.
(2) Proceedings of the Court of Wards, No. 7824, dated 15th September 1883.
(3) Letter, dated 13th August 1883, from Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co.
(4) Letter, dated 16th August 1883, from Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co.

2. Messrs. Bradbridge, a financial agent of the proposed company, and Stoddart, Acting Surveyor-General of Ceylon, came to Pámban on the 2nd instant in the *Seremdile* and went back the same day by the same steamer. They, however, gave me the necessary information regarding the site of the proposed canal and deputed Mr. Riedy, the Emigration Agent of Ceylon, to point out the site selected for the southern entrance of the canal as the starting point, leaving with him a tracing on which Mr. Stoddart has inserted distances and bearings to several points from the proposed southern entrance.

3. Mr. Riedy was accordingly pleased to point out the site of the proposed southern entrance and left with me the above tracing, with reference to which the course of the proposed canal was marked from the southern entrance, and the lands required for the canal carefully surveyed and demarcated.

4. The canal is proposed to be cut in a direct northerly line through the island into Palks Bay from the Gulf of Mannar, and the site of the proposed canal, as shown in the tracing, has been selected by Mr. Stoddart and chosen by the promoters of the company as the most suitable.

5. The width of the canal from east to west is 900 feet and its length from south to north 10,920 feet, or 2 miles and 360 feet. The lands required for the canal are 225 acres and 62 cents in extent, as particularized below:—

	Acs.	Cents.
(1) The extent of lands on which odai or thorn trees stand, the trees being annually rented out on behalf of the estate ...	178	10
(2) The extent of lands on which stand cocoanut and palmyra trees with three wells. The trees have been planted by the ryots and are enjoyed by them, paying tree-tax of Rs. 38-15-9 to the zemindar	34	8
(3) The extent of lands partly enclosed and partly cultivated as punjah by certain ryots without permission in faslis 1291 and 1292, paying a rent of Rs. 6-3-9	8	83
(4) Extent of land occupied by a temple and a pond including the site of the temple garden paying no rent	4	61
Total ...	225	62

6. The price to be paid for the land (225 acres 62 cents in extent) to the Court of Wards on behalf of the minor zemindar, at the rate of Rs. 200 an acre, as accepted by the Court, amounts to Rs. 45,124 *plus* Rs. 500, the price of the odai trees standing on the land (No. 1), 500 cart loads at one rupee per cart load, making a total of Rs. 45,624.

7. In addition to the above sum to be paid for the zemindar's interest in the land, a sum of Rs. 6,371-1-7 should be paid as compensation for the tenants whom it is necessary to the Court of Wards to oust as shown below:—

I. On account of the trees standing on the land (No. 2)—

		Rs.	A.	P.
Cocoanut trees,	918 in full bearing, at Rs. 3 a tree ...	2,754	0	0
Do.	977 not bearing, at Rs. 2 a tree ...	1,954	0	0
Palmyra trees,	8 in full bearing, at Rs. 3 a tree ...	24	0	0
Do.	500 not bearing, at Re. 1 per tree ...	500	0	0
Do.	10,000 young trees, at Rs. 40 per 1,000.	400	0	0
	Total ...	5,632	0	0

II.	On account of the cost of the three wells situated in a portion of the land (No. 2) for two wells, at Rs. 35 each, and for the other, Rs. 50	120	0	0
III.	On account of the cost incurred in reclaiming and preparing the land (No. 3) for cultivation, at Rs. 20 an acre ...	176	9	7
IV.	On account of the cost of the temple building on land (No. 4)	50	0	0
	On account of the pond	50	0	0
	On account of certain ceremonies to be performed for removing the deities from the present building and placing them in another place to be consecrated for the purpose. The temple building is a raised platform measuring 13 into 13, and 4½ feet built with stones in chunam ...	342	8	0
	Total ...	442	8	0
	Grand Total ...	6,371	1	7

Thus it will be seen that the amount which the proposed company will have to pay for the interests of the zemindar and of his tenants in the required land amounts to Rs. 51,995-1-7.

8. In determining the compensation to be paid for the tenants, I have carefully taken into consideration the prices prevailing in the village, the ordinary cost of the buildings, and the opinion of certain arbitrators chosen for the purpose. I think that

the compensation determined on is reasonable, and all the tenants concerned, with the exception of those who were absent from the village, appeared before me and expressed their willingness to accept the amount of compensation fixed for their respective interests in the required land.

9. The priest of the temple on land (No. 4) and the persons interested in it apply for a piece of an unoccupied waste land to build the temple on, equal in extent to the one which will be taken up for the proposed canal. They pointed out to me the site selected by them for the purpose, and I see no objection to the grant of the land applied for on the condition that it should be used only for the purpose for which it is wanted.

10. It may not be out of place to observe here that before the lands required for the proposed canal were surveyed and demarcated the inhabitants of the Thangachimadam village had presented a petition to me complaining that the scheme would injuriously affect their interests, inasmuch as it would interfere with their houses, &c., but the survey soon convinced them that they were quite safe, as the canal would run at a distance of about 1,300 feet from the village and their houses would not be in the least affected by the said project.

11. I beg to send, herewith, a sketch showing the course of the proposed canal and the positions of the lands required for the same. I think that it must be distinctly understood that, in the event of the canal being cut, the company must take care to prevent encroachment of the sea in the two entrances of the canal.

12. I also beg to furnish the information called for by the Court of Wards in their Proceedings, Mis. No. 7824, dated 15th September 1883, on the following points:—

	No.
(1.) Whether in addition to the main road from Pámban to Rámesvaram the proposed canal cuts any line of road.	I. The proposed line of the canal cuts the main road to Rámesvaram from Pámban at the distance of about 1,500 feet to the west of the Thangachimadam chattram. This is the only place where the company has to provide, free of cost to the public, for crossing the canal either by a swing-bridge or by boats. With a view to avoid any probable danger in crossing the canal during night by boats and their dependence as much as possible on the mercy of the company's servants, the public prefer having an iron draw-bridge sufficiently strong and large to allow, at a time, 10 laden bandies, 50 animals and 100 passengers to pass with safety, and properly maintained and worked by trained men and kept open to the public at all times, both day and night, the time when the vessels pass being of course excepted. In the course of my conversation with Mr. Bradbridge he expressed the intention of the company to have a swing-bridge over the canal. If this course is not considered to be feasible, the company should be prepared to have, on both sides of the canal, as many boats as are necessary to carry at all times not less than the number of passengers, animals and carts mentioned above for a trip.
(2.) The positions and the number of the proposed ferries and the exact responsibilities of the Canal Company in respect of them in the matter of maintaining and working them free of cost to the public.	II. There is a telegraph line to Ceylon passing at a distance of 650 feet to the south of the Rámesvaram road. At this point there should either be a cable or the wire has to be taken sufficiently high, so that it may not be interfered with by the masts of the vessels. The cost of this work and of any probable repairs to the same should be borne by the company. III. I think that the company should bind themselves in writing to provide and maintain such number of boats or the bridge free of cost to the public, as above mentioned, to maintain the rights of way which now exist, under certain penalty.
(3.) Whether any temples or objects of religious veneration will be interfered with by the canal.	It interferes with a small temple in the limits of the Tangachimadam village—*vide* paragraphs 5 and 7 *supra*.
(4.) What occupied lands will be taken up.	Acres 47 and cents 52 of land will be taken up—*vide* the above paragraphs.

13. The enclosures to the above letter under reply are returned herewith.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Sketch-map.

Endorsement by C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated 1st December 1883, No. 389.

Submitted * to the Court of Wards with reference to their Proceedings, Mis. No. 7824, dated 15th September 1883.

* With the sketch to be returned.

The manager has given information on all the points on which report has been called for, and his proposals regarding ferries, &c., are fair and reasonable. It does not appear that the company have been asked whether they consent to the proposals or not, and the manager has been asked to do so now and to report the result.

Resolution—dated 17th December 1883, No. 3804.

In April 1883 an Agent of Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co. of Colombo spoke to the Collector of Madura upon the subject of a ship canal to be excavated by a company through the island of Rámesvaram, and this conversation was followed by a letter, dated 19th June 1883, in which Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co. asked the Collector to make over to them a strip of land, three hundred yards in width, across the island, at the price of Rs. 200 per acre.

2. The Court of Wards in Proceedings, No. 2043, dated 16th July 1883, asked for a rough survey of the line of the canal and remarked that while the Court were willing to accept Rs. 200 per acre for their ward's interest in the required land it must be understood that the company must pay full compensation to any ousted tenants and must provide and maintain ferries on the existing rights of way.

3. In reply Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co. forwarded to the Collector a rough sketch showing the position of the proposed canal and stated that they were prepared to submit to the conditions which the Court would impose.

4. The Court thereupon, in Proceedings, No. 7824, dated 15th September 1883, asked for particulars as to the lines of road crossed, the ferries to be maintained, whether any religious buildings would be interfered with, and what extent of occupied land would be taken up.

5. The manager of the Ramnad estate now reports that the line of the proposed canal has been surveyed by the promoters of the company. The following land will be taken up:—

	ACRES.
Covered with thron bushes	178·10
Cocoanut and palmyra trees	34·08
Dry cultivation without permission	8·83
Temple, pond, and garden	4·61
Total ...	225·62

The manager says that the occupants have agreed to accept Rs. 6,371-1-7 as compensation, and quotes the compensation to the zemindar at Rs. 45,624, which includes Rs. 500 for trees, making a total of Rs. 51,995-1-7.

6. The manager further reports that the main road from Pámban to Rámesvaram is the only line of road which the canal will cut. The agent of the promoters proposes to place a swing-bridge here, and the manager suggests an iron draw-bridge. This is a matter upon which the Court would be glad to have a professional opinion.

They resolve therefore to forward the papers to the Public Works Department with the request that the Chief Engineer will advise them as to the method of crossing the canal which the Canal Company should be bound to provide.

7. The promoters of the company must, of course, arrange with the telegraph department as regards the passage of a cable under the canal.

8. A plot of ground can be given for the re-erection of the temple as suggested in paragraph 9 of the manager's letter.

9. The Court await the further communication promised by the Collector.

10. A copy of these proceedings with the sketch plans will be submitted for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with two enclosures to be returned, and copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 16th July 1883, No. 2043.
To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 16th July 1883, No. 2043.
To the Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Division.
To the Collector of Madura.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 7th January 1884, No. 4:—

Read—the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated 25th December 1883, No. 424:—

In continuation of my endorsement, No. 389, dated 1st December 1883, to the Ramnad Manager's letter, No. 293, dated 19th November last, I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Court of Wards, copy of a letter, dated 12th instant, with its enclosure, received from Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co.

ENCLOSURES.

Letter from Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Co., to the Collector of Madura, dated Colombo, 12th December 1883.

We have the honor to enclose a copy of our letter of this date to the Honorary Deputy Collector and Manager, Ramnad, from which you will see that we accept the conditions as set forth in his letter to us, dated 4th instant.

2. We hope now that you may be able to provide us with the needful document, making over to us the ground required for the canal, we binding ourselves on behalf of the Company to a fulfilment of the various conditions.

3. With regard to paragraph No. 11 of the Honorary Deputy Collector's report to you, No. 293, we may state that for their own sake alone the Company would be most careful to prevent any encroachment of the sea.

Letter from Messrs. GRINDROD, JENKINS and Co., to the Honorary Deputy Collector and Manager of Ramnad, Pámban, dated Colombo, 12th December 1883.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your two letters, dated 28th ultimo and 4th instant, together with a copy of your report on the canal scheme, dated 19th ultimo, as forwarded by you to the Honorable the Acting Collector of Madura, and a copy of the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 15th September last.

2. Pray accept our thanks for these documents, and we may remark here that your letter of 28th ultimo only reached us two days before the one of 4th instant.

3. The conditions on which the land for the proposed canal will be made over to the Canal Company, as set forth in your letter of 4th instant, we accept on behalf of the Company, viz.:—

(1) The Company to pay Rs. 51,995-1-7 for the interests of the Zemindar and of his tenants in the required land.
(2) The Company to provide, at the point where the proposed canal cuts, the main road from Pámban to Rámesvaram, free of cost, to the public for crossing the canal either by a swing bridge or by boats sufficiently strong and large to allow at a time 10 laden carts, 50 animals, and 100 passengers to pass with safety and properly maintained and worked by trained men, and kept open to the public at all times, both day and night, the time when vessels pass being of course excepted.
(3) At the point where the telegraph line to Ceylon is affected by the proposed canal, the Company will provide either a cable, or will carry the line at such a height over the canal as not to be interfered with by the passing vessels. The cost of this to be borne by the Company. The Company will also be prepared to pay for any repairs which may be shown to be necessary as arising from any negligence on their part, or from any accident in the working of the canal.
(4) The Company will, if needful, bind themselves, in writing, to provide and maintain such boats or bridge free of cost to the public as before mentioned, and to maintain the rights of way which now exist under reasonable penalty.

4. We shall be glad to receive now, as early as convenient, some formal document, promising to hand over the land on the conditions enumerated.

Resolution—dated 7th January 1884, No. 4.

Submitted for the information of Government in continuation of Court's Proceedings, No. 3804, dated 17th December 1883.

2. The Court of Wards presume that there is no objection on the part of Government to their accepting the terms of the promoters of the Company on behalf of their ward. As Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co. are anxious to have a formal document executed speedily by which the land required is promised to be conveyed to them on the conditions specified, the Court would be glad to receive a reply from Government as soon as possible.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copy of letter from Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co., dated 12th December 1883, and its enclosure.
Copy to the Collector of Madura.
" to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

ORDER—dated 22nd January 1884, No. 113, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government in this Department see no objection to the action which the Court propose to take.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Court of Wards, with two enclosures.
" Public Works Department.
" Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs.

Exd. C. Howarth.

60 Copies.

P.W. dept.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 311 Wds 5th Feby /84

Recorded

(Sgd) J.S.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 22nd January 1884, No. 113.

No. 310 Wds 5th & 11th Feby /84

JANUARY.

Ship Canal through the Island of Ramesvaram.

Court of Wards' action in accepting Messrs. Grindrod, Jenkins and Co.'s terms to cut a —, approved.

S. E. VI circle

With orders