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Extract from Proceedings of the Committee of Council on Education
made on the 10th May 1885.



Rev 3/6/85

C. 4869 & 4906.

No. 13020 of 5th June 1885
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Extract from Proceedings of Extraordinary General Meeting of Cocanada Chamber of Commerce, held on 16th May 1885.

Read and considered G. O. 20th April 1885, No. 162, passing orders on a report submitted by the Master Attendant of his visit to the Port of Cocanada with the Hon. Col. Shaw-Stewart, Chief Engineer, on 17th February last.

Resolved that the Chamber approve entirely of the action of its representatives in objecting to incorrect appropriation of funds entrusted to them, and resisting what in the Chambers opinion might have formed a precedent for burdening the Groynes Extension Fund with the permanent maintenance of old work properly appertaining to Port Funds. In this view the Chamber do not share Captain Taylor's opinion that the matter was a small one, or that their representatives were unnecessarily "exercised" in their minds over it.

The Chamber understand that the balance of funds sanctioned for the repair of old works was not returned to Government through a misconception but under express orders from Marine Department, Madras.

With regard to the constitution of the Committee, Captain Taylor would appear to have been misinformed as to the circumstances under which Mr. P. Ramakistiah's term of service on Board terminated.

That gentleman's term of office having expired in ordinary course simultaneously with that of the other non-official Members, a new Committee was elected by the Chamber.

The Chamber are much concerned to hear that Native Mercantile community have felt aggrieved at the non-election to the Committee of one of their Members, but would add that though being in daily intercourse with the leading Native Merchants they now learn for the first time that the Native Mercantile community are dissatisfied with not being represented on the Committee by one of themselves.

In deference to their wishes the Chamber heartily concur with the suggestion of Government that a Native gentleman should be added to the Board.

With reference to the constitution of the present Board the Chamber are satisfied that the Mercantile interests (Native as well as European) of the Port are adequately represented by the gentlemen nominated by them; they have hitherto understood that the election of two Members vested in them, and they were not prepared to find that their selection was to be subject to Captain Taylor's criticism.

The Chamber desire to acknowledge the improvements effected in signalling to and from shipping, by means of a repeating flag staff at Vakalapudy, and the placing of a more powerful light on Hope Island.

In connection with Captain Taylor's remarks on dredging, the Chamber would remark that the Harbour is practically without any dredging appliances, the old dredge being utterly worn out and only fit to be broken up, and the new Priestman Dredge being still unemployed, as she has been since arrival, fully a year ago. The Chamber, however, were in hopes that this would very shortly be rectified as Captain Taylor in his report of 23rd March 1885, stated that the technical difficulties which constituted the only obstacle to its working would be overcome in a few days. So far from this it appears that the technical knowledge required to work the Dredge is not to be found in the District, and of the fleet of mud punts required to serve the Dredge, the first being built experimentally is now only on the stocks. The complete equipment of the Dredge must therefore necessarily, at present rate of progress, occupy many months to come, meanwhile the labour of years is being lost in the silting up of the fair way, and the Chamber would earnestly urge upon Government the imperative necessity for immediate steps being taken to provide the Port with adequate dredging appliances.

The Chamber will await with much interest the equitable settlement of the affairs of the Port, promised in para 8 of Captain Taylor's Report. The matter is one which has for some time engaged the attention of the Chamber who hope to address Government specially on the subject at an early date. Meanwhile with reference to Captain Taylor's remark that the Port Fund at present shows a debit balance, they would submit for the consideration of Government the question as to what reliance can be placed on a system of accounts which allows Cocanada (admittedly one of the largest out-port contributors to the seaborne trade of the Presidency) no share of Port Dues collected elsewhere for the whole group, and which admits of Cocanada being debited last year with some Rs. 7,340 on account of the Madras Steam Tug "Madras", sent here for shelter and repair during the monsoon, and whose presence for months in our fairway contributed nothing whatsoever to the benefit of the Port, but rather the reverse.

Copies forwarded to:-

Collector, Godavery District
Chief Secretary to Govt. Madras
Secy. to Govt. P.W.D. Madras

Rev 2/6/85

Cocanada, 27th May 1885

From

J. M. Bryce Esquire
Chairman Chamber of Commerce

To

The Honourable Colonel Shaw Stewart
Chief Engineer D.P.W.
Madras

Sir

I have the honour to draw your attention
to extract from proceedings of a meeting of this
Chamber held on 16th May 1885 which was
forwarded to you by post yesterday.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

James M. Bryce

Chairman

+ Not received here - Perhaps sent
direct to Mr. D.P. 2-6-85 -
vide Ch. 4906

E. P. G. 1885