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Act 3/6/85

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD APPOINTED UNDER G. O. No. 176, DATED 29TH JANUARY
1883,—(FINANCIAL), FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PORT OF COCANADA.

Proceedings of a Meeting held at the Marine Office, Cocanada, on the 13th May 1885.

PRESENT :

Messrs. James. M. Bryce,—*Chairman.*

J. A. Simson, ... }
A. MacNab, ... } *Members.*
T. H. Baker, ... }

Read and approved the report of Executive Officer for the month of April. Sanctioned expenditure of Rs. 393-8-0 as suggested for licenses of 5 Boats and Steam-launch such being considered a more economical course than paying toll fees every six weeks.

Report of the Port Officer on the Groynes Extension Operations:—

During the month of April 1885, 74½ running feet of Groyne have been completed on the North Side and a large quantity of stone placed ready for building on the foundation of the South Groyne which up to the end of the month still gave trouble on account of excessive sinkage; owing to the protection of the Sand Bank to the Northward of the North Groyne, the scour has not been so great and careful soundings taken at low water, showed a depth of 4½ feet at the end of the foundation which is about 130 feet in advance of the completed work.

The expenditure during the month is as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Laborers	112	7	0
Coolies for loading stone into the Boats and placing in position ...	110	11	0
Wages of 10 Boat Lascars	80	0	0
Pay of Overseer	40	0	0
Batta to Overseer for going to Samulcottah inspecting quarries &c.	2	0	0
Pay of Gumasta	10	0	0
Office allowance	5	0	0
Supervision allowance for March 1885	100	0	0
Total Rs.	460	2	0

Total expenditure on all accounts Rs. 14,342-11-6 leaving an unexpended balance of Rs. 58,557-4-6.

As the Canal will shortly be opened and navigable Rs. 393-8-0 will have to be paid for the annual license fees of the 5 stone boats and the Steam-launch. I therefore, ask the sanction and approval of the Committee for this expenditure as it is cheaper to take an annual license than pay toll fees every six weeks.

COCANADA, }
13th May 1885. }

(Signed) T. H. BAKER,

Port Officer.

Read letter from Pallory Veeriah, Cavalry Venkataswamy and Cadarysetty Manikalu, Contractors asking to be paid 3 annas per cubic-yard for small stone.

Resolved with reference to above that decision arrived at at meeting held on the 15th April 1885 be adhered to contract enforced.

Read letter from Deputy Accountant-General, Madras, No. 934, dated 1st April, in reply to Chairman's enquiry of 16th March stating that Rs. 72,900 had been placed at disposal of Port Officer, Cocanada, and that therefore the balance of Rs. 61,003-6-10 shown as unexpended funds at end of February is correct.

Resolved that the Deputy Accountant-General be written to, to explain what is meant by his statement that the sum of Rs. 72,900 was placed at disposal of Port Officer, it being understood by the Committee that the said sum was placed at its disposal, allotment to be subject to control of Committee.

Read letter from Master Attendant, Administrative Department, No. 3019, dated Madras, 9th April, to Port Officer, Cocanada, informing him that the Government of India has sanctioned the continuance of payment of the allowance (Rs. 100 per month) to the Port Officer while he superintends the Extension of the Groynes at Cocanada.

Resolved that as the payment referred to is not in keeping with conditions of the estimate, the Chairman be requested to ascertain from Government whether the allowance as now sanctioned is payable out of Groynes Extension Fund.

Proposed by Mr. Simson and carried by non-official Members unanimously.

That as a considerable amount of unnecessary friction is caused, time wasted, and co-operation frustrated by sundry orders on minor points issued by the Master Attendant of Madras, to the Port Officer, which in the opinion of the Board interfere with his duties as Executive Officer, the Board desires that its position should be clearly defined. It has hitherto adopted the view that it is an independent body formed for the due carrying out of the project of the Groynes Extension, but as points are of frequent occurrence by which the Executive Officer evinces his subservience in extension matters to his superior officer in Madras, in preference to the wishes of the Board, the Members of the Board must decline any responsibility in their anomalous position and desire that their authority should be clearly defined. The Members of the Board were under the impression that the control of the entire undertaking was left in their hands and in that belief accepted the charge, but from the various orders from time to time issued, it appears that the funds are at the disposal of the Port Officer who receives orders from the Government of India, the Accountant-General and the Master Attendant, Madras, regardless of the estimates upon which the work was put in hand and without reference to the wishes of the Board.

Read letter from the Master Attendant, Madras, with reference to application to him for permission to put up a red and green light one at end of each Groyne.

Having regard to the objection raised to the lights as proposed in Chairman's letter to Capt. Taylor, and as the matter of colour does not seem to affect the purpose for which the lights are so much and urgently required. Resolved that the Chairman now request Captain Taylor's permission for two red lights being exhibited one at end of each Groyne.

(Signed) JAMES. M. BRYCE,—Chairman.

„ J. A. SIMSON,—Member.

„ A. MACNAB Do.

I agree with the 1st and last Resolutions only ... „ T. H. BAKER Do.

*Copies forwarded to
Collector, Gadavay District
Chief Secy to Govt of Madras
Secy to Govt. MMD Madras*