R. & A.

Govt. of {1885} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 3rd August 1885, No. 891.

N° 1978 Wa/25th August/85

AUGUST.

86

Transfer of Collector's Head-quarters.

Calling for information on the question of — from Chatrapur to Berhampore.

With order

N° 1978 Wa/25th August/85

Communicated to the Supdg. Engr. I Circle, who will render such aid as the Collector may require in the prosecution of the inquiries ordered in the foregoing Proceedings.

2. The Consulting Architect to Govt will hold in abeyance the preparation of the plans & estimates called for in G.O. No. 2719 W dated 4th Nov. 1884

(Sgd) J.H.S.

Supdg. Engr. I Circl
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5. Further steps for the construction of a new residence for the Collector at Chatrapur must be held in abeyance until the question of future district head-quarters is finally settled. Meanwhile, looking at the list of houses at Chatrapur appended to the petition submitted with the Collector's letter, it appears quite possible that the Collector and the other officials could accommodate themselves at that station without any difficulty.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with petition and its enclosure returned.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Judicial Department.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.

District Registrar must of course follow, as well as the Assistant Collector and District Forest Officer. I very much question whether suitable accommodation can be found for all these on the site indicated by the Chief Engineer, as it would not be advisable to build too near the District Jail; indeed exception was taken by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his visit to the station last year to the propinquity of the existing houses, *i.e.*, the house occupied by the Senior Assistant Collector and the District Court. There are altogether about 40 acres of vacant land near the jail, but if no building is to be erected within 250 yards distance of the District Jail, the extent actually available is considerably curtailed. The houses already existing in Berhampore are fully occupied and, besides, are badly situated. Houses would be required for the following officers:—(1) Collector, (2) Assistant Collector, (3) Superintendent of Police, (4) Treasury Deputy Collector, (5) District Forest Officer, (6) District Board Engineer, and offices for the above, as also for the District Registrar. In addition, space must be found for native officials and for the Police reserve lines. There is no room in Berhampore itself, which is already overcrowded.

3. I do not consider that the new building now being erected for the Senior Assistant Collector could be converted into an office suitable for the Collector and his establishment. It is badly situated in a confined space and separated by but a few yards from the Tahsildar's cutcherry. I question from personal inspection if the additions required for the Collector's office could possibly be got into the limited extent of ground available. In any case, I consider that the transfer of the Senior Assistant Collector to Chatrapur would be a move in the wrong direction; nine-tenths of his cases would have to pass through Berhampore to reach him; and if the Collector is moved, I would still retain the Senior Assistant at Berhampore.

4. The question, however, seems to me to be one of expense merely, and if the Government are prepared to incur the large outlay involved, there is no doubt that for administrative purposes the change to Berhampore would be beneficial.

5. I take this opportunity of submitting, for the consideration of the Board, a petition presented by the inhabitants of Chatrapur, who naturally enough strongly deprecate the proposed change and will be heavy losers thereby.

Enclosure No. 1—Petition.

Enclosure No. 2—List.

Resolution—dated 19th June 1885, No. 1840.

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3. As pointed out by the Collector, the transfer to Berhampore would involve not only the construction of new public offices for all departments under the Collector and Magistrate and lines for the Police reserve, but also of bungalow accommodation for at least six European officers.

4. Apart from all question of cost, the difficulty of obtaining suitable sites for new buildings is a most formidable one, as the existence of valuable wet cultivation on all sides of the town but the east, limits building extension to the high ground in the vicinity of the jail, which is of very limited area.

5. Personal inspection, it is observed, has convinced the Collector that the Senior Assistant Collector's office, even after enlargement, is thoroughly unsuited for the reception of a Collector's establishment, and he seems also to be thoroughly convinced of the inadequacy of the available area for the new building which would be required.

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7. Under these circumstances, the Board are unable to advocate the proposed change of head-quarters, the expense being prohibitive and any compensating advantage entirely absent.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. F. MacCARTIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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

Copy to the Collector of Ganjam.

Order—dated 3rd August 1885, No. 891, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government are unable, in the absence of any information as to the expenditure involved, to arrive at a final conclusion on the question of transferring the Collector's head-quarters to Berhampore. The Board will be desired, therefore, to call upon the Collector to furnish, after communication with the Public Works Department, as well as the departments concerned, a rough idea of the probable cost of the building accommodation required at that station for the Collector and his staff, the Superintendent of Police, the District Board Engineer and the District Registrar.

2. Against such outlay should be set off the saving of expenditure that may be anticipated by abandoning Chatrapur as the district head-quarters. For instance, the necessity for a doctor at this station would cease, and there would be no need to incur any expenditure on the present Collector's cutcherry which, being an ancient building, will require extensive repair, if not entire rebuilding. A report on the public buildings at Chatrapur showing their value and condition should be furnished; and now that it has been finally settled that the salt administration of Orissa is to be transferred to the Madras Commissioner, it should be definitely ascertained what the requirements of this department as to building accommodation will be. It appears to Government that, if the offices of the Collector and the Superintendent of Police are removed to Berhampore, no expenditure would be required in housing the Salt Department at Chatrapur, and thus a saving under this head may be counted upon also.

3. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, though there may be only 40 acres of *vacant* land in the vicinity of the jail at Berhampore, there is, it is believed, quite enough of *putta* land on both sides of the Berhampore-Gopálpur road in close proximity to the 40 acres.

4. Further, it is to be observed that, if the contingency of the troops now quartered at this station being removed to Vizianagrum (Board's Proceedings, paragraph 9) occurs, the houses and barracks which will be vacated in consequence would afford ample bungalow and office accommodation for all departments at Berhampore.

The work was executed in 1866-1868 by the Public Works Department, and has proved of great assistance to traffic.

Unfortunately, the canal appears not to have been excavated to a sufficient depth, and heavily laden boats have, consequently, great difficulty in navigating it. During 1884 it was decided to deepen the canal to a uniform depth of 6·5 feet below M.S.L.; and an estimate was prepared amounting to Rs. 74,600, which sum was allotted in G.O., dated 20th August 1884, No. 2040 W. It was subsequently discovered that this estimate was grossly incorrect, and a revised estimate is now under preparation. It is hoped that this very important work will be carried out early during the year 1885-86.

23. *Extension of Canal to Gopalpúr.*—As stated above, the object of the Chilka canal was to connect the Ganjam backwater and port with the large system of inland water communication which lies to the north; but the trade of the town of Ganjam seems to have entirely disappeared, and all goods which came down the Chilka canal for export are transferred to carts when they reach the south of the Ganjam backwater and carried by road to Gopálpur.

What has caused the complete disappearance of Ganjam as a trading port is by no means clear; but even 29 years ago General Cotton mentioned the growing preference for Gopálpur, though he was unable to account for it.

In consequence of that tendency shown by goods to seek shipment at Gopálpur, General Cotton suggested, in the report already alluded to, the construction of a second section of canal, to connect the Ganjam and the Gopálpur (or Munsurcotta) backwaters. He observed that such a canal would pass through a singularly favorable natural hollow, occupied then (and now) by a chain of small freshwater lakes; and he raised the question whether the canal should be a tidal one, or a freshwater one with locks.

Up to the present time, nothing has been done towards the construction of this canal; but in 1882-83 the country was carefully surveyed and examined, and a decision arrived at in favor of a tidal canal uniting the two backwaters.

In 1884 an estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,44,335, was submitted to the Government of India for sanction; but, in consequence of slight omissions, a revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,51,145, has recently been submitted, and is now awaiting sanction.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance to the Ganjam district of this short section of canal. Its construction will complete the last link in the long chain of inland water communication to the north of Gopálpur, and will allow goods to be brought from great distances, without break of bulk, right up to that port, in which, when the pier is completed, the trade of the surrounding country will become more than ever concentrated.

24. Vizianagrum—*Experimental Artesian Well.*—At the request of His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagrum, I inspected a boring which is being made near the fort of Vizianagrum, in the hope of striking a water-bearing stratum from which a supply may be obtained by an Artesian well.

Mr. Fraser, the Engineer in charge, was good enough to show the boring apparatus at work, and to give full information on the subject.

The apparatus and plant seem excellent and suitable in every way. The cost is understood to have been about Rs. 12,000, which did not seem excessive.

At the date of inspection, the depth reached was stated to be 192 feet; and the rock which was being bored through was said by Mr. Fraser to be "intensely hard." On that point, the stuff brought up from the boring left no room for doubt. So far as could be judged, the boring was being made through a very close-grained and hard granitic rock; and it was understood that the greater part of the depth reached had been through rock of a similar character.

The opinion I formed was that there is not much prospect of obtaining water in that locality from an Artesian well, and I have informed His Highness the Maharajah accordingly, advising him to discontinue all expenditure there. I was not, however, in a position to say whether there are better prospects of success in other parts of the territory belonging to him.

Order—dated 23rd March 1885, No. 722 W., Public Works.

The above notes of inspection by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, are recorded, with the following observations:—

Paragraph 1.—The action of the Cocanada harbour groynes on the depth of water over the bar should be carefully watched, and the result reported after sufficient time has elapsed for a decided opinion being formed.

Paragraphs 2, 3 *and* 15.—Orders on the questions herein raised will issue in the Marine Department.

Paragraphs 4 *and* 5.—Referred to the Financial Department.

Paragraphs 6, 7, 8 *and* 12.—The special attention of the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, is drawn to these remarks.

Paragraph 11.—The Director-General of Telegraphs will be requested to favor Government with his views on the subject of a Telegraph office at Dowlaishweram.

Paragraphs 19, 20 *and* 21.—The suggestions in these paragraphs as to the selection of Berhampore for the site of the Collector's new residence and head-quarter offices, and the utilisation of existing buildings at Chatrapur will be considered in the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Director-General of Telegraphs.
" Marine Department.
" Financial "
" Revenue Department, with two enclosures.

No. 2168.

Referred to the Collector of Ganjam for report, through the Board of Revenue, on paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 of the Chief Engineer's note, on which the Board's views are also invited.

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ganjam.
Copy to the Board of Revenue.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th June 1885, No. 1840:—

Read—the following letter from J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (through the Board of Revenue), dated Chatrapur, 20th May 1885, No. 1541:—

I have the honor, with reference to paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 of notes of inspection by the Chief Engineer, to report as follows:—

Berhampore, being the chief town of the district with a population of 23,599 and being the head-quarters of the District Judge, &c., is undoubtedly better suited for the head-quarters of the Collector of the district than Chatrapur, from which it is distant thirteen miles by road. At present, the Collector is stationed at the northern corner of his district, being about forty miles from the northern boundary and one hundred and ten from Chicacole, his Principal Assistant's head-quarters.

2. Chatrapur, on the other hand, is a small but healthy town with a population of only 2,751. In point of sanitation, it is greatly superior to Berhampore. Should the Collector be moved, the Superintendent of Police, the Local Fund Engineer and

7. *Quarters for Telegraph Signallers.*—The work is well advanced, and should be finished before long. The quality of the masonry is better than at the cutcherry, but cannot be termed good.

8. *Repairs to Marine Villa.*—This work has proved to be more extensive and more costly than was at first expected. The sanctioned estimate amounts to Rs. 7,700; and when the building is finished, the accommodation afforded will probably be larger than required by the Port officer. No time should be lost in bringing the work to completion.

9. *New Church.*—This work is in progress under the Local Fund Engineer, and the quality of the masonry seems above the average. I was informed that the sanctioned estimate has been exceeded, and that work had therefore come to a stand for the present.

10. Dowlaishweram—*Houses for Superintending and Executive Engineers.*—These buildings are urgently required, as the only ones at present available are in every way unsuitable, being low and damp, and the walls riddled with white-ants. The new house for the Superintending Engineer is in progress, and had risen to basement level at the time of inspection; the work appeared sound and good. The proposal to build the Executive Engineer's house is now before the Government of India.

11. *Telegraph Office.*—Considerable inconvenience arises from there being no Telegraph office nearer to Dowlaishweram than Rajahmundry, a distance of more than 3 miles, and it seems in every way desirable that an office should be established at a station of such importance as Dowlaishweram.

12. Vizagapatam—*Old Military Buildings, &c.*—The removal of the Native Infantry Regiment from Vizagapatam has set free a considerable number of military buildings, and these have been, for the most part, handed over to the Police and other civil departments.

The land occupied by the Native Infantry lines was ordered to be cleared, and handed to the Revenue authorities. The clearance has not been done properly, and should be carried out thoroughly without delay, as the huts, in their half destroyed state, are certain to be used as latrines.

The main road is being thoroughly repaired before being handed over to the Municipality.

13. *Proposed Pier.*—Nothing has been done towards the construction of this pier beyond ascertaining, by boring, that there is sufficient depth of sand to allow screw piles being fixed along the proposed line. It appears probable that the project for a pier must be shelved until the construction of the railway to Raipur is undertaken.

14. *Pontoon Bridge across the Backwater.*—Beyond advertising for tenders, I could not learn that anything has yet been done towards securing the construction of this much needed communication.

15. *Signal Tower on Dolphin's Nose.*—This building is in a state of great disrepair, and has evidently been neglected for years. It is surmounted by a flagstaff, the supporting ropes of which appeared to be rotten, and the wood-work might fall at any time. The present condition of the building is certainly dangerous, and it should be either repaired or pulled down.

16. Bimlipatam—*Stone Groyne in Harbour*—This groyne has been completed according to estimate at a cost of Rs. 8,207. The quality of the work shows a decided improvement since I inspected it a year ago. The entire length of the groyne is 300 feet; but the result has not been to open a passage into the boat harbour at the point expected, the failure being attributed to the unusually low freshes in the river during 1884.

It was suggested by the Master Attendant that the action of the river freshes should be assisted by cutting an opening through the sand ridge at a point near the groyne, and a sum of Rs. 200 has been sanctioned for the purpose from Port funds, the work to be carried out by the Port officer.

17. Gopalpur—*New Buildings for Customs and Port Offices.*—An estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,050, for adding an upper story to the existing customs building,

was sanctioned in November 1883; but the present Collector of Ganjam took exception to the proposal, and recommended the erection of a new and much larger building, for which estimates are now being prepared. If Mr. Horsfall's recommendation is accepted, the existing buildings must be removed to make way for the new ones. The old buildings are inconveniently designed for the addition of an upper story; and, so far as I am able to judge, looking to the prospects of the port, the course recommended by Mr. Horsfall is the correct one. The site is suitable to the purpose, and convenient in all respects. The line of the proposed pier will start from the centre of the new buildings.

18. *Proposed Pier.*—Messrs. Massey and Company's tender for the construction of this pier has been accepted, and it is hoped that the deed of contract will shortly be signed, in which case the completion of the work may be looked for within 18 months or two years.

19. Chatrapur—*New Residence for Collector of Ganjam.*—The construction of a new residence for the Collector has been ordered, and the plans and estimates are now under preparation by the Consulting Architect. The circumstances connected with the purchase of Onslow Court, and the condemnation of the old building, are briefly stated in an attached précis.

In connection with this, the question arises whether the new house should be built at Chatrapur, which is some 10 miles from everywhere. It is situated at a very inconvenient distance from each of the important towns, Berhampore and Gopálpur, and is near to no place of importance.

Before final action is taken towards building a new house, it seems right to suggest for consideration whether the site should not be changed to Berhampore, where there is a large native town, a regiment, a Judge's court, a bank, &c., whereas at Chatrapur there is nothing of the kind, only the Collector and the Superintendent of Police living in the country.

The cost of building a residence for the Collector would probably be the same, whether at Chatrapur or at Berhampore; but, of course, if built at Berhampore, there would be the additional cost of a new cutcherry.

One point which deserves consideration in dealing with the question is that any railway made in Ganjam would certainly run from Gopálpur, through Berhampore and Aska, to the valley of the Mahánadi, and by Sonepur to join the new lines under construction and proposed in the Central Provinces. For that reason, as well as for other important reasons connected with administrative convenience, it may be thought worth while to incur some present additional outlay, and to take advantage of this opportunity to locate the chief civil officer of the district at a large centre of population and trade.

As regards the purposes for which existing public buildings at Chatrapur might be utilised, in the event of the Collector being moved to Berhampore, it may be thought desirable to transfer to Chatrapur the Senior Assistant now located at Berhampore; and I learn from the Commissioner of Salt and Abkári Revenue that part of the Chatrapur buildings might possibly be utilised in his department. A demi-official letter on the subject from Mr. Bliss is appended.

20. Berhampore—*New Cutcherry for Senior Assistant Collector.*—This building is in progress, and is capable of enlargement, if thought desirable, with advertence to the previous remarks.

21. *Site for new buildings.*—For any new civil buildings that may be required at Berhampore, an excellent site is available on the high land to the east of the town, near the jail. It is understood that good water is to be had on that site.

22. *Chilka Canal.*—This most useful short line of water communication was first suggested by Lieutenant-Colonel (now Major-General) F. C. Cotton, in his interesting report on the capabilities of the Ganjam district, dated 12th July 1856 (*vide* Proceedings of Government, dated 24th November 1857, No. 2167). It connects the Ganjam backwater with the Chilka lake, and through it with the Mahánadi and its system of navigable canals.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following G.O., dated 23rd March 1885, No. 722 W., Public Works:—

Read—the following paper:—

Notes of Inspection by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.
I Circle, February-March 1885.

Cocanada—*Extension of Harbour Groynes.*—This work is making slow progress. Out of a projected additional length of 1,900 feet, the north groyne has advanced about 60 feet and the south groyne about 140 feet. I am aware that difficulty has been experienced in the supply of stone, and the Port officer has been obliged to build boats suitable for the rough work. It may be hoped that progress will be more rapid in future.

The section adopted by Captain Baker for these groynes is a good one; but the stones which I saw being placed in position seemed far too small to withstand the force of the sea during a monsoon gale from the north-east; and there seemed reason to anticipate some considerable subsidence through the soft yielding bottom on which the groynes are built.

It seems by no means certain that the extension of the groynes will exercise any permanent effect upon the depth of water over the bar. The bar will, of course, be forced further into the bay, but whether a better depth of water will be secured is far from certain.

2. *Groynes Committee.*—The native merchants of Cocanada are anxious to be represented upon the groynes committee. When that body was first formed, Mr. Ramakristna, one of the principal merchants, was appointed as one of the three members; but it is understood that he was obliged to resign through ill-health, and his place was taken by a European merchant. Considering how largely they are interested in the welfare of the port, it seems not unreasonable that the native merchants should be represented on the committee.

3. *Boat Traffic in River.*—Some effectual mode of maintaining order among the boats anchored in the river is greatly needed. At present they seem to be moored wherever their owners choose, and at some points almost the whole of the available waterway is blocked.

4. *Iron Lattice Bridge over River.*—The iron work of this bridge is in great need of careful overhauling. The bracing between the piles is broken in many places, owing probably to corrosion and other causes. The piles also appear to be in need of strengthening. It is understood that the bridge is entirely in the hands of the Municipality, and no time should be lost in having it carefully inspected and in carrying out all needful repairs.

5. *Cocanada Water-supply.*—I understand that this is led off from the Sámalkót canal, above the tidal lock, and carried in an open channel into the town. At a point where I saw this channel, it was taken close alongside of a public highway, without any attempt to secure it from pollution by fence or otherwise. The arrangement appeared objectionable in many ways.

6. *Additions to Collector's Cutcherry.*—The work is well advanced, and appears to be making fair progress; but the quality of the masonry is not so good as it might be. The walls are constructed of rubble stone, at a rate of about Rs. 3-8-0 per cubic yard. The work is certainly not dear, but it is very rough and lacking in bond.

No 1978 Wd/25th August/85

Communicated to the Supdg. Engineer I Circle, who will render such aid as the Collector may require in the prosecution of the injunctions ordered in the foregoing Proceedings.

2. The Consulting Architect to Govt will hold in abeyance the preparation of the plans & Estimates called for in G.O. No 2719 W dy 4th November 1884.

(Sgd) J.S.

2 Nos Supdg. Engr. I Circle
" Consg. Archt. to Govt.

S.W.D.

Govt. of {1885} Madras.

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Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 3rd August 1885, No. 891.

No 1978 Wd/25th August/85.

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With order

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3. I do not consider that the new building now being erected for the Senior Assistant Collector could be converted into an office suitable for the Collector and his establishment. It is badly situated in a confined space and separated by but a few yards from the Tahsildar's cutcherry. I question from personal inspection if the additions required for the Collector's office could possibly be got into the limited extent of ground available. In any case, I consider that the transfer of the Senior Assistant Collector to Chatrapur would be a move in the wrong direction; nine-tenths of his cases would have to pass through Berhampore to reach him; and if the Collector is moved, I would still retain the Senior Assistant at Berhampore.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. F. MacCARTIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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Miscellaneous.

The Government are unable, in the absence of any information as to the expenditure involved, to arrive at a final conclusion on the question of transferring the Collector's head-quarters to Berhampore. The Board will be desired, therefore, to call upon the Collector to furnish, after communication with the Public Works Department, as well as the departments concerned, a rough idea of the probable cost of the building accommodation required at that station for the Collector and his staff, the Superintendent of Police, the District Board Engineer and the District Registrar.

2. Against such outlay should be set off the saving of expenditure that may be anticipated by abandoning Chatrapur as the district head-quarters. For instance, the necessity for a doctor at this station would cease, and there would be no need to incur any expenditure on the present Collector's cutcherry which, being an ancient building, will require extensive repair, if not entire rebuilding. A report on the public buildings at Chatrapur showing their value and condition should be furnished; and now that it has been finally settled that the salt administration of Orissa is to be transferred to the Madras Commissioner, it should be definitely ascertained what the requirements of this department as to building accommodation will be. It appears to Government that, if the offices of the Collector and the Superintendent of Police are removed to Berhampore, no expenditure would be required in housing the Salt Department at Chatrapur, and thus a saving under this head may be counted upon also.

3. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, though there may be only 40 acres of *vacant* land in the vicinity of the jail at Berhampore, there is, it is believed, quite enough of *putta* land on both sides of the Berhampore-Gopálpur road in close proximity to the 40 acres.

4. Further, it is to be observed that, if the contingency of the troops now quartered at this station being removed to Vizianagrum (Board's Proceedings, paragraph 9) occurs, the houses and barracks which will be vacated in consequence would afford ample bungalow and office accommodation for all departments at Berhampore.

5. Further steps for the construction of a new residence for the Collector at Chatrapur must be held in abeyance until the question of future district head-quarters is finally settled. Meanwhile, looking at the list of houses at Chatrapur appended to the petition submitted with the Collector's letter, it appears quite possible that the Collector and the other officials could accommodate themselves at that station without any difficulty.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with petition and its enclosure returned.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Judicial Department.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

90 Copies.

The work was executed in 1866-1868 by the Public Works Department, and has proved of great assistance to traffic.

Unfortunately, the canal appears not to have been excavated to a sufficient depth, and heavily laden boats have, consequently, great difficulty in navigating it. During 1884 it was decided to deepen the canal to a uniform depth of 6·5 feet below M.S.L.; and an estimate was prepared amounting to Rs. 74,600, which sum was allotted in G.O., dated 20th August 1884, No. 2040 W. It was subsequently discovered that this estimate was grossly incorrect, and a revised estimate is now under preparation. It is hoped that this very important work will be carried out early during the year 1885-86.

23. *Extension of Canal to Gopalpúr.*—As stated above, the object of the Chilka canal was to connect the Ganjam backwater and port with the large system of inland water communication which lies to the north; but the trade of the town of Ganjam seems to have entirely disappeared, and all goods which came down the Chilka canal for export are transferred to carts when they reach the south of the Ganjam backwater and carried by road to Gopálpur.

What has caused the complete disappearance of Ganjam as a trading port is by no means clear; but even 29 years ago General Cotton mentioned the growing preference for Gopálpur, though he was unable to account for it.

In consequence of that tendency shown by goods to seek shipment at Gopálpur, General Cotton suggested, in the report already alluded to, the construction of a second section of canal, to connect the Ganjam and the Gopálpur (or Munsurcotta) backwaters. He observed that such a canal would pass through a singularly favorable natural hollow, occupied then (and now) by a chain of small freshwater lakes; and he raised the question whether the canal should be a tidal one, or a freshwater one with locks.

Up to the present time, nothing has been done towards the construction of this canal; but in 1882-83 the country was carefully surveyed and examined, and a decision arrived at in favor of a tidal canal uniting the two backwaters.

In 1884 an estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,44,335, was submitted to the Government of India for sanction; but, in consequence of slight omissions, a revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,51,145, has recently been submitted, and is now awaiting sanction.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance to the Ganjam district of this short section of canal. Its construction will complete the last link in the long chain of inland water communication to the north of Gopálpur, and will allow goods to be brought from great distances, without break of bulk, right up to that port, in which, when the pier is completed, the trade of the surrounding country will become more than ever concentrated.

24. Vizianagrum—*Experimental Artesian Well.*—At the request of His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagrum, I inspected a boring which is being made near the fort of Vizianagrum, in the hope of striking a water-bearing stratum from which a supply may be obtained by an Artesian well.

Mr. Fraser, the Engineer in charge, was good enough to show the boring apparatus at work, and to give full information on the subject.

The apparatus and plant seem excellent and suitable in every way. The cost is understood to have been about Rs. 12,000, which did not seem excessive.

At the date of inspection, the depth reached was stated to be 192 feet; and the rock which was being bored through was said by Mr. Fraser to be "intensely hard." On that point, the stuff brought up from the boring left no room for doubt. So far as could be judged, the boring was being made through a very close-grained and hard granitic rock; and it was understood that the greater part of the depth reached had been through rock of a similar character.

The opinion I formed was that there is not much prospect of obtaining water in that locality from an Artesian well, and I have informed His Highness the Maharajah accordingly, advising him to discontinue all expenditure there. I was not, however, in a position to say whether there are better prospects of success in other parts of the territory belonging to him.

7. *Quarters for Telegraph Signallers.*—The work is well advanced, and should be finished before long. The quality of the masonry is better than at the cutcherry, but cannot be termed good.

8. *Repairs to Marine Villa.*—This work has proved to be more extensive and more costly than was at first expected. The sanctioned estimate amounts to Rs. 7,700; and when the building is finished, the accommodation afforded will probably be larger than required by the Port officer. No time should be lost in bringing the work to completion.

9. *New Church.*—This work is in progress under the Local Fund Engineer, and the quality of the masonry seems above the average. I was informed that the sanctioned estimate has been exceeded, and that work had therefore come to a stand for the present.

10. Dowlaishweram—*Houses for Superintending and Executive Engineers.*—These buildings are urgently required, as the only ones at present available are in every way unsuitable, being low and damp, and the walls riddled with white-ants. The new house for the Superintending Engineer is in progress, and had risen to basement level at the time of inspection; the work appeared sound and good. The proposal to build the Executive Engineer's house is now before the Government of India.

11. *Telegraph Office.*—Considerable inconvenience arises from there being no Telegraph office nearer to Dowlaishweram than Rajahmundry, a distance of more than 3 miles, and it seems in every way desirable that an office should be established at a station of such importance as Dowlaishweram.

12. Vizagapatam—*Old Military Buildings, &c.*—The removal of the Native Infantry Regiment from Vizagapatam has set free a considerable number of military buildings, and these have been, for the most part, handed over to the Police and other civil departments.

The land occupied by the Native Infantry lines was ordered to be cleared, and handed to the Revenue authorities. The clearance has not been done properly, and should be carried out thoroughly without delay, as the huts, in their half destroyed state, are certain to be used as latrines.

The main road is being thoroughly repaired before being handed over to the Municipality.

13. *Proposed Pier.*—Nothing has been done towards the construction of this pier beyond ascertaining, by boring, that there is sufficient depth of sand to allow screw piles being fixed along the proposed line. It appears probable that the project for a pier must be shelved until the construction of the railway to Raipur is undertaken.

14. *Pontoon Bridge across the Backwater.*—Beyond advertising for tenders, I could not learn that anything has yet been done towards securing the construction of this much needed communication.

15. *Signal Tower on Dolphin's Nose.*—This building is in a state of great disrepair, and has evidently been neglected for years. It is surmounted by a flagstaff, the supporting ropes of which appeared to be rotten, and the wood-work might fall at any time. The present condition of the building is certainly dangerous, and it should be either repaired or pulled down.

16. Bimlipatam—*Stone Groyne in Harbour*—This groyne has been completed according to estimate at a cost of Rs. 8,207. The quality of the work shows a decided improvement since I inspected it a year ago. The entire length of the groyne is 300 feet; but the result has not been to open a passage into the boat harbour at the point expected, the failure being attributed to the unusually low freshes in the river during 1884.

It was suggested by the Master Attendant that the action of the river freshes should be assisted by cutting an opening through the sand ridge at a point near the groyne, and a sum of Rs. 200 has been sanctioned for the purpose from Port funds, the work to be carried out by the Port officer.

17. Gopalpur—*New Buildings for Customs and Port Offices.*—An estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,050, for adding an upper story to the existing customs building,

was sanctioned in November 1883; but the present Collector of Ganjam took exception to the proposal, and recommended the erection of a new and much larger building, for which estimates are now being prepared. If Mr. Horsfall's recommendation is accepted, the existing buildings must be removed to make way for the new ones. The old buildings are inconveniently designed for the addition of an upper story; and, so far as I am able to judge, looking to the prospects of the port, the course recommended by Mr. Horsfall is the correct one. The site is suitable to the purpose, and convenient in all respects. The line of the proposed pier will start from the centre of the new buildings.

18. *Proposed Pier.*—Messrs. Massey and Company's tender for the construction of this pier has been accepted, and it is hoped that the deed of contract will shortly be signed, in which case the completion of the work may be looked for within 18 months or two years.

19. Chatrapur—*New Residence for Collector of Ganjam.*—The construction of a new residence for the Collector has been ordered, and the plans and estimates are now under preparation by the Consulting Architect. The circumstances connected with the purchase of Onslow Court, and the condemnation of the old building, are briefly stated in an attached précis.

In connection with this, the question arises whether the new house should be built at Chatrapur, which is some 10 miles from everywhere. It is situated at a very inconvenient distance from each of the important towns, Berhampore and Gopálpur, and is near to no place of importance.

Before final action is taken towards building a new house, it seems right to suggest for consideration whether the site should not be changed to Berhampore, where there is a large native town, a regiment, a Judge's court, a bank, &c., whereas at Chatrapur there is nothing of the kind, only the Collector and the Superintendent of Police living in the country.

The cost of building a residence for the Collector would probably be the same, whether at Chatrapur or at Berhampore; but, of course, if built at Berhampore, there would be the additional cost of a new cutcherry.

One point which deserves consideration in dealing with the question is that any railway made in Ganjam would certainly run from Gopálpur, through Berhampore and Aska, to the valley of the Mahánadi, and by Sonepur to join the new lines under construction and proposed in the Central Provinces. For that reason, as well as for other important reasons connected with administrative convenience, it may be thought worth while to incur some present additional outlay, and to take advantage of this opportunity to locate the chief civil officer of the district at a large centre of population and trade.

As regards the purposes for which existing public buildings at Chatrapur might be utilised, in the event of the Collector being moved to Berhampore, it may be thought desirable to transfer to Chatrapur the Senior Assistant now located at Berhampore; and I learn from the Commissioner of Salt and Abkári Revenue that part of the Chatrapur buildings might possibly be utilised in his department. A demi-official letter on the subject from Mr. Bliss is appended.

20. Berhampore—*New Cutcherry for Senior Assistant Collector.*—This building is in progress, and is capable of enlargement, if thought desirable, with advertence to the previous remarks.

21. *Site for new buildings.*—For any new civil buildings that may be required at Berhampore, an excellent site is available on the high land to the east of the town, near the jail. It is understood that good water is to be had on that site.

22. *Chilka Canal.*—This most useful short line of water communication was first suggested by Lieutenant-Colonel (now Major-General) F. C. Cotton, in his interesting report on the capabilities of the Ganjam district, dated 12th July 1856 (*vide* Proceedings of Government, dated 24th November 1857, No. 2167). It connects the Ganjam backwater with the Chilka lake, and through it with the Mahánadi and its system of navigable canals.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following G.O., dated 23rd March 1885, No. 722 W., Public Works :—

Read—the following paper :—

Notes of Inspection by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.
I Circle, February-March 1885.

Cocanada—*Extension of Harbour Groynes.*—This work is making slow progress. Out of a projected additional length of 1,900 feet, the north groyne has advanced about 60 feet and the south groyne about 140 feet. I am aware that difficulty has been experienced in the supply of stone, and the Port officer has been obliged to build boats suitable for the rough work. It may be hoped that progress will be more rapid in future.

The section adopted by Captain Baker for these groynes is a good one ; but the stones which I saw being placed in position seemed far too small to withstand the force of the sea during a monsoon gale from the north-east ; and there seemed reason to anticipate some considerable subsidence through the soft yielding bottom on which the groynes are built.

It seems by no means certain that the extension of the groynes will exercise any permanent effect upon the depth of water over the bar. The bar will, of course, be forced further into the bay, but whether a better depth of water will be secured is far from certain.

2. *Groynes Committee.*—The native merchants of Cocanada are anxious to be represented upon the groynes committee. When that body was first formed, Mr. Ramakristna, one of the principal merchants, was appointed as one of the three members ; but it is understood that he was obliged to resign through ill-health, and his place was taken by a European merchant. Considering how largely they are interested in the welfare of the port, it seems not unreasonable that the native merchants should be represented on the committee.

3. *Boat Traffic in River.*—Some effectual mode of maintaining order among the boats anchored in the river is greatly needed. At present they seem to be moored wherever their owners choose, and at some points almost the whole of the available waterway is blocked.

4. *Iron Lattice Bridge over River.*—The iron work of this bridge is in great need of careful overhauling. The bracing between the piles is broken in many places, owing probably to corrosion and other causes. The piles also appear to be in need of strengthening. It is understood that the bridge is entirely in the hands of the Municipality, and no time should be lost in having it carefully inspected and in carrying out all needful repairs.

5. *Cocanada Water-supply.*—I understand that this is led off from the Sámalkót canal, above the tidal lock, and carried in an open channel into the town. At a point where I saw this channel, it was taken close alongside of a public highway, without any attempt to secure it from pollution by fence or otherwise. The arrangement appeared objectionable in many ways.

6. *Additions to Collector's Cutcherry.*—The work is well advanced, and appears to be making fair progress ; but the quality of the masonry is not so good as it might be. The walls are constructed of rubble stone, at a rate of about Rs. 3-8-0 per cubic yard. The work is certainly not dear, but it is very rough and lacking in bond.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 4th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 4th Nov. 1884, No. 2719 W.

NOVEMBER.

Residence for the Collector at Chatrapur

The Consulting Architect to prepare plans and estimates for a —,

4. I have only to remark further that I think the present site far the best that can be obtained. I have indicated on the plan a space of 110′ × 90′, within which, I think, the new house might conveniently be placed.

ORDER—dated 4th November 1884, No. 2719 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Consulting Architect to Government, who will prepare the requisite plans and estimates as early as practicable, in communication with the Collector and the Executive Engineer, Ganjam.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Consulting Architect to Government, with site plan,
and copy of G.O., No. 1985 W., dated 13th August 1884.
„ Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 25th October 1884, No. 422 G.N. :—

With reference to Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, No. 879, dated 24th July 1884, communicated with the Government Order in the Public Works Department, No. 1985 W., dated 13th August 1884, regarding the design for a new house for the Collector of Ganjam at Chatrapur, I have the honor to submit a site plan of the existing building which appears to be constructed on the most suitable site in the neighbourhood, together with a copy of the Executive Engineer's letter * explaining the wishes of the Collector in regard to the new building, and I would suggest that the Consulting Architect to Government be called upon to prepare the necessary plans and estimates in direct communication with the Collector, through the Executive Engineer, Ganjam; the cost of the building being restricted to Rs. 30,000 as laid down in the Government Order in the Public Works Department.

* No. 178 dated 4th October 1884.

ENCLOSURE.

From Captain L. LANGLEY, R.E., Executive Engineer, in charge Ganjam Division, to the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, dated Berhampore, 4th October 1884, No. 178.

In conformity with the order contained in your rescript, No. 300 G.N., of 23rd August 1884, on G.O., No. 879, of 24th July 1884 (the latter returned herewith), I have the honor to forward, herewith, a site plan of the Collector's residence at Chatrapur. I have not forwarded a sketch of the arrangements desired by the Collector, as the latter prefers leaving the arrangement of the rooms of the new house to the designing architect.

2. I have noted the Collector's wishes with regard to the house to be built. They are as follows :—

The house to be two-storied.
The floor to be 3′ above ground level.
To contain five or six bed rooms, an office room, dining and drawing rooms.
The drawing room to be in front of the dining room.
An entrance hall with stair-case is thought desirable, and a porch or portico.

3. As regards the site for the new house, the Collector is of opinion that it should be built on the same site as the old one. In this opinion I agree. The reasons in favor of this course are—

1. That the present site is the highest spot in the compound, as the ground falls regularly away from it on all sides.
2. That the present site is conveniently situated as regards the well and the godowns, and the latter are large and in good order, having just been repaired at a cost of nearly Rs. 300.

On the other hand the old foundations will, of course, be in the way in the construction of the new house; and, should the above-mentioned course be adopted, the Collector could not continue to reside in his present house till the completion of the new one. As, however, portions of the present house are so thoroughly rotten as to be absolutely dangerous, I do not think much weight need be given to this latter consideration.