

Public Works
Marine (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 6379

DATED 4-8-96

[Despatch Abstract.]

Cooms River: Letter from Coomassee
Mookerjee submitting a scheme for the
improvement of the —, recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

[illegible]

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Royapooram
Madras
July 17. 1896.

"Coorn improvements."

Sir, I beg to submit the following Scheme
for the Consideration of the Government.

The origin of the unsanitary condition of the two arms of the river Cooum is the excess of waterway for the water flowing into it which, even during the rains, is insufficient to scour the bed of the river bifurcated into two unnecessarily broad channels by the "Island" -

The natural remedy for this is to close one of these channels, the bed of which could be deiccased and either filled in to some extent or it could become an ornamental piece of water, like the London Serpentine, being properly cleansed and kept at a suitable level. If deiccased the ground could be either added to the "Island," made into public gardens, or sold for building or some other useful purpose.

The remaining Channel, which would then be the only waterway to the Sea, should be dredged of its accumulated mud and narrowed where required to prevent future accumulation - The Sand bar at its mouth should also be cut and kept open for high tides to flow in and out and it would probably be

To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras.

found that, locally doubled in volume, and thus restricted in its bed, the river during the rainy season would gradually cut itself a deeper channel and annually thoroughly scour itself.

The two dams required to shut off the condemned channel at each end and the other inexpensive works required could be entirely met by selling a portion of the reclaimed bed of the river for suitable purposes.

Engineers would decide which of the two existing channels should be preserved and which should be condemned, if the one nearest to Government House were condemned His Excellency the Governor would be fully compensated for any loss of amenity by the removal of a prolific hotbed and nursery for mosquitoes and noxious germs, bacteria and microbes of almost of every conceivable description.

If the above scheme should meet with the approval of the Government of Madras I would be willing to contract for the execution of the works. And temporary dams could probably be erected before the coming rains, to test its efficacy, if not entrusted by Government with the execution of the works I should of course claim some reasonable Commission or fee in respect of any scheme if adopted.

I have the honor to be, Sir

Your obedient servant,

Cowagee Hooperjee

P.S.

For example, the Southern Channel could be dammed off and dedicated as far as the Bridge near Government House, the land thus reclaimed would be well situated for selling and should fetch good prices, and the water below the Bridge might be kept for ornamental purposes - or a similar arrangement could be made in the case of the Northern Channel nearest to Fort George - In either case the drainage now entering the river channel selected for reclamation would have to be provided for out of the proceeds of sales of land -

C. Ho

W. CURRENT No. 6507

7th 637 I. d/4 August 1896
 B. 20.7.96
 L. 1

Recorded

27796

E. 1

20/7

The water question W. 11
 has not been given up
 at present -

The proposal is not
 even original - Mr. Jones
 scheme already considered
 & provided for already one
 of Coom & designing
 the other -

This might be regarded
 a copy of the has appeared
 in the Madras Herald
 I think.

23/7/96

The objection
 against cutting
 off one of the arms
 of the Coom is

that the contents of

(D. 2) This flushing reservoir
 would be largely diminished

It is essential for securing
 20/7/96 this bar that the action
 upon it should be strong
 & long continued -

24/7/96

Recorded

23/7/96