

Political (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 429

DATED 4-7-99

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forwarding to the Resident in
T & C, for report, per Board ordering, that
it be ascertained through that officer
whether the Cochin District has any
objection to the execution of the
long-contemplated improvements
to the West Coast Canal.

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6/7/99

BACK PAPERS.

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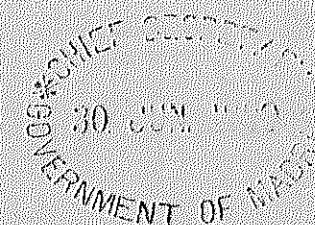
FURTHER PAPERS.

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IRRIGATION.

Government (1899) of Madras. PUBLIC WORKS.

373:28585.



Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 479 I., 10th June 1899.

Order No. 429 of 4-7-99

Communicated to the Resident
in Travancore and Cochin for report
JUNE. with reference to para 2 of the
foregoing proceedings.

The Resident in C.C. (Secy)

P.W.D. (Engrs.) - (Secy)

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Cms
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recd.
6-7-99

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West Coast Canal

Directing the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to arrange with the Collector of Malabar for the registration of the traffic on the —, and ordering that it be ascertained through the Resident whether the Cochin Durbar has any objection to the execution of the long-contemplated improvements to the canal.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

Read—the following papers:—

From the Executive Engineer, West Coast Division, to the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated 13th March 1899, No. 151 S.E.

With reference to your No. 100/W.C., dated 3rd March 1899, I have the honour to inform you that I have not yet had opportunity to investigate the proposed improvements to Conolly's canal near Calicut or the question of the West Coast canal improvements.

2. The former I expect to be able to reply to in a few days after inspecting the canal.

3. The question of improving the West Coast canal is one which has been pending for very many years, and it appears that plans and estimates, amounting to Rs. 2,89,494, were submitted to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in March 1887.

4. No further action appear to have been taken until the Superintending Engineer (Colonel Smart) inspected the canal in 1893 and made various suggestions by which he considered the estimates might be reduced to between 60,000 and 80,000 rupees.

5. In his No. 179/W.C., dated 26th April 1894, the Superintending Engineer stated he had prepared a revised estimate in accordance with Colonel Smart's inspection notes and called for certain information, which was furnished.

6. Between 1894 and 1898, there appears to have been no farther correspondence.

7. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, in his No. IV/5 M.L., dated 31st August 1898, orders a revision of the former proposals with reference to the existing circumstances and called for a statement of establishment required to prepare a complete estimate. On receipt of this, the late Executive Engineer, Mr. Wood, asked the Collector to furnish statements of traffic registered, and the District Board Engineer was asked to furnish a memorandum of present condition of the canal compared with what it was in 1894. The Collector replied that no traffic returns had been maintained during the last three years, and the District Board Engineer stated that the canal was in the same state as it was in 1894.

8. Surveys and estimates having already been prepared for the canal, it is almost impossible that they should have totally disappeared, and every endeavour should, I think, be made to trace them before ordering work to be started *de novo*.

9. As regards the existing circumstances, I have to point out that a railway has been sanctioned from Shoranur to Cochin at the cost, I believe, of the Cochin Government. The question of spending large sums on the improvement of a waterway which will to some extent compete with the railway is one which appears to require careful consideration.

No. 65 I.

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with reference to his No. IV/1 M.L., dated 24th February 1899.

2. It will be noted that the report regarding Conolly's canal will be shortly submitted.

3. As observed by the Executive Engineer, it is very difficult to believe in the total disappearance of the plans and estimates connected with the West Coast canal though at the same time a careful search has presumably been made in all offices where there was a chance of finding them.

4. Apparently the circumstances on which a decision could be based are much the same now as they were thirteen years ago, the only new factor being that mentioned by the Executive Engineer in the last paragraph of his letter.

5. The construction of this railway would naturally make the canal less of a necessity than before, and before preparing fresh plans and estimates it would, it is suggested, be advisable to see what effect the railway has on the canal traffic, which of course would have to be registered now and after the construction of the line.

(Signed) A. H. GARRETT,
Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.

23rd March 1899.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated 5th April 1899, No. 128.
From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated 17th April 1899.

No. 118 I.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

In G.O., No. 429 I., dated 6th May 1885, Government directed the submission without delay of estimates for improving the West Coast canal from Tirur to Cochin.

Estimates, amounting to Rs. 2,86,232, were submitted by the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, in September 1886. Some correspondence then took place on the provisions of the estimates, and, in 1893, the then Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, Colonel Smart, wrote some inspection notes regarding the proposals. The Superintending Engineer was directed to submit an estimate which resulted in a proposition statement for survey establishment being sent in. It was then suggested that the surveys previously taken might be used, and another estimate, amounting to Rs. 42,200, was submitted by the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, in March 1894. After some correspondence with the Superintending Engineer these plans and estimates were returned, being considered incomplete and not fit for submission to Government. The matter has since then remained as one of the Superintending Engineer's unanswered references.

In April 1898, Mr. Garrett, Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, suggested that, as he supposed the work would not be carried out without a contribution from the Cochin State, that Government should be consulted before preparing another estimate. This proposal was not approved, and it would now appear that the original plans and sections have been lost.

As thirteen years had elapsed since Government first asked for the estimate for improving the canal, and railways have developed during this period, the Superintending Engineer was requested, in this office memorandum, No. 5-M.L., dated 31st August 1898, to review the former proposals, and, after taking account of the present existing circumstances of traffic, &c., to submit proposals together with a statement of establishment required to prepare a complete estimate for improving the canal.

In his endorsement, No. 65 I., dated 23rd March 1899, the Superintending Engineer reports that the construction of the proposed railway from Shoranur to Cochin would naturally make the canal less of a necessity than before, and he suggests that

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before preparing fresh plans and estimates for improving the canal it would be advisable to see what effect the railway has on the canal traffic, which of course would have to be registered now and after the construction of the line.

As it is understood from the Consulting Engineer for Railways that the Cochin Durbar is about to spend a large amount immediately on the railway, it is suggested that it may be ascertained whether the Durbar entertains any objection to the proposed improvements to the canal being carried out.

21st April 1899.

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ORDER—No. 479 I., dated 10th June 1899.

The Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, will arrange with the Collector of Malabar for the registration of the traffic on the West Coast canal.

2. The Resident will, in the meantime, be requested in the Political Department to ascertain and report, as soon as possible, whether the Cochin Durbar has any objection to the execution of the long-contemplated improvements to the West Coast canal.

(True Extract.)


Under Secretary to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Political Department.

Ex. A. Rangaswamy Aiyangar.

When given for copying

When copied

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When signed

1899

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DUTY

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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