Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th August 1860.

No. 377 Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Revenue Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 9th August 1860, No. 207 :—

SIR.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Government Order No. 1,211, dated 21st July 1860, directing that the scheme for establishing a Salt Depôt at Battili, pending a report from the District Engineer on its practicability, be held in abeyance.

2. Prior to the receipt of this Order I had caused three boats of eight tons burden each and of about the dimension of a Masoolah boat to be constructed at Calingapatam at a cost of 200 Rupees each. One of these has been loaded with Salt, and Narsinga Ráu has only been waiting for a fresh in the Wumshadara river to test the practicability of taking the loaded boat up the stream ; the unusual failure of the monsoon has alone prevented his departure.

3. This is how matters now stand, and as the close of the manufacturing season leaves Narasinga Ráu sufficient leisure for this trip, I hope the Government will not disapprove his undertaking it.

4. As regards the difficulties suggested in Captain Harington's letter, I would respectfully remind the Government that in their Order directing the immediate execution of this project, a very limited time was allowed, and I was directed to report *on the establishment of the Depôt and on the amount of its sales in August.*

5. In the resumé of arguments with which you accompany the Order of Government, I beg to point out what seems to me rather an important oversight. In paragraph 3 the value of the information given to Captain Harington by the boatmen is much insisted upon ; but it has apparently escaped your attention that Narsinga Ráu at an earlier period obtained information of a different character from the same sources. These boatmen were in the habit of taking the boats, which are registered for shipping cargo in the roads up the river, in order to bring down Rice for Merchants, a practice which sometimes occasions much inconvenience and loss to shippers at Calingapatam. The establishment of the Depôt would probably close the river carriage to the Coast boatmen, and the Salt boats to whomsoever belonging would naturally engross it. It is therefore to the interest of these boatmen to oppose the establishment of a scheme of river navigation.

6. I am unwilling to intrude what may be thought uncalled for discussion on the Order passed by the Government, but as everything has been prepared to test the plan in the most practical manner possible, and as Narsinga Ráu's time is just now far less valuable to the Public service than that of the District Engineer, who has at this moment been obliged to take personal charge of Purla-kemedi owing to Captain Wright's illness, I cannot but submit that it is better to allow Narsinga Ráu's experiment to proceed, and as the descent of the freshes in this capricious season must be taken advantage of betimes, I hope the Government will pardon my carrying out the experimental trip in the manner described without waiting for further instructions. It is scarcely necessary to add that Narsinga Ráu need make this voyage but once, and at present there is really nothing better for him to do.

No. 378. ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1860, No. 1,471.

The Government will expect to receive a full Report of the Deputy Collector's expedition up the river.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

but once, and at present there is really
nothing better for him to do.-

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
G D Tuke
Collector

Ganjam and District
Collector's Cutcherry
Chetterpore 9th August
1860.

No. 1471.

The Government will expect to receive a full Report of the Deputy Collector's expedition up the river. ——

Fort St. Geo. 29 August 1856.