

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1438	Press Mis.
20-21	
Dated 2-7-1862	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd July 1862.*

No. 20. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, dated 21st June 1862, No. 1,429:—

In supersession of G. O. 17th June 1861, No. 1,118, authorize Messrs. Rustonjee & Co. to restore, at their own cost, the ruined tank at Ookalum in Coimbatore, and refer papers received from Colonel Ouchterlony for considering the stipulations under which the concession now authorized are to be made. } (Vide Public Works Proceedings, 21st June 1862, Nos. 444, 445.)

No. 21. ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1862, No. 1,433.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Collector of Coimbatore.
2. The Board of Revenue, to whom the original papers received from the Department Public Works will be transmitted, will consider, in communication, if necessary, with the Government Pleader, the stipulations under which the concession is to be made, reporting their opinion for the decision of Government.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. OUCHTERLONY, Deputy Chief Engineer in charge of Southern Circle, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 26th May 1862, No. 1,018:—

SIR,

1. In Proceedings in the Public Works Department ("Revenue Irrigation"), under date 17th June 1861, No. 1,118, Government passed orders upon a proposal made to them by the Chief Engineer through the Board of Revenue, for the restoration of the old ruined Ookalum tank in Coimbatore, by the agency of certain Parsee traders who undertook to execute the work necessary to the purpose to the extent of Rupees 2,000. Government declined to accede to the arrangement, and called for plans and estimates with a view to the restoration of the tank being undertaken by their own Officers in the usual way, under sanction.

2 Letters from District Engineer, Nos. 206 and 600, dated 8th August 1861, and 5th March 1862.

3 Do. from Collector, Nos. 192, 329 and 109, dated 4th July, 18th December 1861 and 14th April 1862.

2 Do. from Messrs. Rustomjee & Co., dated 18th January and 1st April 1862.

2 Specifications.

3 Plans.

1 Survey.

1 Sketch.

1 Abstract Estimate.

2. These documents are now herewith submitted; the estimate amounting, it will be seen, to Rupees 16,750; and I imagine Government will be surprised to learn that the cost of the works which the Parsees expect, as will be seen by more recent correspondence, to keep within 3,000 Rupees at most, is computed by the District Engineer at so high a figure.

3. Captain Goddard's explanation however appears to be satisfactory. The works which he has planned are upon a scale and of a solidity such as would fit them to withstand the utmost power of the elements to which they might, in reason, be exposed; whereas those contemplated by Messrs. Rustomjee are of a rough, and it may be said, experimental character.

4. I confess I am inclined strongly to recommend Government to accept Messrs. Rustomjee's offer. They are willing it seems to go as far as Rupees 3,000 to bring the Tank into working order (which will of course be to a limited extent only); and they stipulate to be suffered to reimburse themselves by crediting Government each year with the Revenue due on the land which they are able to bring under cultivation by means of the hoarded water, until the amount is liquidated with, I conclude, interest; when Government are to assume the works (which it should be arranged the cultivators are to keep in order in the meanwhile) and the Parsees fall into the position of ordinary Ryotwar tenants.

5. This seems to me a very convenient arrangement for Government to enter into. There is evidently a certain amount of risk and uncertainty about the scheme, since Captain Goddard appears to have found it utterly impossible to carry a series of levels up the channel, or to explore it, owing to the dense jungle with which it is choked. This risk Government will be saved; and should Messrs. Rustomjee's experiment succeed (and it appears they have peculiar facilities for carrying it out, owing to their having coolies in permanent employ on a Plantation in the vicinity) Government will enjoy the benefit of their success, by being in a good position to extend the scope of the works, and to secure a large permanent addition to the Revenue of the District.

6. All the authorities appear to concur in recommending the adoption of the Parsees' proposals; and the only argument against it which has, to my apprehension, any weight is that if it should eventually be resolved to carry out Captain Goddard's more extensive system of works, the cost will no doubt be very considerably greater than it is now estimated at, owing to the steady rise which is taking place in the value of labor, and of all articles whose production is dependent upon the work of man.

7. The consideration of the expediency of giving all due encouragement to legitimate enterprise, such as that exhibited by Messrs. Rustomjee, which may in this instance be still further developed at the pleasure of Government if the experiment treated of succeeds, should also not be altogether lost sight of.

ORDER THEREON, 21st June 1862, No. 1,429.

1. Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter and in the correspondence therewith received, the Government direct in supersession of their orders, dated 17th June 1861, No. 1,118, that Messrs. Rustomjee & Co. be authorized to restore at their own cost the ruined tank at Ookalum in the District of Coimbatore.

2. Colonel Ouchterlony's letter together with the papers received from that Officer will be referred to the Revenue Department, where the stipulations under which the concession now authorized is to be made, will be considered.

(True Extract.)

E. M. Horsley Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

To the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle.
„ Revenue Department, with enclosures. 15

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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