M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2367 Press
~~Mis.~~

75.76

Dated 6 — 11 — 1918 62

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th November 1862.

No. 75. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Railway Department, dated 30th August 1862, No. 466:—

Read the following letter from R. B. ELWIN, Esq., Agent and Manager, to Captain H. L. PRENDERGAST, Acting Deputy Consulting Engineer for Railways in charge, dated 13th August 1862, No. 545.

SIR,

As the South West monsoon is drawing to a close, I have the honor to bring under the notice of Government, the question of making Beypore a Depôt for Salt in the District of Malabar.

1. Ponany is at present the site of the Government Salt Depôt for the Western Coast, in consequence, I presume, of its easy access by water; but now that the South West Line of this Railway is opened throughout, I trust Government will consider the necessity of transferring the Depôt to Beypore.

3. The Company cannot of course expect that Government will incur the expense of removing the stock at present at Ponany, but I may venture to hope that all fresh supplies will be stored at Beypore instead of at the former place.

4. Beypore, I should say, is quite, if not more, convenient than Ponany for inland consumption, and by depositing Salt at that place it can be delivered by Railway at Palghaut and Coimbatore much cheaper than by road and back-water from Ponany.

5. I may here remark that Mr. Grant the late Collector of Malabar in his letter No. 399, dated the 7th of February 1862, addressed Lieutenant-Colonel Johnston, a copy of which was forwarded to me by that Officer on the 12th idem, strongly advocated the transfer of the Salt Godown from Ponany to Beypore; and the thorough knowledge which Mr. Grant possessed of the wants of the people in Malabar, will doubtless carry great weight with the Government when the question comes before them for consideration.

6. Up to this time we have been able to command for the Western Coast but a very small portion of this important traffic, and upon enquiry I learn that this is attributable to some concession made by the Madras Government to that of Cochin in regard to duty, which has placed the Rajah in a position to sell Salt to the public at a considerably reduced rate, to that at which it could be obtained from the Government Salt Stores at Ponany.

7. The result of such an arrangement is, that Salt can be and is purchased at Cochin, brought up by bandy to Palghaut, and sold in the bazars there at nearly the same price as the Government obtain for it at Ponany, which place is situated 70 miles from Palghaut.

8. It is evident therefore that so long as this arrangement lasts, the Railway Company cannot expect to obtain any appreciable part of the Salt traffic.

9. At Beypore we have a large building which was erected for the safe custody of Stores, but which I think it probable will never be used for that purpose, and therefore I shall be prepared to recommend my Directors to dispose of the building to the Government to be used as a Salt Godown, if the proposition I now submit be entertained.

10. The building is conveniently situated for landing Salt from boats lying in the back-water, and can at a small cost be converted into a Salt Store. It is also admirably situated for forwarding Salt to stations on our line, being close to the goods shed.

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1. On the receipt of this letter, on the 14th instant, I applied to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue for information as to whether any decision was come to by the Board on the subject of removing the Salt Depôt from Ponany to Beypore, and to be favored with a copy of their Proceedings for submission to Government, together with the correspondence which had taken place between the Agent, this Office, and the Collector.

2. I learn, in reply, from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 5,507, dated 21st August, received yesterday, that the Board have approved of the proposal to establish a Salt Kotar at Beypore, and that they have instructed the Collector to take speedy measures for giving it effect.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th November 1862.

3. From a copy of the Board of Revenue Proceedings, dated the 12th August, a copy of which I received this day, I find that they have forwarded a letter from the Collector of Malabar to the Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, for consideration and early submission to Government.

4. The Collector, in his letter, proposes that sanction be accorded *at once* for the erection of a substantial Golla, capable of containing about 500 garce of Salt; but as the Agent and Manager in paragraph 9 of his letter is willing to transfer a building belonging to the Railway Company, advantage might, I think, be taken of it, if the building should be found to be a suitable one.

(Signed) HEW L. PRENDERGAST, Captain,

MADRAS, *27th August* 1862. *Ag. Dy. Cong. Engineer for Railways in charge.*

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing letter and of the remarks of the Acting Deputy Consulting Engineer thereon be furnished to the Collector of Malabar, and that he be requested to state whether the building offered by the Railway Agent and Manager for a Salt Store at Beypore would not be preferable to erecting a separate Godown for that purpose—and at what sum it can be purchased from the Railway Company.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1862, No. 2,105.

Communicated to the Revenue Department, with reference to the papers recently referred to that Department for consideration.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 76. ORDER THEREON, 6th November 1862, No. 2,367.

Recorded, with reference to the Order of Government dated 17th October 1862, No. 579, Financial Railway Department.

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

Pub. 3d Sept. 1862 Nos. 25-26.

Rev. 1862 Dept.
Rec. of Govt. Nos.
No. 2526.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt. in the
P. W. Dept.

Dated 3d Sept. 1862.
Received 4th "
No. 2105.

Communicating
for information orders
passed in the R. D. on the
Arcot Railway Agent's Rec-
-nagrs letter offering
to sell to Govt. a build-
-ing at Beypoor be-
-longing to the Co. to be
used as a salt store.

No. 2367. 6 Encls.

With an order

No. 75 & 76.

No. 2367.

Recorded with reference
to the order of Govt. dd 17th October 1862
No. 579. Financial Railway Department.

Encl. to Govt. Secy's
Co. Encls. dd 22 Oct. 1862