

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1662	Press Mis
124-125	
Dated	9-9-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

9/2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th September 1863.*

No. 121. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Superintending Engineer,
8th Division, proposing certain improvements to the town of } (Here enter 2nd September 1863, No. 2,530.)
Tuticorin in Tinnevely District.

No. 125.

ORDER THEREON, 9th September 1863, No. 1,662.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for information.
(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 2,530. .

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd September 1863.*

No. 29. Read the following letter from Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Palamcottah, 8th August 1863, No. 329 :—

SIR,

1 Plan.
1 Estimate.

1. I have the honor to report that, as desired in G. O. No. 1,396, of 2nd June 1863, I have inspected the town of Tuticorin and its environs, and beg to forward the enclosed

Estimate as emergently necessary for the safety of the town in the ensuing monsoon, this I trust that the Government will be satisfied on reading the following remarks.

2. I find that the drainage of a considerable area west of the town crosses the Cotton road about a mile above the town, and I am informed by the residents that, until lately, this water flowed past the back of the town, and reached the sea to the northward.

3. This passes a tract of sand on which within the last few years have been grown numerous palmyra trees more or less enclosed, these, the Deputy Collector who accompanied me on my inspection, declares are all encroachments; the channel can however still be traced here and there, and the swamp near the beach supports the evidence as to this being an old outlet.

4. Further to the south, several minor streams flow into the swamp, which surrounds the greater part of the Native town, and find their way in course of time into the estuary marked in the plan enclosed.

5. Both these outlets, however, are likely to be blocked up, as is nearly every small river on the coast; and in 1854, when a heavy fall of rain took place, the swamp was so full that the water spread over the whole town, and Messrs. Cocq & Co. were induced to make a cut through a narrow part of the beach near their own godowns, by which the whole swamp was drained.

6. The Civil Engineer of the day built a bridge across it in 1855, which appears to have sufficed for the small freshes which occurred up to 1862; in the latter year, however, occurred another heavy fall, in consequence of which, the bridge, a considerable portion of the adjacent road-way, and some part of Messrs. Cocq's own stores, were carried away; this is probably owing to the more complete neglect during the past seven years of the original outlets.

7. It is very clear that the water-way is not sufficient, and that it cannot be increased at this point owing to the immediate neighbourhood of costly buildings erected before any outlet existed. I may moreover, in this place, observe that the flood carried out an immense body of sand, which it deposited on the sea shore, and so prevented the approach to the wharf of any boats except at the top of high water, a continuance of this will of course choke the harbour up completely.

8. The late District Engineer and Collector determined therefore to block up this outlet, and to re-construct the road-way, which is the sole means of communication through the town, this is nearly finished.

9. Nothing, however, has been done towards opening up the old outlets, and in case of a heavy fall of rain, there will be great risk of damage to the town and its valuable contents.

10. I have altered Captain Paxton's plan in some of its details, I have abandoned the use of revetments as unnecessary, when by doubling the thickness of sand which is cheap and abundant, we can completely close the swamp.

11. I propose carrying the Salt road, not yet made, along the high ground west of the swamp, thus obviating the necessity for any bridge; and allowing us to make the south outlet of any size we please, and I have given up the banks round the town which will not be of any use if the outlets are properly looked after.

12. The remaining work, viz., clearing these two channels, and turning the water away from the town, is however extremely important, and I trust that I may receive, by telegraph if possible, permission to push on with them.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd September 1863.*

13. One point requires to be mentioned; in removing the outlet of the swamp to a point a mile distant, we shall leave a large pool close behind the beach road, the stagnant water in which will cause much offence to the town. I discussed this subject with the leading merchants in the neighbourhood, three of whom claim the ground in portions.

14. Messrs. Cocq & Co., in a letter to the Deputy Collector, agreed to pay one-third cost of filling it up, but they own more than one-third, the other gentlemen will not bind themselves to anything, as they complain that their representations are not attended to by Government, and that no assistance is given to a large trade paying a very considerable annual sum.

15. I pointed out to them that the injury had been caused by one of themselves cutting a channel in his own land, the possession of which they still claimed; and therefore I resisted the idea that the Government was in any way liable for the filling up of the pool.

16. At the termination of our interview however, they unanimously declared that, if the Government would restore the outlets, they would take up the filling in of the pit, though they would not bind themselves to it. I have every reason however to look on this as settled, and therefore have made no allowance in the Estimate for it, being moreover assured that if they fail they can be compelled legally, to put an end to a nuisance on their land, the cause of which Government have removed.

17. Before closing this report I beg to submit, for the consideration of Government, the advisability of selling the swamp for building purposes. If the measures proposed by me are carried out, the part north of the Cotton road will receive only the actual rain-fall, which may be carried away by a narrow ditch down the middle to the south outlet, and a catch drain along the west side will completely draw off the water running in on that side.

18. Land is much in demand and this will, I believe, fetch large prices. I am informed that it has been up to this time kept unsold in case the Railway was carried out and required land, but there is ample space to the west on the sand beyond the reach of any inundation for terminus, warehouses, &c., far better than the swamp site affords.

19. An opening on to the beach, if necessary in this neighbourhood, must be procured by negotiation with the merchants, but probably it will be carried quarter mile to the existing vacant space north.

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, 2nd September 1863, No. 2,530.

1. The Plan submitted with the foregoing letter is not sufficiently complete to enable the Government to judge of the measures proposed for the improvement of the town of Tuticorin. They request, therefore, that the improvements suggested by Captains Paxton and Moberly may be shown in different colors, and that the several outlets, the land recommended to be sold, &c., may also be clearly marked, the whole being distinguished by letters to facilitate reference.

2. The subject of paragraphs 17 to 19 of Captain Moberly's letter will be referred to the Collector of Tinnevely for report.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

„ Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Q171 No 2 Mine / 63 N. 1396.

(Museum 1863) (P) of 1863
no. of 5000 pp. 1863/18.

No. 1662.

Proceedings of the
Mining Co. in the
Mines, North Dakota.

Communicated to the
of 1 Dec. for information.

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