

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 985-	Press ~~Mis.~~
112 113	
Dated	8/6-19-1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th June 1863.*

No. 112. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works
Department, dated 29th May 1863, No. 1,376:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Superintending Engineer
2nd Division, reporting on the project for converting the old
Fort of Masulipatam into a Mercantile Depot and the Ditch } (Vide Public Works Proceedings, 29th May
into a Circular Canal. 1863, Nos. 538, 539.)

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 8th June 1863, No. 985.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report on the proposals made by Major Anderson
in paragraph 4 of his letter, dated 4th May 1863, No. 1.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Major J. C. ANDERSON, R. E., Superintending Engineer 2nd Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bezoarah, 4th May 1863, No. 1:—

SIR,

1. Referring to Lieutenant-Colonel Ludlow's Memorandum No. 499, dated 24th ultimo, requiring to be informed what action has been taken on Order of Government No. 2,850, dated 7th December 1859, communicated with Chief Engineer's Memorandum No. 8,292, dated 13th December 1859, and relating to a project for converting the old Fort of Masulipatam into a Mercantile Depot, I have the honor to observe that the District Engineer Kistna was directed to report on the subject in conjunction with "the Officer who was to report on the Harbours of the Kistna and Godavery Deltas," and that in consequence of the latter never, as far as I am aware, having joined the District, the report of the District Engineer was postponed.

2. I would now beg to state that in my opinion there are insuperable difficulties in the way of converting the Fort ditch into a circular Canal.

3. The ditch is the receptacle for the drainage of the Fort, and as the Canal water is on a higher level than the ground occupied by the Fort, the conversion of the ditch into a Canal, would not only prevent the passage of the drainage from the Fort, but there would be reason to apprehend that the percolation would render it permanently damp and unwholesome. Moreover, if the circular Canal were continuous, communications would necessarily be interfered with, and new bridges, raised to an enormous height about the general level of the ground, would have to be constructed.

4. There is, however, ample accommodation for boats in the single face of the Fort ditch which has been occupied by the Canal, and the clearance of the debris from the Fort wall adjoining it, will furnish valuable sites for godowns, and two or three convenient points for the erection of cranes for facilitating the loading and unloading of stores. I would recommend that the ground thus available and belonging to Government should be sold or let in plots by public auction with the exception of the space which it may be considered desirable to retain for Government purposes only; and that the proceeds be applied to the construction of cranes and wharfs. A wharfage might be charged to private parties, and the funds thus collected should serve to cover expenses, if not to yield a profit.

5. As regards the approaches from the sea, I have the honor to report that the portion of the Canal between the terminal lock and the tidal creek is nearly completed;* and when the Canal is re-opened next month, the communication between Bezoarah and the sea will be complete. The tidal creek, as observed in my letter to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Northern Circle, No. 165, dated 9th February 1863, paragraph 6, has deteriorated to a serious extent since the commencement of the present century, and there seems to be every probability of its deteriorating still further, if measures are not taken to prevent this result, by obtaining the aid of a sufficient body of drainage water to scour out the channel; and thereby to counterbalance the deposits of silt from the flood tide.

6. Lieutenant Edgcome has lately been occupied in surveying the principal drainage channel between the canal and the river, with a view to my ascertaining the feasibility of turning the water into the tidal inlet at Masulipatam, and when the necessary Plans and Estimates are drawn up, I propose to make a further report.

* A temporary channel was used in March last for passing a Steamer and some boats through the Lock.

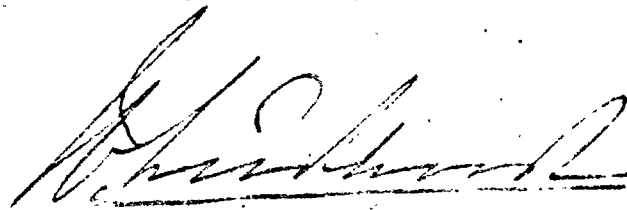
ORDER THEREON, 29th May 1863, No. 1,376.

1. For the reasons assigned in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the project for converting the old Fort of Masulipatam into a Mercantile Depôt and the ditch into a circular Canal should be abandoned.

2. Paragraph 4 will be communicated to the Revenue Department with the view of the necessary orders being issued for the sale of the ground therein alluded to.

3. Government await the further report promised in the concluding paragraph of the letter above recorded.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer 2nd Division.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Referred to the Board
of Revenue for report on the
proposals made by Major
Anderson in pursuance of his

Wilmington May 1863

Jim A. W. Scott
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