M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1847	Press Mis.
144-145	
Dated 9-8-1865	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th August 1865.

No. 144. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th July 1865, No. 4,291.

Read again letter from Collector of Madras, dated 3rd February 1865, in Board's Proceedings, 24th April 1865, No. 2,076.

Read also the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 15th June 1865, No. 163 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,076 of 24th April 1865, I have the honor to state that previous to Board's Proceedings of the 8th November 1864, no correspondence appears to have passed in this Office regarding the system of tolls or license on the Southern Canal. Mr. Fraser, the Special Executive Engineer in charge of the Canal, tells me that in his Office also there are no papers except those quoted in the Government Order, No. 2,353 of 23rd December 1861, which appears to have formed an enclosure to their Proceedings of 1st September 1864, No. 2,525.

2. The yearly collections of the Southern Canal, from the date it was opened for traffic, is given in the margin. I beg also to submit a rough sketch of the Canal as far south as the Lattice Bridge, which latter is generally the landing place of passengers. Cargo is landed at the point A. where the Canal meets the Adyar.

	Rs.	A.	P.
1861-62...	762	15	2
1862-63...	2,060	4	4
1863-64...	804	12	4
1864-65...	1,244	13	2

3. I request early orders that the new system of toll collection may commence with the Fusly.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Plan.

1. Resolved that the foregoing letters be submitted to Government with reference to their Order under date 1st September 1864, No. 2,525.

2. The Government will observe that the Collector of Madras is prepared to undertake the management of the Southern Canal, and, if desired, to introduce the system of taking toll now in force on the Northern Canal. He estimates that by this plan the cost of the collection of tolls will be about 13 per cent. on the receipts, but expects the receipts to increase from the supervision which will be exercised. Mr. Fane is, however, in favor of renting the collection of tolls on certain conditions.

3. On a re-consideration of the matter, the Board doubt whether it will be expedient to adopt the same system of tolls on the two Canals. The absence of a lock on the Southern Canal creates a difficulty, and the establishment to be entertained would be large compared with the receipts.

4. Under the system at present in force passenger boats pay a consolidated tax of Rupees 10 per annum, and cargo boats pay a toll of two Annas per ton. The Board are of opinion that the simplest arrangement will be to levy the toll entirely in the shape of an annual boat license. They would propose that all boats, whether cargo or otherwise, should be required to take out a license in accordance with

their tonnage, and that the license fee should be fixed at Rupees 2 per ton per annum. Mr. Fane reports that there are eighty-one passenger boats of five tons each, which also occasionally carry cargo, and twenty-three cargo boats varying from ten to twenty-five tons each, so that the receipts for the licenses may be estimated at about Rupees 1,500 per annum.

No. 145. ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1865, No. 1,847.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded, with reference to G. O. dated 8th August 1865, No. 1,831.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2,076.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th April 1865.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saydapet, 3rd February 1865, No. 39 :—

1. I am directed by Revenue Board's Proceedings, dated 8th November 1864, No. 7,315, to report whether I see any objection to taking over the Southern Canal ; and if I do not, to propose an Establishment for it, comparing the arrangement under which it is at present managed, with the system in practice on Cochrane's Canal.

2. I see no objection to taking over the Southern Canal.

3. The Establishment for collecting the tolls on it, consists at present of one Peon deputed from the Superintending Engineer's Office for the purpose. This functionary keeps no account whatever. He pays in his collections to the Engineer's Office once a month.

4. The administration of Cochrane's Canal is of recent device. An Establishment was proposed by Mr. Ellis, and his views in general were accepted by the Government in their Order, dated 27th November 1863, No. 2,130.

5. The Establishment consists as per margin. Part of it is at a Lock situated at a distance of twelve miles from the head of the Canal. The remainder is at the Basin at Madras.

	Rs.
1 Superintendent...	100
1 Clerk	30
1 Shroff...	10
4 Peons at 7 Rupees	28
1 Sweeper	5
1 Lock Conicopillay	20
1 Assistant do.	12
1 Head Lascar	8
4 Lascars at 7 Rupees...	28
Rupees...	241

6. The Establishment at the Lock gives Memoranda of the cargoes of in-coming boats to the boatmen, who deliver up the documents to the Establishment at Madras, paying them the toll due.

7. Out-going boats receive a clearance from the Superintendent at the Basin, which is delivered up at the Lock. This document is not accompanied by a charge. Tolls are only levied on cargoes brought to Madras. They constitute an octroi. No charge is made on boats clearing outwards, loaded or unloaded.

8. The traffic on the Canal beyond the Lock is unimpeded by any charges whatever. Boats might bring cargoes from any part of the Canal, and land them at a spot before they reach the lock without being subjected to any tolls. There are no means of exercising supervision beyond the Lock whatever.

9. On the Southern Canal there is no lock. In this respect the Canals differ. It is difficult therefore to devise any mode of checking the Establishment deputed to collect the tolls, wherever that Establishment may be located.

10. If the Board propose that the Southern Canal should be managed in the same way as the other Canal, a small establishment consisting of a Gumastah and a Peon, the former on 12 Rupees, and the latter on 6 Rupees, might be stationed at the Lattice Bridge, where the Canal boats congregate, and make collections as following.

11. All boats would be numbered. The number of an in-coming laden boat would be entered in a book, as per accompanying form, its tonnage, and the amount of toll. The end of the form would be torn off, and constitute a receipt for the toll.

12. It would be necessary that such an Establishment as I have sketched, should be supervised. I would nominate the Salt Superintendent at Homes' Garden to this duty, and give him 20 Rupees a month for his trouble.

13. There are 104 boats on the Canal, eighty-one of these are passenger boats of five tons, and pay a consolidated tax yearly of 10 Rupees each. The boatmen are privileged to carry any freight they like, and may pay the tax in one sum. The other boats, which are of 10 to 25 tons, pay a toll of two Annas per ton.

14. Now the tonnage on Cochrane's Canal is four Annas, and passenger boats there, however large, bringing passengers only, are charged for such a freight merely a fee of four Annas.

15. I do not see why a difference should exist between the Southern and the Northern Canal, and would suggest that the rates on the former be raised to four Annas, and that the distinctive passenger license now taken on it should be abolished, and four Annas for a passenger freight be levied as on Cochrane's Canal.

16. The collections on the Southern and Cochrane's Canal are shown in the margin. It will be seen that the establishment I propose would constitute a change of 13 per cent. on the average returns. This appears high; but I imagine a stricter mode of collection will realize a much larger revenue than has hitherto been taken. Before, however, the Board decide that I should manage the Canal with an establishment, I would suggest to them whether, considering that there is no lock as on the Canal, and that the guarantee against fraud in the collections therefore depends entirely on supervision, the gain to Government would not be as great as it now is, if the Canal were farmed out to the highest bidder. The farmer would be bound to levy no more than I propose should be levied by me, viz., four Annas for every ton of in-coming cargo, and four Annas for every passenger boat, and would be placed in the position of an Arrack Renter, or any other contractor under Government.

Cochrane's Canal.	Rs.	Southern Canal.	Rs.
Collections.....	30,000	Expected collections.	3,500
Establishment..... ...	3,892	Proposed Establishment.....	456
Per centage.....	10	Per centage.....	13
Annual Contingencies	40	Annual Contingencies	20

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Boat Register.

Register Boat No.	When registered.	Village to which the boat belongs.	Boat owner's name.	Ton.	Amount of toll.	Remarks.	Received from boatmen.

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE,
Collector.

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1. The Collector is requested to quote the dates of any previous correspondence regarding the system of tolls or licenses on the Southern Canal, and to give the actual collections during the last five years if he can obtain them.

2. Mr. Fane will also be good enough to submit a rough sketch of the Canal as far south as the Lattice Bridge, showing the points at which passengers and cargo are usually landed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary.

To E. G. R. Fane, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd. J. Wright,

Entrin the Ord. of the Bd of Rev. to the 24th July 1865 for Rs 2060 16 5 c/f 4291-

Rev-2060/65

1865. Department

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 24th April 1865.

No 2,076.

Requesting to quote the dates of any previous correspondence regarding the system of tolls or licenses on the Southern Canal, to give the actual collections for the last five years, and to submit a rough sketch of the Canal.

No. 4,291.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th July 1865.

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Read also the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 15th June 1865, No. 163:—

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

R. A. Dalyell

Acting Secretary.

To Colonel C. A. Orr, R. E., Secretary to Government, P. W. D.,
with copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 2,076, 24th April 1865, and sketch.

„ W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with do. do. do.

„ E. G. R. Fane, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

225 Nov 63 No 3393
23 Dec 61 - 284-285
— 1 Sept 64 - 3-4

Revenue 1865. Department
Prog Govt. August

No. 2060.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 24th July 1865.

No 4,291.

Submitting with remarks letters from Collector of Madras regarding introduction of new system of toll collection in Southern Canal.

Nos 1814 & 1815

G.O. 1824 dated
RECORDED. with
reference to
G.O. 98 Aug 65
No 231
9th Aug 65.

G.O. 22nd Aug 65 No 85