

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1724	Press Mis.
Dated	11-7-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th July 1866.*

No. 235. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th June 1866, No. 4,343.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 11th June 1866, No. 147:—

1. I have the honor to forward the following remarks requested by the Board, without delay, regarding the Vedarniem Canal.

2. The subject of this work, so important to the Tanjore District, has so frequently been before the Board and Government, that its merits and demerits must be pretty well known, and the result of my short experience cannot be of much weight. Nevertheless, as the undertaking is doubtless *the* project of the District, I have naturally been interested in it.

3. Although tidal rivers and connecting cuts through sandy tracts are sometimes not very amenable to engineering influence, *e. g.*, the Cuddalore Harbour Works, and the Southern Coast Canal, about which the less said the better, still we are, I consider, bound to make the attempt in this instance, and carry out to completion this project already partly executed.

4. The more advanced and more certain undertaking to accomplish the desired object would, doubtless, be a tramway from Adrampatam to join the Railway at Nidamangalam; this would not only bring salt to the line, but would open up a country rich in dry grains, and wonderfully improve Adrampatam, a port, from its favorable situation, open and safe all the year round for the shipping in its anchorage. But the expense is, I imagine, a fatal stumbling-block, and we must fall back upon the original and more primitive canal scheme, which, for the following reasons, must be gone on with. Sums have already been expended on the canal, and also at Negapatam, in anticipation of the increased stores to be there retained; we cannot forego this outlay. The local authorities are sanguine that the work will answer, and there is no means of carriage so cheap and so simple as that by canal. There are already portions of the proposed line always open naturally, and consequently, as regards these portions, there can be no doubts, nor apprehensions. We shall never hear the last of it from the Railway authorities, if we do not make the attempt to carry out what we have to a certain extent pledged ourselves to perform; and, moreover, the matter of guaranteed interest to the shareholders necessitates our utmost endeavours being made to enhance the Railway traffic by the construction of this important feeder.

5. I do not say that success is a certainty, or that the annual maintenance of Rupees 10,000 will prove sufficient to keep the communication always uninterrupted; but I consider, for the reasons above recorded, that we must push on the works as speedily as we can, and give the project a fair trial. If this is determined upon, the sum required should not be sanctioned and allotted piece-meal; it is of the utmost importance that the works should be completed and opened simultaneously, otherwise the expense will be increased, and the eventual success imperilled. The several departments must cordially co-operate, and at all events, if the scheme is capable of answering the purpose intended, its capabilities will stand every chance of being fully developed under the supervision of Mr. Morris and Captain Oakes.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th July 1866.

Submitted to Government with advertence to their Order, dated 1st June 1866, No. 1,297, with the Board's recommendation that an additional grant of Rupees 30,000 be made from this year's Reserve Fund for the prosecution of the important work referred to, the urgent necessity of which has so often been pointed out by the Board.

No. 236. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1866, No. 1,724.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government concur with the Board in deeming the completion of this work at an early date a matter of importance. They do not doubt that even if the maintenance prove to be expensive, the effect on the Salt trade from Negapatam will far more than compensate the State.

2. It appears from the Superintending Engineer's letter that an immediate allotment of Rupees 30,000 from the Reserve will probably enable him to open the canal in less than twelve months.

3. It will be considered in the Public Works Department whether this allotment can be made.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Public Works Department.

The Govt. order with the
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W.H.

11th July 1866

Superintending Engineer's letter
11th July 1866