

(1) Number of Pages 6  
 (2) Date of repair 31.3.1966  
 (3) Initials of the Referencer 102

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

|          |                |       |
|----------|----------------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 13             | Press |
| B.P. No. |                | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 3 October 1873 | 196 . |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

13

1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
14th August 1873.*

Read the following letters :—

No. 215A. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 27th June 1873, No. 949.

On receipt of G. O. of the 30th May 1873, No. 1,458 A., I communicated a copy of the same to C. Camaswarra Du, and now I have the honour to

\* Dated 16th June 1873.

„ 17th July „

forward, for the information of Government, copies of letters\* received from him in which he declines to accept the

terms offered to him by Government, and proposes some other conditions which he trusts the Government will be pleased to take into their favourable consideration.

2. I cannot but think the floating plant should be put into thorough working order at the expense of Government before being lent to Camaswarra, but he ought to be responsible for its maintenance as long as it remains with him. As the Captain and crew are appointed by Government, he, of course, cannot be held responsible for the working of the vessels or their loss; it would be impossible to work the vessels without these individuals, at all events at first starting, and this is a point Camaswarra does not appear to have well considered. In his first letter to me offering to lodge Rupees 45,000 as security with the Collector whilst using this plant, he said nothing at all about this being on account of salt; in fact his whole letter referred to obtaining the use of the steamers.

3. If the Government should not now be disposed to encourage this individual further in his enterprise, I request you will be good enough to let me know if I am to go up the river and carry out the instructions contained in Proceedings of Government of the 7th April 1873, No. 1,071. I have made application to collect firewood so as to be prepared as much as possible for this duty, but up to this date I have received no further instructions; as the river will now be soon in fresh, I beg orders may be sent to me as early as possible.

From C. CAMASWARRA DU, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, dated Masulipatam, 16th June 1873.

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, I beg to represent to you that I cannot take over the steamers on the conditions laid down in the Government Order under date 30th ultimo.

2. I do not know why I should deposit with the Government Rupees 45,000, and bind myself to pay the loss of any plant. As the steamers and boats will be in charge and under the management of a European Officer (Captain Barber), the crew and calasees selected by Government, I do not see how I can make away with the steamers or lose them by my negligence. I am, of course, ready to pay the salaries, etc., at the end of every month, and will make a deposit beforehand, a monthly total of the sum, so that I may not run away at the end of the month without paying the expenses after using the steamers.

3. As for the repairs, I beg to state that the annual amount must be fixed at the beginning only and may be taken monthly in proportion with the amount of salaries, together with a reasonable rent for the steamers, etc.; so the Government will have to advance funds for the repairs of the steamers and boats.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
14th August 1873.*

4. I think you are well aware that I shall have to deposit with the Collector a large amount of money under the value of salt, and will have the risk of building store-houses and to store the salt for a long time and thereby to lose a large amount of interest and wastage, because the salt merchants will not be accustomed to come to these new localities until some months to come, and that I shall have to buy gunny bags, scales, and other things which all amount to a large sum. These charges I must incur whether the experiment succeeds or not. Instead of depositing 45,000 Rupees with the Collector for the steamers and paying several thousands of rupees for repairs, it might be to my own advantage if I could buy a new steamer for myself.

5. Under these circumstances I beg to represent to you that I am unable to embark in this business unless I am allowed the liberties asked for in above paragraphs.

6. As I shall be the first person who must incur all kinds of *vain* expenses and troubles at the commencement, and when the business begins to be profitable, as competitors will at once come forward, I intended to ask the favor of the Government to let me have the monopoly of conveying salt on the river at least for the first two years. I have no objection for the other conditions laid down in the order above quoted.

7. As this is the beginning of Native enterprise in this part of the country, and of the establishment of a commercial connection between the too distant countries for which the Government have already spent lakhs of rupees, I beg the paternal Government will be so kind as to help a common subject of the land either by sacrificing a few rupees instead of binding a stranger with harsh conditions.

From C. CAMASWARRA DU, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer,  
Godavery, dated Masulipatam, 17th June 1873.

I am very sorry to find that the Government have desired me to deposit Rupees 45,000 on account of the repairs, and to be responsible for the loss of any plant. I never understood that I shall have to bear such a heavy expenditure. In all your letters you only pleased to say the expense of the steamer will be about Rupees 1,500 per month, so I thought I will not be required to pay any more money, and the Department Public Works might have always one month's advance as security. I cannot make out whether the Government mis-understood of my saying in my first letter that I shall deposit with the Collector Rupees 45,000 on account of salt to be purchased.

2. Between merchants and boat owners, it was only usual when boats were given out on hire or rent to fix a monthly sum to be payable by the renter to the owner who only will execute all repairs and pay the license. The renter himself will employ all *calasees* and *tundale*. Here the arrangement ought to be a similar one. For the advantage of the Government, I gave them the option of employing their own servants whose salaries I agreed to pay. The requiring me to bear the heavy expenditure of repairs which are wanted on account of their long use in the department, appears to me to be unreasonable. While the Government Officers take the management of the steamers and boats, why should I be responsible for the loss of any plant. If the Government please, the conditions ought to be as follows:—To make me to undertake the trade on steamers, first, a monthly sum must be fixed on account of salaries, repairs, and reserve fund, to meet the value of the plant, and such a sum will be paid by me at the beginning of every month, and then to allow me the use of the steamers, etc.; should the steamers not work for any period on account of repairs or accidents, the proportionate sum for the delay must be repaid to me; second, I am not to be responsible for the loss and management of the steamers and boats; third, I may have the option of buying them at the end of the year should I desire to do so at a price to be then fixed by arbitrators; fourth, I might reserve sufficient place for other traders and passengers on reasonable rates.

3. Should the Government be so kind to sanction the renting of the steamers on these conditions, I am still ready to undertake the business. As I have addressed a letter to your

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
14th August 1873.*

honour, and another letter to Lingarazegar to represent these circumstances only, I beg you will order him to write to me what is your opinion on the subject.

4. I regret much that there was so much misunderstanding in the matter.

No. 215B. From the Collector and District Engineer, Godavery, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Dowlaisweram, 5th August 1873, No. 1,470.

WITH reference to G.O. of the 5th July 1873, No. 1,738, we have the honour to submit the following report for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. We would premise that the subject of navigating the Godavery had been submitted by us when sending up the proposal to work the scheme by Local Funds; also in proposing to establish Salt Depôts up the river and to allow a private individual to work the steamers, the matter had been verbally discussed between us.

3. The proposal now sent to us for consideration is that of the Deputy Commissioner, Sironcha, and seeing there is no probability of any private individual accepting such terms as those offered by the Government, also that it is inexpedient for any private person to have the independent charge of these steamers to work them with such crews as he could pick up at a sea-port, further that the Government have declared the Local Fund cannot be applied to this purpose, we consider Major Scott's proposition the best which can be adopted if the Government will provide the necessary means from the Provincial Budget of this Presidency, or submit the matter for the consideration of the Government of India connected as it is with the Imperial Revenue of the country.

4. This can be shown by considering the chief article of import so much in request up there; a steamer can convey up at each trip 1,200 bags of salt, the cost of this at Cocanada would be Rupees 4,800 or Rupees 5,000 delivered at Rajahmundry; the steamer expenses for the trip will be about Rupees 500, making the total outlay for one journey Rupees 5,500; salt sells up there at present at about Rupees 12 per bag, and this cargo would then be worth Rupees 14,400, leaving a profit of Rupees 8,900 on each trip for salt alone without taking into consideration what the passenger traffic may become or what other produce may be sent down or up, anything urged upon these subjects might be considered as mere conjecture, but as regards the prices for salt at Cocanada and Sironcha, these can be tested by a reference to the price lists of the districts, or those published in the *Indian Economist*. It has often been alleged that the country up the river is all jungle, but, as there is a large export trade from Cocanada of horns and hides, there is every probability of these articles at least finding their way down the river; other products, such as hemp, gingelly and castor oil seeds, bees-wax, etc., now come down the river by boats, and as the certainty of the means of conveyance are better known, there can be no doubt the trade will increase; again, we have a large emigration from the district to Burmah, Moulmein, etc., etc., there is no reason why this should not be turned up the river by holding out inducements to these people to take up the land on favourable terms and so develop the resources of the country.

5. We propose then that two steamers should run, a third being kept available for use, in case one of them breaks down; that they should run for the six

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department*  
14th August 1873.

months or so that the river is navigable; that during the time the river is not the whole way the two steamers should run the whole distance each; and other times of the year the two steamers must work one above, the other below, arrangements being made about transshipping the goods; that Government should work the steamers themselves, and that the Central Provinces should pay half the expenses of the undertaking and receive half the profit; this proposal being, of course, on the supposition that Government will take no part in establishing depôts for salt, the profits being derived only from the carriage of goods and passengers. We cannot urge this matter too strongly for the favorable consideration of the Government, convinced as we are that full justice cannot be done to the Delta works until the means of cheap communication with the interior are fully established; the delta with its abundant supply of water and cheap means of transport by canals can raise immense quantities of produce which are of greatest value in the interior, such as tobacco, sugar, betel, cocoanuts, chili, etc., requiring a supply of water at a time of the year when this is not available in the Central Provinces, as the districts there are subject only to the influence of the south-west monsoon, and for eight months in the year have no reliable rainfall. That stored water up there has to last nearly double the time it has to do in the favored parts, and it is only necessary to look at the price list above referred to see that the Berars with the Railway from Bombay running through them have to pay nearly 100 per cent. more than the Bombay prices for their salt to appreciate what a boon such a line of navigation would be to these parts to afford them up there the means of obtaining this great necessary of life even for moderate

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,

*Acting Collector of Godavery.*

( " ) J. F. FISCHER, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.

*District Engineer, Godavery.*

No. 215c.

ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1873, No. 2,018a.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 11a.

His Excellency the Governor's Council declines to entertain any proposals made by private individuals for navigating the Upper Godavery by means of the Government Steamers and plant, unless based upon approved offers for the purchase of these latter.

2. Meanwhile the District Engineer shall be at liberty to send Mr. Barber up the river in charge of any serviceable steamer and of a reasonable cargo of private goods for delivery at any station on the river not higher than Dumagoodiem at such rates as may be agreed on. And he shall report the results of such experimental trips, their cost and profits, repeated as long as the river is open for navigation, with a view to the record of data for the use of inland traders in future years. Due notice of the dates of probable despatch of steamers will be given to the public, to the Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore at Simla and to the Government at Madras.

3. The Order of Government, No. 1,071, of 7th April, alluded to in the District Engineer's letter is in abeyance pending the final decision of the Government of India as to the transfer of the works of the 1st Barrier. No more

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department*  
14th August 1873.

or stores or plant will be brought down the river, and Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer will on no account accompany the steamers beyond his own district.

(True Extract.)

*W. S. Foster* Colonel, R.E.,  
*Secretary to Government.*

To the District Engineer, Godavery.  
,, Revenue Department. ✓

No. 13.  
*Comm. to the*  
*Board of Revenue*

*Rev.*

*3 Oct. 73*

*L. B. J. R. M.*  
*Depy 9-10-73*

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

20 Spare Copies.

*will be supplied from Madras office*

*Recd 1873 Sept*  
*3096*  
Sect. of 1873 Madras  
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, GODAVERY.

Dated August 14th

Recd. *Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1873* Encl.

G. O., 14th August 1873, No. 2,018A.

AUGUST

*to Mr*  
Nos. 215+215<sup>c</sup>

13

Steamers.—Passing orders on papers  
regarding the running of steamers on the  
Godavery.

*With order*