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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 159 / B.P. No. — Press / Mis.

Dated 23. 8. 1873 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
13th August 1873.

No. 71. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th July 1873, No. 1387 :—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nagalapuram, 10th July 1873, No. 271 :—

REVERTING to my letter of the 17th March last, No. 73, in which I stated that the income from tolls on the Northern Canal had temporarily fallen off owing to the nature of the season last year, heavy rains having impeded traffic, I have the honour now to report that, owing to these recent floods, the canals have both silted up so much that this falling off must become permanent unless speedy and special measures are taken to clear them, and until this is done, awaiting the result of the next six months' collections as ordered by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 896, dated 29th May last, would give no fair idea of the revenue that should ordinarily accrue.

2. The continuance of the present state of things, moreover, would tend to a more serious result than the mere falling off of the canal revenue—though that is bad enough—*i.e.*, impediment to the free storage of our salt. At present the salt boats coming from the Northern and Southern Stations to the Madras Cotaur and Home's Gardens depôts, respectively, take much longer on the trip than they used to do and are often seriously impeded. The subject has been lately causing myself and my Deputy Collector serious anxiety, and the correspondence noted in the margin (copies of which are enclosed) has passed between this office, the District Engineer, and the Deputy Collector on this subject. It was proposed to bring down a steam dredge from the Godavery to clear the canals quickly; but the District Engineer just informs me, demi-officially, that this is not feasible, and he can do it cheaper by means of coolies if funds are provided. He is of opinion (*vide* No. 527, dated 5th ultimo,) that about 20,000 Rupees for three years should be allowed as a special annual grant, and I beg strongly to recommend that funds may be allotted for this purpose and at once. The probable sum asked for is considerable no doubt, but small when compared with the loss resulting from even a small proportion of the salt manufactured being detained at the pans after the monsoon has broken owing to delays in transit.

From Dy. Collr., Salt Dept.,		16th May,	No.	303.
To District Engineer,		26th May,	No.	132.
From	do.	5th June,	,,	527.
To	do.	23rd ,,	,,	160.
From	do.	27th ,,	,,	779.
To	do.	1st July,	,,	165.
,,	do.	4th ,,	,,	166.

3. As regards funds to carry out this proposal, I would suggest, considering the importance of the canals as our main salt communication, that an allotment should be made from the probable general savings under Petty Construction and Repairs, or that a transfer should be made from the sum sanctioned for the extension of the canal northward.

4. I may add, as a minor consideration, that, from the correspondence above quoted, both the District Engineer and the Deputy Collector are of opinion that, if the canals are deepened, a larger revenue than 40,000 Rupees per annum will result.

5. As the subject is urgent, the favour of early orders is requested.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 7.—Copies of Correspondence.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
13th August 1873.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. These papers show that Cochrane's Canal must be cleared and deepened.

3. At present it is so shallow that boats are stranded at low tide. The salt which is conveyed from the pans to the platforms in boats is thus detained, and is stored so slowly that a large quantity of it is still exposed to the rain when it falls in June and July and much wastage is thus caused. This is a matter of no small importance, as is proved by the present condition of affairs. The amount of salt now in store at the Madras Cotaurs is below the average, and if it ever becomes necessary to bring salt from other districts the expense will be very great.

4. The District Engineer believes that the requisite deepening can be effected at a cost of Rupees 20,000 a-year for three years, but this sum cannot be provided out of the income of the canal, which is barely sufficient for ordinary maintenance.

5. The Board think that the cost may fairly be charged to the amount provided for contingencies connected with the manufacture and storage of salt. A large portion of the revenue from salt at the station where most is disposed of depends on the efficiency of the canal. The Board are sanguine that Rupees 20,000 can be provided by savings in this year's allotment.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1873, No. 1120.

The Governor in Council concurs in opinion with the Board that the Salt Budget provision for Petty Construction and Repairs should properly contribute to the maintenance of the canal in which the Department is so much dependant for carriage to store, and desires that the amount of Rupees 20,000 required for the current year, in addition to the ordinary grant from canal earnings, may be placed at the disposal of the District Engineer for this purpose from the salt grant.

2. The Board will arrange with the Accountant-General for the necessary transfer.

(True Extract.)

Asst. Secretary
for Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue, with enclosures returned.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Accountant-General.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Revd 1873 Sept.
No. 2569

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 13th.

Recd. 22nd August 1873

G. O., 13th August 1873, No. 1139.

AUGUST.
Nos. 71-72.

Cochrane's Canal.—The views of the Board of Revenue that the Salt Budget should properly contribute to the maintenance of this canal concurred in, and the sum of Rupees 20,000 required in the current year for deepening it, ordered to be met from the salt grant.

No. 159
Recorded

23 Augt 73