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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	160		Press / Mis.
Dated	28	June	1873 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 434. From the District Engineer, Godavery.
(Here enter No. 1,213, dated 14th March 1873.)

No. 435. 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, 19th April 1873, No. 198.

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,594, dated 17th March 1873, communicating G. O. in the Financial Department of the 6th March 1873, No. 316, declaring that the project for the sale of salt in the interior by the Godavery navigation is clearly one to be developed by private enterprize, I have the honour to submit, for the most favourable consideration of Government, the following proposals made to me by C. Cameshwara Rao, a well-known merchant of Masulipatam, and at the same time I beg to transmit the testimonials he has furnished me with.

2. He proposes to lodge Rupees 45,000 with the Collector as security, and to commence work with a capital of Rupees 5,000. He requires us to lend him on hire the steamers belonging to the river navigation and the barges belonging to them, defraying all expenses for one year. At the end of this time he wishes to have the option of the purchasing the plant, etc., for trading purposes, more particularly apparently for the development of the salt trade with the interior.

3. I beg to recommend these proposals for the sanction of Government all except the sale of the plant, which may be required hereafter for the use of the works and which he has no means of keeping in good working order; in addition to the security which he offers to give, and which is ample and liberal, I would suggest his undertaking to pay all the expenses of repairs to the steamers and barges at the workshops here or at Dumagoodiem, we undertaking to afford him all the assistance he may require to carry out his proposals.

4. I trust the offer now submitted may meet with the most favourable and liberal consideration; the Godavery river possesses advantages for river-navigation which few other rivers in India have, and years of labour and thought have been devoted to open this out, unsuccessfully it is true, but only so from the half measures which have been sanctioned for completing the project; sooner or later, as the country progresses, this scheme must press for consideration, and if we now let it fall through, we shall only share in the failure and in depriving the interior for so long a time of its many advantages.

5. If we are to do nothing with or for the works, I beg very respectfully to submit the Central Provinces had better keep them, as the transfer only entails a large cost for establishments on this Government, which if reduced in a year or so will make it utterly impossible to maintain the works at all; without firewood I cannot even work the steamers to bring down the stones yet remaining at Dumagoodiem, and the loss of these is therefore almost inevitable; but if C. Cameshwara Rao is permitted to work the steamers on the conditions I will make with him, and the security he offers to lodge with the Collector, I have little or no doubt we

shall soon establish a good trade in salt up the river. Last year some wealthy merchants of Mahidapur, above Sirunchá, offered to pay all the expenses of the steamers to bring salt up from the coast to the Second Barrier, but this offer was declined, as the transfer of the works was still under consideration. These people would no doubt be prepared to assist in any enterprize for opening the river navigation; the native merchants of Cocanada on the Local Fund Board are quite prepared to enter into the trade if the running of the steamers is made regular and secure, and Rajahmundry already does a good deal of business up the river by ordinary native boats, and so do other villages on the banks; as an opportunity now offers for undertaking the project on the conditions mentioned by Government, viz., of private enterprize, I beg to lay the matter before them for orders, in the earnest hope and trust they will be pleased to allow the project to go on and let us see if we cannot do something more with them now that the transfer has been ordered.

No. 436. From the District Engineer, Godavery.
(Here enter No. 247, dated 22nd April 1873.)

No. 437. From do. do.
(Here enter No. 267, dated 23rd April 1873.)

No. 438. From Messrs. FRUVALL and Co., Masulipatam, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Masulipatam, 23rd April 1873.

We beg to be informed whether a steamer now plying on Godavery river could be lent to us on a monthly hire to convey salt either on Kistna or Godavery rivers, and also to grant permission to Colonel Fischer to favour us with a copy of his proposal to Government to establish a salt depôt near Dumagoodiem.

No. 439. Order thereon, 31st May 1873, No. 1,458A.

ACCOUNT, No. 32.

His Excellency the Governor in Council authorizes the loan for a twelve-month of a couple of the Upper Godavery Navigation steamers, with a sufficient number of barges, to C. Cameshwara Rao on deposit by him with the Collector of Rajahmundry of Rupees 45,000 as security for his re-payment of all expenses which may be deemed necessary by the District Engineer for maintaining them in as good condition as he receives them. With which view they shall be subjected to inspection and repair at the Government Workshops at Dowlaishweram and Dumagoodiem after each trip, and navigated by Captain Barber and such crew as he may select, their salaries being paid by the lessee. C. Cameshwara Rao shall also have the option of purchasing either or both the steamers and any of the barges at the end of the twelve-month, at prices now to be fixed; notice of his intention to purchase being given three months beforehand, so that next year's arrangements may not be interfered with. He will also be required to pay for the loss of any of the above plant such sums as they may have previously been valued at.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31*st May* 1873.

2. Messrs. Fruvall and Cos'. application for a steamer does not specify any terms, and has been forestalled by that above referred to. Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer is at liberty to supply them with copy of his letter to Government on the subject of establishing a salt depôt at Dumagoodiem. They should be referred to the Collector for the rules under which they may obtain supplies of salt on credit. Arrangements should be made binding C. Cameshwara Rao to reserve a certain amount of freight and personal accommodation for other traders at a reasonable rate.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Godavery.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Controller of P. Works Accts

No. 160.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

26 June 73

Exd. S. T. Austin.
20 Spare Copies.

Revd 1873 Sept.
No 1830

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, GODAVERY

&c., &c., &c.

Mis

Dated May 31st.

Read June 25. } 1873

Encl.

G. O., 31st May 1873, No. 1,458A.

MAY
Nos. 434 439

Steamers.—Issuing instructions for the loan for a twelve-month of a couple of the Upper Godavery Navigation steamers to C. Ourmakwara Rao.

W. Ellis Owen

No 433 - 26th June 73.