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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	62	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	8. July	1873 -196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

62

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th June 1873.

No. 201. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th June 1873, No. 978 :—

Read again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th May 1873' No. 807.

Read the following letter from the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Acting President of the Local Fund Board, Tanjore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallum, 8th April 1873, No. 122 :—

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a resolution of the Board of the Negapatam Local Fund Circle, from which it will be seen that the Board have altogether declined to contribute anything for the maintenance of the Vedarniem Salt Canal, as that work is subservient almost entirely to imperial purposes. I beg to request, therefore, that the Board will be pleased to move Government for the maintenance allowance (Rupees 9,000) being provided for out of Imperial Funds.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Negapatam Circle, dated 10th March 1873.

(16.) Read President's letter, No. 37, dated 25th ultimo, requesting that the question of the future maintenance of the Vedarniem Canal be definitively settled.

Resolved unanimously that this Board is not prepared to contribute anything to the maintenance of the canal between Negapatam and Vedarniem, which they regard as an imperial communication constructed for the purpose of carrying salt to Negapatam. The Board believe that the traffic, other than salt, on the canal is next to nothing; and do not believe that any further traffic could be expected after extending the canal to Kodikkarai.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Vice-President.

In G. O., dated 24th January 1873, No. 126, the Collector was directed to report whether the salt traffic in the Vedarniem Canal pays tolls, &c. No answer appears to have been sent to this order, but the Collector now writes that the Local Fund Board have declined to contribute anything to the repairs of the canal.

2. In his letter he alludes to letters dated 30th January and 28th February 1873. The former alludes to the Manniar Locks, and the latter has not been received. Before submitting the present letter for the orders of Government, the Board will await a reply to the Government Order of 24th January.

3. The Collector will be directed by telegraph to submit his report at once.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th June 1873.*

Read also the following letters:—

From the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Tanjore, to J. GROSE,
Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 13th May 1873,
No. 177.

With reference to the Orders of Government, dated 24th January 1873,
No. 126, Financial Department, I have the honour to report that no toll is levied on
the traffic passing over the Vedarniem Salt Canal.

2. This traffic consists chiefly of salt conveyed from Vedarniem to the
Government Depôt at Negapatam, and, as it is conveyed wholly on account of
Government, any toll that is levied on it will have to be paid by themselves. Even
if any salt were brought by traders on their own account, it is obviously
inadvisable to levy any toll on it at present, thereby discouraging the traffic just at
a time when the stock of salt at the Government Depôt at Negapatam is so utterly
inadequate to meet the growing demand of trade, and it is found necessary to adopt
special measures to replenish it.

3. The other traffic passing over the canal is very limited; it consists of
small quantities of paddy conveyed from Negapatam to Vedarniem and of
tobacco conveyed from Vedarniem to Negapatam. Of passenger traffic there is
very little to speak of. Any toll, therefore, levied on traffic other than salt, in the
present imperfectly-developed state of the canal, as a means of communication,
would hardly cover the cost of the establishment which it will be necessary to
entertain for collecting the toll. But at the same time it is desirable that the
whole traffic passing over the canal should be registered, and, as this can be done
only by means of a special establishment, the system of levying tolls on other
traffic might also be tried experimentally by the same agency. Returns of the
traffic passing over the canal have to be furnished for transmission to the
* *Vide Proceedings of Government, P. W. D., Government of India,** and they will
dated 1st November 1872, No. 2574. be of value also as furnishing data for
deciding upon an extended system of tolls should it be found hereafter to be
remunerative as well as expedient.

4. I have, accordingly, asked the Salt Deputy Collector for a table of the
tolls that might be levied on traffic other than salt, as also a plan of the establish-
ment for collecting them and for keeping registers of the traffic generally, and as
soon as these are received shall do myself the honour of forwarding them for the
consideration and orders of the Board and Government.

From the same Officer, dated Tirupundi, 29th May 1873, No. 194.

ADVERTING to the concluding paragraph of my letter of the 13th instant,
No. 177, I have the honour to submit the annexed plan for levying a toll experi-
mentally on the traffic other than salt passing over the Vedarniem Canal.

2. The cost of the establishment proposed, it will be seen, is Rupees 56 per
mensem, or Rupees 672 per annum.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
28th June 1873.*

Plan for levying a Toll on the Vedarniem Canal.

1. The rate of toll to be levied is 4 Annas per ton on the registered tonnage
of each boat carrying goods or passengers, and is to be levied at the starting point.

2. For this purpose four posts are to be fixed on the canal, viz., one at Nega-
patam, one at Velangani six miles south, one at Topetorai about two miles north
of Vedarniem, and one at the southern terminus of the canal at Vedarniem.
For each of these posts there will be two toll-collectors, on a monthly salary of
Rupees 7 each, to be on duty alternately. They will keep a register of all traffic
passing from and to the post, and collect the toll on the boats starting therefrom.

3. The toll-collector at each post will give a ticket for each boat which has
paid toll, and it will be delivered at the reaching point as a voucher in proof of
the toll having been paid.

4. Any loaded or passenger boat that reaches any of the four posts without
such ticket will be liable to pay double toll at the reaching point.

5. Printed forms of ticket with the Salt Deputy Collector's seal will be
supplied to the toll-collectors, and the number of forms issued will be accounted
for by the latter.

6. The collections made by the toll-collectors will be paid into the Salt
Superintendents' Cutcherries, the toll-collectors at Negapatam and Velangani
paying into the Negapatam Salt Superintendent's, and those at Topetorai and
Vedarniem into the Vedarniem Salt Superintendent's Cutcherry.

7. The toll-collectors will further be respectively subject to the control of
the several Salt Superintendents.

8. They will be required to furnish ready-money security, in the sum of
Rupees 100 each, for the due and faithful discharge of their duties.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 24th January 1873,
No. 126.

2. The salt carried on the Vedarniem Canal is carried on behalf of Govern-
ment, and if tolls are levied they must be paid by Government. The rest of the
traffic is very slight, and as it is only struggling into existence the levy of tolls
on it would be unwise.

3. The Negapatam Local Fund Board decline to pay for maintaining the
canal on the ground that it is of no value as a means of communication, except
so far as Government salt is concerned. Their position seems to the Board to be
sound.

4. It will perhaps be best to impose tolls on boats carrying salt only.
Funds will thus be obtained from the allotment for salt for maintaining the canal as
is done in the case of Cochrane's Canal. If more is required it should be supplied,
in the Board's opinion, from Provincial Funds.

(True Copies and Extract.)
(Signed)

J. GROSE,
Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department.
28th June 1873.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1873, No. 906.

Communicated to the Revenue Department.

2. The canal appears to be almost solely used for conveying salt on Government account from the Vedarniem works to the Negapatam Depôt, but this would seem to afford no reason why the traffic should not be tolled as in the case of Cochrane's Canal. The Board of Revenue might be required to report on the suggestion.

(True Extract.)

Wm. M.
for Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
„ Board of Revenue.

No 62.
Ordered accordingly that the
Board of Revenue be requested to report
their opinion through this Dept.

8/July 73.

Exd. J. Wright.

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16-9-20 ✓

1-11-84 ✓

27th Dec of Rev Secy July 1873.

Obt. of 1873 *Secy* *1904*

FINANCIAL.

To THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT, *Secy*

&c.

&c.

&c.

Date June, 28th.

July 1873 *1873* *Ind.*

G.O., 28th June 1873, No. 906.

JUNE

Nos. 201-202.

Transmission

Requesting the Board of Revenue to report on the suggestion to toll the traffic over the Vedarman Canal in the Tanjore District, notwithstanding that it is almost solely used for conveying salt or Government account.

White Paper

Chs 62-8 July 1873-

*For information & requested to report
this opinion through the Dept.*