M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2440 ~~Press~~
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 19-11-1875 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th November 1875.

No. 325. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Guindy, 5th November 1875, No. 3,272 :—

In reply to G.O., No. 2,988, of 26th ultimo, I have the honor to observe that Messrs. Binny and Co. are in error in stating that the bungalow at Ennore was swept away by any act of the Department of Public Works.

One Plan.

2. The fact that its foundations were badly undermined was noticed by more than one person in April 1874; and I understand that part of the building was washed away even before that; moreover, the cut which was made at the south end, to discharge the early freshes of last year, was entirely closed before September, and the heavy floods broke through the bar in midstream, and ate their way down even beyond my line. I doubt if even the unusual flood of 1874 would have destroyed a sound building.

3. As to the future, I would observe that our difficulty is not at all in discharging flood-water—the Corteliar will get out without any assistance from us—our object is to keep the mouths open as long as possible for the supply of sea water in the hot weather to the large area of salt pans, and to the canal by which the manufactured salt is conveyed to Madras.

4. My experience shows that if we open well to the south the action of the sea is much delayed in closing the mouth. I believe that a jetty in prolongation of the right bank, carried out far enough to screen the mouth from the surf, would enable us to keep this river open through the year.

5. I executed a work like this in Cocanada in 1853, and the river has never been closed since. We have a very much larger tidal basin at Ennore than we have at Cocanada. In 1857, the cut opened at the southern extremity of the Pulicat channel by me shifted very slowly to the north; and some years, I am told, passed before it reached the mainland and fairly closed.

6. The cut at Ennore, as I have laid it out, is entirely within river limits; in heavy floods as above mentioned the river cuts even south of it. I do not therefore understand how Messrs. Binny and Co. can consider us in any way responsible for damages, even if they are caused by the river, and not their neglect.

7. The bar has been closed this year, although it was very fairly scoured in 1874. We must expect, unless we have heavier rain than appears likely, great difficulty next year in the supply of salt water, and this difficulty will be very much increased if we leave the river to break out at the north end or even midway, the strong south current will probably shut it in a few weeks.

No. 326. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1875, No. 3,253.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 22.

THE Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, may be right in stating that the cut as laid out by him is entirely within river limits; but he admits that in heavy floods the river is liable to cut even south of the

passage he would desire it to take. He states further that there is no difficulty at all in discharging flood water, which makes its way out unaided. Under these circumstances, His Excellency the Governor in Council would prefer that the cut be made sufficiently clear of Messrs. Binny and Co.'s premises as not to be likely to work back as far as their boundary.

2. The Revenue Survey Map, forwarded by Messrs. Binny and Co., shows two mouths to the back-water. If they are both due to artificial cuts, a great mistake has been committed, and every endeavour should be made to maintain but one. And an attempt may be made, if funds are available, to keep it from shifting by roughly revetting its southern bank. That it can ever be permanently kept open is improbable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

(True Copy)

Walker Major General R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
To Messrs. Binny and Co., Madras.

Rev: Department

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No. 4474

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CHINGLEPUT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 13th.

Issued 18-11-75

Rcd. 19/11/75 Encl.

G. O., 13th November 1875, No. 3,253.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 325-326

No. 2440
Commd to the
Bd of Rev.
19: Noor 175

Ennore Bar.—Passing orders on the explanation afforded by the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, regarding the cutting of the — at southern point.