New No. Sectt. I (i)-1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,006—10-6-65.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1222	~~Press~~ / Mis.

Dated 24-5-1876 ~~196~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ports—Cocanada.

Read the following papers:—

No. 16. From Captain J. H. TAYLOR, R.N.R., Acting Master Attendant, Madras, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 4th February 1876, No. 951.

Administrative Department.

I have the honor to furnish the following report, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, relating to Marine operations at the port of Cocanada, from which I have lately returned. The chief point of interest is the dredging of the river, which will be actively prosecuted, as soon as the plant is placed in proper repair, neither dredges being handed over in a state to commence work, but by combining the fittings of two, one whole vessel can be prepared in a short time, and six of the punts are now fit for use. The condition of the river does not seem to me changing for the worse, though the channel alters. At present the deepest water off the town is on the south side, where the native trade is carried on, and the English merchants complain of some inconvenience from silt on theirs—"the north side." That is, in a measure, owing to the practice of laying the boats up on the mud, where they act as groynes, and also to the jetties, which spring out opposite the offices of each merchant. A code of bye-laws for the port will be necessary in the general interest to obviate these inconveniences. The Harbour Steamer *Frank and Ada*, which is imperatively necessary for the dredging and revetment work, has been replaced by the *Fred and May* which vessel has now to be fitted at a probable cost of Rupees 4,000. Captain Castor will commence to fit her with the greatest despatch possible; her bottom has been renewed, and with new deck and new boiler, all ready to hand, she will suffice for a long period of service. The southern revetment is being carried on, and I hope that the spaces left in it for hauling up the boats for repair, &c., will suffice for the drainage of the southern flat. It has been reported to me that the whole of this flat has been sold, and for the incredibly small sum of Rupees 120. The report I was not in a position to confirm, but I would respectfully urge upon the consideration of His Grace the Governor in Council that the land having been reclaimed chiefly by the action of the expensive port works forming the present mouth of Cocanada river, a claim to it on the part of the port seems to deserve consideration. The work of embankment, which I am ordered to carry out, will, if trade increases, make the quay space very valuable, and be all conducted for the benefit of the purchaser at the expense of Port Funds. Besides which any further operations that may be considered necessary, such as docks or canals, will be subject to his proprietary rights. In connection with the waste land, it is my duty to bring to the notice of His Grace in Council that large islands, *viz.*, Hope Island and others nameless extending beyond Hope Island, covered with firewood, considered by my predecessors to be a valuable store at the service of the port, whenever a steamer should be made available, have also been sold on very favorable terms to the purchaser, from whom I have now to buy firewood for the dredging and steamer at market rates. Now, as these extensions of the land have been among the principal agents in destroying the harbours of Coringa and Cocanada, and necessitated constant expense, and now compel the removal of the lighthouses, which will cost a large sum, I respectfully submit that the views held by my

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62 cawnies) to the Collector who advertised the sale, and after the usual period, there having been no objection raised by the Marine or Public Works Departments, sold the said blocks to two native merchants for Rupees 5-8-0 per acre, Rupees 2-8-0 being the upset price of waste lands in this district.

5. It so happens that the land thus sold comes pretty close up to the river, but the purchasers have up to the present time made no use of it and have expressed their willingness (in writing) to take in lieu of it a similar extent of land lying further south. I inspected the land lately with Captain Castor, the local Master Attendant, who pointed out to me the utmost limits of the land south of the river which there was any likelihood of ever being required for marine purposes. The land so indicated by Captain Castor takes in the three blocks that have been sold, but to the south of this land there is abundance of waste land still available to be made over to the purchasers in exchange for the land they bought, and for this exchange I request the sanction of Government.

6. As regards Hope Island and Captain Taylor's complaint that this island "and others nameless extending beyond it, covered with firewood, considered by his predecessors to be a valuable store at the service of the port have also been sold on very favorable terms to the purchaser, from whom he (Captain Taylor) has now to buy firewood for dredging and steamer at market rates," I have the honor to report that the land in question was not sold at all. It is true that a large portion of Hope Island together with a small adjoining island called Pentiah Tippa was given over in 1874 by the late Collector to a Mr. Severs for the purpose of raising a Casuarina plantation. A puttah was granted to Mr. Severs under the Rules for planting private Topes (Revenue Board's Standing Order, Nos. 121 and 121/1) according to which he enjoys the land rent free for ten years on the condition that he plants one-fifth at least of the whole extent in each year commencing from Fasli 1284, so that the whole should be planted out within the fifth year.

7. Little or nothing was done by Mr. Severs in the way of planting during the first year of his tenure, a fact that was brought to my notice only in January last on my arrival in the district. As Mr. Severs gave what appeared to be good reasons for failing to act up to the contract, and as he seemed to be under a misapprehension as to his obligation, I as an act of grace allowed him another year to see if he could plant out two-fifths before its expiration, which will be on the 30th June next. I have within the last few days visited the island, and from what I have seen of the progress of the work I think it is hardly likely that he will be able to fulfil the condition of the puttah within the short period left to him, in which case of course his puttah will be forfeited, and the land will revert to Government.

8. But be all this as it may, the land occupied by Mr. Severs is by no means the only land in the neighborhood of the port which is covered with firewood available for the Marine Department if applied for by them. In Hope Island itself, not to mention the islands adjoining it mostly covered with dense jungle, there are about 1,600 acres reserved by Government, from which the Marine Department can obtain as much fuel as they require by merely asking me for it, and perhaps paying such light seigniorage as may be thought advisable after communication with the Board of Revenue.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Marine Department,
9th May 1876.

9. I do not understand that any report is called for from me on the state of the port and the dredging operations. I observe that the latter are going on satisfactorily.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1876, No. 170.

The Governor in Council is glad to learn from the Acting Collector's report that Captain Taylor has been misinformed to some extent as to the occupation of land in the immediate vicinity of the Cocanada Port, and sanctions the Collector's proposals for resuming by exchange the block which it is desired to reserve for port purposes.

2. It will be intimated in the Revenue Department to all Collectors of Coast Districts that the Government look to them to prevent, in the public interest, the alienation of any Government waste land adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, ports which is likely to be hereafter required by Government for State purposes. They should in all cases communicate with the Marine authorities before allowing any new private occupation of land so situated.

3. The Government note with approval the careful attention paid by the Master Attendant to the outlying ports, and trust that the operations now in progress at Cocanada will lead to its material improvement as a port of trade.

(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
" Acting Collector of the Godavery District.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

No 1822

Communicates Resolution of Govt. of India in the Public Department, dated 24th January 1876, sanctioning the retirement of Captain W. Keeling as Assistant Surveyor.

Captain W. Keeling as Assistant Surveyor.

No 2062
Revenue 1876 Dept

Govt. of Madras.

MARINE.

To

The MASTER ATTENDANT,
Madras.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 9th.
Issued
Rect. 23

G.O., 9th May 1876, No. 170.

NAVY.
Nos. 16—18.

Ports—Coorg.—Orders passed on certain letters reporting on the condition of the ports of Cochin and Canara.

No 7222 - 24th May 1876

No. 1822 dated 24th January 1876

New No. Sects. I (1)-1—Opl No. MR.O. 1—10,000—10-6-63.