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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1343	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	26.9.	1876. ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1343
1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th September 1876.

No. 282. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th September 1876, No. 2,271 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Porto Novo, 16th August 1876, No. 373 :—

UNDER the circumstances stated in the enclosed copy of a letter from the District Engineer, dated 11th instant, No. 144, I have the honor to request that the sanction of Government may be obtained, if necessary, to the enclosed estimate for completing the Puliankal catch-drain, and that the estimate itself be sent on to the said officer in view to the execution of the work by his department.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 11th August 1876, No. 144.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, under date the 26th July 1876, No. 1,913, sanctioning the completion of Puliankal catch-drain, in connection with the Merkanam salt-pans, I have the honor to observe that the work is entered in the Imperial Budget of this department, Part II, Original Works, and a sum of Rupees 3,000 is provided for the current year (*vide* G.O., No. 1,022, of 24th April 1876). It would thus appear that the work is intended to be carried out by this department.

2. I am therefore of opinion that before the work is put in hand by this department, the sanction of Government in the Public Works Department should be formally obtained to the estimate of Rupees 6,400 for the work, which, under Rule No. 1 printed in G.O.. No. 1.574,* of 13th May 1869, is beyond the competency of the Board to sanction. In fact I consider that as required in the G.Os., Nos. 3,428, of 3rd December 1875, and 1,022, of 24th April 1876, the estimate should be sent up to Government for their sanction.

* Revenue Department, No. 1,202, of 3rd idem.

3. I request, therefore, that you will be good enough to address the Board on the matter. The estimate when sanctioned should be forwarded to me to be sent to the Divisional Officer for his guidance in carrying on the work.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Estimate.

THE estimate will be submitted for the sanction of Government. An allotment of Rupees 3,000 is entered in the Budget for the current year.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 283. ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1876, No. 1,343.

Separate Revenue, No. 28.
Salt.

approved.
SANCTIONED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Govt. of Madras.
REVENUE.
To
The BOARD OF REVENUE.
&c., &c., &c.
Dated September, 26th.
Read.
Board's
G.O., 26th September 1876, No. 1,343.
SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 282-283.
Merkanam Salt-pans in South Arcot District.
estimate for completion of Puli-
kal Catch-drain in connection with —.

1343/27

No. 2,271.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th September 1876.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Porto Novo, 16th August 1876, No. 373:—

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From Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 11th August 1876, No. 144.

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* Revenue Department, No. 1,202, of 3rd idem.

3. I request, therefore, that you will be good enough to address the Board on the matter. The estimate when sanctioned should be forwarded to me to be sent to the Divisional Officer for his guidance in carrying on the work.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Estimate.

THE estimate will be submitted for the sanction of Government. An allotment of Rupees 3,000 is entered in the Budget for the current year.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with estimate, to be returned, and copy of Board's Proceedings, 26th July 1876, No. 1,913.

Copy to the Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. W. H. French.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1876.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH SEPTEMBER 1876, No. 2,271.

SEPTEMBER.

No. 2,271.

Merkanam Salt-pans—in South Arcot District—Submitting for sanction of Government estimate for completion of Puliankal catch-drain in connection with—.

Received 15 Sept

1343/3

No. 1,913.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th July 1876.

Read the following letter from Major H. R. MEAD, R.E., District Engineer, South Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 15th May 1876, No. 41 :—

WITH reference to your letter, No. 97, dated 3rd May 1876, and Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,931, dated 22nd October 1875, I have the honor to inform you that I was not aware that there was any necessity for me to report regarding the Merkanam salt-pans as I thought they were to be abandoned and no heavy expenditure incurred on them. I regret this, and now send the following report regarding them. I inspected the places on the 5th May.

Two estimates.

2. The Merkanam salt-pans extend for a distance of about three miles on the south side of the Thembaukum river. Formerly I believe the salt water was taken direct from the backwater to the pans, as it is now, for the adjacent Kundadoo and Chunampet salt-pans, the brine channels of which take off at about two miles and one mile respectively above the Thembaukum causeway. Some time ago a new brine channel was cut for the Merkanam pans, having its head about one-fifth of a mile below the causeway ; this I believe was done for two reasons—first, to take the salt water from lower down the backwater under an idea it was stronger there, and, second, to form an embankment so that the salt-pans might be not liable to be flooded during rains ; the length of this channel is nearly three miles.

3. Through the centre of the pans a drainage passed. This drainage has been closed, and the work called the Puliankal Drainage Channel was a few years ago commenced ; it has been regularly cut for a little more than a mile and the excavated earth thrown up to improve the platforms ; it is proposed to extend it for about 1½ miles in length so as to discharge the drainage water into the backwater below the head of the brine channel.

4. From the above it will be seen that the excavation of the brine channel now necessitates the construction of the drainage channel, and I am very doubtful if the brine channel was necessary ; I think before proceeding further inquiry should be made regarding it. I regret that I did not meet Mr. Freer, the Deputy Collector in charge of the salt, as he was absent on my inspection, and therefore I am without positive information regarding it.

5. The salt pans of Kundadoo and Chunampett are supplied by channels, the first with the head above the Merkanam salt-pans, the second with head slightly below them ; I do not know but believe the water is as a rule fairly salt, and, if this is the case, I do not see any necessity for going to the great cost of a brine channel with a head far below them for the Merkanam pans especially, as this necessitates the construction of the new drainage channel.

6. Should it be found advisable to have the brine channel, the drainage must be made ; it is proposed to cut it three yards bottom width with slopes of two to one. The area drained is about eight square miles of a sandy tract ; therefore a heavy fall of rain is required to cause much discharge ; it now crosses the road through a six-feet culvert ; in ordinary years it is sufficient, but in heavy rains the water rises over the road, the waterway not being sufficient. The new drain proposed would pass off the

water in ordinary years, but it would not do so when the monsoon was heavy, and the cost of maintenance would be great; I, therefore, recommend, should the brine channel not be considered necessary, that the drainage should be taken its natural course straight through the pans to the backwater, a distance of about 1,500 yards.

7. Should the brine channel be necessary, I can only advise the drainage to be cut as proposed at a cost of Rupees 6,400, but it must be clearly understood that it will not carry off the flood waters in heavy rains, but that breaches will occur. I cannot advise the channel being cut out large enough to drain the land in great floods; the cost would be too heavy.

8. I wish to add a few remarks regarding the bar of the backwater and the proposal that has been made to remove the Thembaukum causeway under the idea that this would improve matters.

The bar is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the causeway, the river has a fine tidal reservoir; the bar closes sooner or later almost every year; the time of closing depends of course on north-east monsoon; after bad ones it closes in June and July; after more favorable ones in August or September.

If there is heavy rain in April or May, it keeps open for longer, but this stops I believe the salt manufacture, and is therefore of no advantage. I do not consider that causeway can have the least effect on the bar, and cannot therefore recommend its removal on that ground, as the waterway in it is insufficient and it is constantly in heavy floods damaged and breached. I think it may with advantage hereafter be either altered or a passage made somewhere else; this will be a matter for the Local Fund Board to consider, and I hope shortly to make a proposal regarding it to them.

No. 216.

* Estimates returned.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings, No. 2,931,* dated 22nd October 1875.

KALLAKURCHI,
23rd May 1876.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Estimates.

IN the foregoing letter the District Engineer reports upon certain works connected with the Merkanam salt-pans, regarding which the Board, in their Proceedings, dated 22nd October 1875, No. 2,931, requested his professional advice. With his letter embodied in their Proceedings, the Collector applied for sanction to two estimates, one amounting to Rupees 6,400 for completing what is known as the Puliankal Catch-drain and the other for Rupees 7,950 for improving the brine supply-channel. The Board were not satisfied that the works were necessary, and accordingly referred the matter for the opinion of the District Engineer.

2. Major Mead is inclined to believe that the brine channel was a mistake, but adds that, supposing it to be necessary, he must advise the drainage channel being extended as proposed at a cost of Rupees 6,400. The Board are satisfied of the necessity for the brine channel, and, looking to the uncertainty which exists regarding the working of the Harigoshti pans upon such a scale as to justify the closing of those at Merkanam, they resolve to sanction the completion of the Puliankal Catch-drain at a cost of Rupees 6,400 as shown in the estimate.

3. The Collector will report further regarding the second work—the brine supply channel,—and state whether manufacture could be carried on during another season without further outlay. If this is possible, the Board would defer the execution of the work.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of South Arcot, with one estimate returned.

Copy to the District Engineer, South Arcot.
" to the Accountant-General.

1876.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 26th JULY 1876, No. 1,913.

Received.

Encl.

JULY.

No. 1,913.

Markanam Salt-pans—in South Arcot District.—Sanctioning completion of Pulianku Catch-drain in connection with — at a cost of Rupees 6,400, and requesting Collector to report further regarding proposed excavation of Irrigation supply channel.

For C. No. 7179

MEMORANDUM.

REQUESTED for reference the under-mentioned papers:—

C^e 7179 and its file sent to the Rev. Secy

on the 17th October 1876

see G. O. herewith sent

GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
Public Works Department,
3 Nov 1876.

Registrar.

To The Registrar of the Rev. Department.