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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1403	Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1403
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd June 1876.*

No. 39. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd May 1876, No. 678 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th May 1876.
Read the following letter from the Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th May 1876, No. 288.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the earliest possible orders of the Board, the accompanying letter* of this date, No. 344, just received from the Salt Deputy Collector, and, in doing so, greatly regret to observe that, without waiting for my reply or for the Board's orders, the Superintending Engineer seems to have carried out his intention, announced in his letter of the 3rd instant, No. 300,† of retiring from the work of keeping open the Ennore bar.

* Sent in original, to be returned.

† Sent with this Office No. 259, dated 5th May 1876.

I fear that great loss to the salt manufacture may result.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, Chingleput District, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 15th May 1876, No. 344.

IN continuation of my letter of the 27th ultimo, No. 290, and in reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th idem, No. 1,086, I have the honor to state that the 8th of this month being the full moon or Chitra Pournami, when the sea should be very high, as reported in the 2nd paragraph of the above letter, I visited the Ennore bar at 11 A.M. on the 7th instant to see what had been done by the Department Public Works to open the bar. I did not notice a single cooly at work, but on returning I met a maistry, named Chinnasami Mudelly, at the Ennore platform, who told me that some coolies who had been at work early in the morning had gone away, and that he had received orders not to employ any more laborers in future.

2. Subsequently I met Colonel Moberly at Pulicat on the 10th instant, to afford that officer information about the locks to be built at Vallur channels according to your orders, when he told me that the opening of the bar should be undertaken in future by the Salt Department.

3. At 11 A.M. on Saturday last when I again inspected the bar, there was nobody at work, and I observed, as the consequence of the intermission of this work, that a shoal was forming at the mouth of the sea. If the drift of sand is not daily removed and the bar is not deepened during the new and full moon springs, even the small quantity of water which has hitherto been available cannot run into the backwater; and if meanwhile we have a fall of rain and freshes in the canal, the sweet water cannot escape into the sea, while by its remaining for a number of days in the canal the manufacture of salt, which has been in fair progress by the bar being kept open, will be greatly affected and risk run of some of it being washed away (a little more than three lacs of maunds have been made down to the present time). I must note here that since the commencement of works this season, it has been by the help from the sea water that ran through the bar and by other arrangements made by this department, we have advanced so far in the manufacture of salt, when the tide-water from the Pulicat bar did not reach even up to Kattur pans lying at a distance of 6 miles from that bar.

4. I therefore recommend sanction being granted for the outlay of about 1,000 Rupees by me during the next one month, a little more than 33 Rupees per day from Wednesday the 17th instant, to keep the bar open departmentally, if this work is not to be seen by the Department Public Works immediately, as the shoals which are now forming at the mouth of the sea will be increasing and it will be very expensive to have them removed later when there may be freshes in the river. As anticipated in the 2nd paragraph of my letter of the 27th ultimo, and I

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personally observed at my recent visit, there was immense water in the canal during the late Chitra Pournami, which ran through the Pulicat bar with the force of the north wind and cloudy weather, and is now lost.

5. The southern wind is now blowing, which will continue for about three months, and there is no hope of such a rise of water again until the beginning of the monsoon or until April next year, consequently the difficulties for navigation and irrigation of salt pans will be greater in future.

6. If you prefer waiting the Board's sanction to my proposition before authorizing its execution, I beg three or four hundred rupees may be allowed at once to take advantage of the approaching new moon to go on with this work timely.

In the circumstances stated by the Collector, the Board authorize him to take temporary charge of the work and to make the best arrangements in his power for keeping the Ennore bar open.

2. It is clear that considerable additional expenditure will result from this untimely cessation of work, and the Board consider that the action of the Superintending Engineer is in no way justifiable.

3. The matter will now be submitted for the orders of Government, together with Board's Proceedings, dated 10th May 1876, No. 1,227.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, dated Sydapett, 6th January 1876, No. 5.

In forwarding copy of a letter from the Salt Deputy Collector, dated 22nd ultimo, No. 747, I have the honor to request that, under the circumstances therein stated, you will cause the Ennore bar to be opened as soon as possible, and furnish me with a bill of cost which I will have sanctioned by the Board of Revenue.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, Chingleput District, to R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 22nd December 1875, No. 747.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice that for want of rain there is no sufficient water in the canal, and that the bar at Ennore is still closed. Unless the canal water has communication with the sea there will be great obstruction to the salt manufacture. I beg therefore you will be pleased to address the Superintending Engineer to take speedy measures to open the bar.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, to R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Mount, 8th January 1876, No. 4,066.

In reply to your No. 5 of 6th instant, I have the honor to observe that I do not think it is possible to open the bar of the Ennore river under existing circumstances.

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2. Hundreds, I believe thousands of rupees have been spent at different times in attempts to do this, but have always failed. Even if we could get the sea in, it would not remain long enough to saturate the large quantity of fresh water within the bar.

3. If you think it right that I should after this protest try again I will of course do so.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, dated Sydapett, 12th January 1876, No. 20.

REFERRING to your No. 4,066, dated 8th instant, I have the honor to state that unless the bar at Ennore be opened, the Salt Deputy Collector reports that the manufacture of salt in the * first Salt division of the northern half of the district will be impeded, and therefore I have the honor to request that an attempt may be made to keep the bar open.

* Illegible.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, Chingleput District, to R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 6th January 1876, No. 6.

In continuation of my letter of the 22nd ultimo, No. 13, I have the honor to state that the Ennore bar is still closed for want of sufficient rain and heavy freshes in the canal. If it cannot be opened, I fear that our manufacture during the current year will be impeded in some of the northern pans.

2. The bar at Pulicat is open, and salt can be made in Kattur and Vayalur close to it. If it continues favorable throughout the manufacturing season about six lacs of Indian maunds of salt may be obtained from the above two divisions, and the present stock at the Madras Cottaur is sufficient to meet the demand for one year. As it is however important that the bar at Ennore should be opened and salt made in the other three divisions as usual, I beg you will be good enough to address the Superintending Engineer again to take necessary steps to have the bar in question opened as early as convenient.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, dated Sydapett, 18th January 1876, No. 31.

In continuation of my No. 20, dated 12th instant, I have the honor to forward, for your information, copy of another letter received from the Salt Deputy Collector, dated 11th idem, No. 24.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, Chingleput District, to R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 11th January 1876, No. 24.

In continuation of my letter of the 6th instant, No. 6, I have the honor to state that yesterday I inspected the bar at Ennore, and find it entirely closed as reported in my two previous letters on the subject. Although the officer of the Department Public Works has completed two months ago the preliminary work of cutting an opening from the back-water towards the sea to a distance of 200 yards on the side of Messrs. Binny and Co.'s buildings, yet for want of high freshes in the canal its level has not been raised, and consequently the water could not run into the sea through it.

2. At the low part of the bar, 400 or 500 yards off from the opening made by the Department Public Works, the back-water is on an equal level with the sea, and the distance that has

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to be cut is not more than 80 or 90 yards by 4 feet high. I think that this will be a convenient place to commence work at this season and the heavy wind now blowing from the east having swelled the sea, the bar may be opened either by the assistance of that wind or small freshes in the back-water. I therefore solicit you will be good enough to address the Superintending Engineer to embrace this fair opportunity to commence work without a moment's delay, for if the eastern wind were to fall, it will be quite hopeless to attempt opening the bar.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, to
R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Mount,
21st January 1876, No. 4,221.

IN reply to your No. 31 of 18th instant and its enclosure, I have the honor to observe that the sea and any wind blowing from it make our greatest difficulty in opening the bar.

2. Our object is to get the channel as sheltered as possible from the sea and wind, and to make use of the highest level we can of fresh water.

3. With this view I have desired the Range Officer to make a cut at a point ordered by Government, and to endeavour to open at the lowest ebb of next spring-tides, 26th and 27th instant.

4. I propose going to Ennore myself on the 24th; I am however far from sanguine as to success. I fear the water in the river is not high enough to overcome the surf, and that the point chosen by Government, under pressure from Messrs. Binny and Co., is too open.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th May 1876, No. 1,227.

Read the following letters:—

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, to C. A. GALTON, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapett, 5th May 1876,
No. 259.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the consideration and early orders of the Board, copy of a letter, No. 300, dated 3rd instant, just received from the Superintending Engineer.

2. The correspondence alluded to at paragraph 2 is herein enclosed in original, (to be returned.)

3. As my No. 231, of the 19th ultimo, is before the Board (Proceedings of the Board, dated 24th April 1876), I abstain from comment as regards paragraphs 4 and 5 beyond observing that I made no complaint regarding excess expenditure, but of the sudden cessation of the work on the plea of "no option" with reference to such outlay.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, dated Sunkawar Choultry, 3rd May 1876, No. 300.

REFERRING to my letter, No. 192, dated 21st April 1876, I have the honor to inform you that the officer in charge Sirulur Range reports

his having opened the bar of the river at Ennore at a cost of Rupees 360 (bill enclosed), and estimates the maintenance at Rupees 150 per day. It is very difficult to estimate for work of this nature, which depends very greatly on the

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state of the weather. Under ordinary circumstances, if the channel is wide and deep enough, the ebb and flow of the sea would maintain the water at least at the same level; we have the river very little above low water mark, and the supply not equal to the quantity lost by evaporation or taken for salt manufacture.

2. I take the opportunity of observing that I undertook the attempt to open and keep open the channel at Mr. Melville's request and on his responsibility. He mentioned no limit to my expenditure, but the Government did after very considerable delay; and, as I had by that time far exceeded the amount fixed, I stopped work but informed you immediately, under the impression that you had succeeded to Mr. Melville's responsibility. It did not matter to me how much money was spent.

3. In undertaking this at Mr. Melville's request, I quite overstepped the directions of Government, which lay down that the Officer of the Public Works Department shall afford professional aid and advice.

4. I cannot but consider your letter, No. 231, of 19th April 1876, to the Board of Revenue, as a complaint against me, and, therefore, request that you will make early arrangement to abide strictly to the letter of the Government order and take charge of the executive in the Salt Department.

5. I will desire the Range Officer to have his accounts prepared for payment by the Salt Department and to afford his advice. I ought never to have undertaken the executive and disbursing duty which have exposed me to your remarks.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput District, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Streepermatur, 4th May 1876, No. 338.

REFERRING to Proceedings, 27th ultimo, extract of which you have favored me with, I have the honor to observe that, as the work at the Ennore river mouth is now very simple, I have requested the Collector to arrange to take over charge of the executive and disbursement, which I was mistaken in undertaking instead of merely affording professional advice—see G.O., No. 13, of 4th January 1870, Public Works Department.

2. This will avoid any further trouble as to the period to which the operation should be continued.

G.O., dated 17th March 1876, No. 691, distinctly authorized the execution of the work by the Superintending Engineer. The only limit as to expenditure was that not more than 1,000 Rupees was to be spent *without regular estimate*. The Board cannot suppose that Colonel Moberly now means to retire from the work suddenly in consequence of the receipt of a letter of which he disapproves from the Collector. If Colonel Moberly feels aggrieved at the letter, he has his proper remedy, but the Board cannot think that he would be justified in abandoning a work once undertaken and which has proved successful and very beneficial to the Salt Revenue. There has been some little confusion about the work, but the Board are unable to see that there has been any ground for complaint on either side.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

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COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department in continuation of former correspondence. The conduct of the Superintending Engineer will be noticed in that Department. It is requested that the result of Colonel Farewell's deputation in G.O., 4th May 1876, No. 1,106, Public Works Department, may be communicated to this department at as early a date as possible.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 40.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd June 1876, No. 1,375.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 7.

It is observed that the Board of Revenue, under date the 19th February 1876, asked that every effort should be made to keep open for three months the temporary cutting in the Ennore bar made by Colonel Moberly. The Government approved* of appropriation from savings, in the Salt Budgets of last year and this, of such sum as was necessary to keep the bar open as long as was required for the manufacture of salt, and called for a regular estimate of outlay in excess of Rupees 1,000.

2. The order reached Colonel Moberly on the 31st March; and on the 5th April he stated to the Collector that Rupees 2,750 had been spent up to date, and that further operations would be expensive. But instead of sending in an estimate of them he ordered all work to be stopped. On the 13th he appears to have reconsidered this decision and to have sent orders to the Range officer to re-open the cut at the next new moon (24th idem). The work was done by the Range Officer for Rupees 360, and he asked for Rupees 150 a-day to maintain it as long as it was wanted to be kept open.

3. The Board had already authorized* Colonel Moberly to incur an outlay of Rupees 100 a-day and Rupees 200 a-month extra. But having taken offence at the Collector's letter of the 19th April, he declined further action in the matter, and left the Collector to take executive charge of the work.

4. His Grace the Governor in Council directs that Colonel Moberly at once resume charge of the work of keeping the bar open. He will also report forthwith on what date he received the Board's Proceedings of the 10th May, No. 1,227, and explain what action he took thereon.

(True Extract.)

W. H. Moberly
Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
„ Deputy Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies

Sent to Madras office

No 2418
Revenue 1875 Depan 82

Gobt. of 1876 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

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

Dated June 2nd.

Recd. 15 June 1876 Encl.

G. O., 2nd June 1876, No. 1,375.

JUNE.

Nos. 39-40.

Sir

Ennore Bar, Chingleput District.—Colonel
Moberly directed to resume charge of the
work of keeping the — open at once, and to
report on what date he received the Board's
Proceedings of the 10th May, No. 1,227,
and to explain what action he took thereon.

Ok 1403
Communicated to him 15 June 1876

16 June 1876