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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

7/4

Press
Mis.

Dated 30-5-1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 327. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1876, No. 1,331 :—

Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mount, 16th May 1876, No. 490.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following remarks for the consideration of the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings, dated 10th instant.

2. On receiving Mr. Melville's request that I would endeavour to open the mouth of the Ennore river, I pointed out that any attempt would cost a considerable sum of money, and that, seeing the condition of the backwater, I was by no means sanguine of success. He pressed me to try.

3. Having stated the difficulty of the work, I thought I was bound in courtesy to try myself, rather than to run the risk of failure by leaving it to the Salt Department to carry out my instructions. I request reference to G.O., No. 13, of 4th January 1870, paragraphs 4 and 5, laying down the course to be pursued. I was so anxious that failure should not be caused by neglect, that I spent nearly the whole of two days on the Bar itself. Lieutenant Smither had his tents on the sand bank, and was up several times in the night, strengthening weak places. The Deputy Collector paid the work a casual visit, in company with one of the Salt Commissioners as a mere matter of curiosity, and not by any means as if he was the person principally interested in our success, and who ought really to have been doing the work, at which Lieutenant Smither and I were toiling personally.

4. No acknowledgment was made of our exertions. Even when the channel was opened I had serious doubts of its doing any good, and I received not a line of any kind to say whether the salt manufacture had profited. The gauge at Shadienkupam Lock showed a regular fall in depth of water, and so far it seemed no good was done.

5. In forwarding to Government my report the Board of Revenue proposed that the mouth should be kept open for three months; but the Chief Engineer's remarks, dated 9th March, did not strike me as encouraging, and the Government distinctly, in Order No. 691, of 17th March, limited expenditure to Rupees 1,000. I would, with all deference, point out that I am not mentioned in paragraph 1 of this order authorizing the expenditure; but am called on to provide an estimate for the survey. A regular estimate for such work as opening the Bar which depends for its success on wind and surf, which vary very frequently, is impossible.

6. As I said before, I had no grounds for supposing that in disobeying G.O., No. 13, of 4th January 1870, I had gained the success which might cover my neglect of orders. G.O., No. 691, did not read to me encouraging, nor does it appear to me even now to support me in any way. I turned, therefore, to the Collector on whose responsibility I was working.

7. On receiving his reply, I sent instructions to the Range Officer to resume work, which he did, and the mouth has been opened at spring tides at considerable expense. The time suggested by the Board in Proceedings, No. 1,117, of 27th April, "next full moon," has expired, and I regret to say the Bar has closed, the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th May 1876.*

beach has silted up in the line of our cutting, all the gunny bags have been swallowed up, or are rotten, and the stakes have disappeared.

8. If operations are to be resumed, every thing must be commenced *de novo*. On the other hand, the little rough weather which we had a few days ago threw in a considerable supply of water at Pulicat, and there appears no difficulty as to navigation. I have no knowledge whatever as to salt.

9. Lieutenant Smither has thought it absolutely necessary that he should inspect the work, and so has passed sixteen days in four months on the Bar, much to the loss of irrigation estimates. The Overseers are fully employed.

10. I do not know what remedy I have for such a letter as Mr. Barlow's, No. 231, to the Board, except refraining from placing myself in a position where I can render myself liable to it as I have done by neglecting G.O., No. 13, of 4th January 1870. I can only ask, under all the above circumstances, that the Salt Department should assume their proper duty as executives, and leave us to ours as merely advisers.

11. I have done all that the Board asked, and more than the Government have authorized. The last high tide closed the mouth and put us back as nearly as possible where we were on the 26th January, except that the water in the river is salt, instead of being perfectly sweet.

12. In conclusion, I would ask the Board to consider the remarks of the Chief Engineer as to the permanent maintenance of the open channel.

13. I believe he is incorrect in his statement that the Bar generally opens itself, as he is regarding the artificial opening at will; from the records it would appear that the Bar has never been opened till now, unless rain brought a fresh some inches higher than the sea.

14. The cost of the work done is Rupees 4,255-0-6, or nearly as much as I estimated for a stone groyne.

15. I did not close the canal by a bank at Calanji, because it would have completely stopped all navigation; whereas lightly loaded boats were still able to ply, and fortunately nothing was done, as the principal supply came from Pulicat, the mouth of which is now, I fear, rapidly closing too.

In this letter the Superintending Engineer explains the action taken by him in the matter of the Ennore Bar. Without following him through every paragraph of his letter, the Board are fully prepared to admit that both Colonel Moberly and Mr. Smither are entitled to credit for the success which attended their efforts, and consider that it is very doubtful whether the Deputy Collector would have succeeded in the same way. At the same time, it is perfectly clear that, from the first, both Government and the Board assumed that the work once taken in hand by the Public Works Department would be carried through by the same agency; and that while it was in charge of the Engineers, the Deputy Collector could do no good by interference. Moreover, the Board think that Colonel Moberly underestimated the good effected. The water which, before the Bar was cut, was almost fresh became so saturated with salt after a few days' work that manufacture was commenced, and has been carried on ever since. The Deputy Collector was remiss in not keeping the Engineers informed of the result of their efforts.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th May 1876.*

2. Mr. Barlow has disclaimed all intention of finding fault with Colonel Moberly; but even assuming that the Collector's letter might bear that construction, Colonel Moberly might have referred it for the orders of Government; he was certainly not justified in suddenly stopping a work which he had inaugurated with success, and which he had been requested to continue both by the Collector and the Board, especially when abandonment might lead to serious loss to Government. The Deputy Collector has now been directed to do his best to keep open the Bar; if, however, there is water enough for navigation, there will be sufficient for salt manufacture.

3. The Board much regret that this misunderstanding should have arisen and led to the stoppage of work for which Colonel Moberly and Mr. Smither are entitled to considerable credit.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 328.

ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1876, No. 714.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works
Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Wm A. Grubbs.

Revenue Dept

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 20th May 1876.

No. 1331

Read the following

Ct: 490

From The Superintending Engineer
to The Secretary
Revenue Board.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following remarks for the consideration of the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings 10th Instant.

2. On receiving Mr. Melville's request that I would endeavor to open the mouth of the Purore mines, I pointed out that any attempt would cost a considerable sum of money, and that, seeing the conditions of

Cont. of 118761 Address.

REVENUE.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Do, do, do

Dated May, 30th

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 30th May 1876, No. 714.

MAY.

No. 327-328.

Enclosed hereto is Original Draft of—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on letter from the Superintending Engineer explaining the action taken by him in the matter of the—; and ordering a copy to be communicated to the Public Works Department.

of the backwater, I was by no means sanguine of success. He pressed me to try.

3 Having stated the difficulty of the work I thought I was bound in courtesy to try myself, rather than to run risk of failure by leaving it to the Salt Department to carry out my instructions; I request reference to G. O. C. 12 of 4th January 1890 paras. 4 and 5, laying down the course to be pursued. I was so anxious that failure should not be caused by neglect, that I spent nearly the whole of 2 days on the Bar itself. Lieutenant Smith had his tents on the sand bank, and was up several times in the

the night, strengthening weak places. The Deputy Collector paid the work a casual visit, in company with one of the Salt Commissioners as a mere matter of curiosity, and not by any means as if he was the person principally interested in our success, and who ought really to have been doing the work, at which Lieutenant Smith and I were toiling personally.

4 No acknowledgment was made of our exertions; even when the channel was opened I had serious doubts of its doing any good, and I received not a line of any kind to say whether the Salt manufacture had profited

The gauge at Shadimkufano
lock showed a regular fall
in depth of water, and so far
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limited expenditure to Ru-
pees 1000. I would with all
deference point out that I am
not mentioned in para. 1 of
this order authorizing the ex-
penditure; but I am called on

on to provide an Estimate
for the survey; a regular esti-
-mate for such work as open-
-ing the Bar which depends
for its success on wind and
surf, which very very fre-
-quently, is impossible.

6. As I said before,
I had no grounds for supposing
that, in disobeying G. O. No. 13
of 4th January 1870. I had
gained the success which might
cover my neglect of orders G. O.
No. 691 did not read to me en-
-couraging nor does it appear
to me even now to support me
in any way. I turned therefore
to the Collector on whose res-
-ponsibility I was working.

7. On receiving his reply
I sent instructions to the

Range officers to resume work, which he did, and the mouth has been opened at spring tides at considerable expense; the time suggested by the Board in proceeding O. R. 1117 of 27th April 'next fall season' has expired, and I regret to say the bar has closed; the beach has silted up in the line of our cutting, all the gunny bags have been swallowed up or are rotten, and the stakes have disappeared.

8. If operations are to be resumed, every thing must be commenced 'de novo'; on the other hand the little rough weather which we had a few days ago

ago threw in a considerable supply of water at Pulicat, and there appears no difficulty as to navigation. I have no knowledge whatever as to salt.

9. Lieutenant Swettenham has thought it absolutely necessary that he should inspect the work, and so has passed 16 days in 4 months on the bar, much to the loss of irrigation estimates. The overseers are fully employed.

10. I do not know what remedy I have for such a letter as Mr. Barlow's O. R. 231 to the Board, except refraining from placing myself in a position where I can render myself liable to it and have done

by neglecting G. O. C. 13 of
4th January 1890. I can only
ask under all the above cir-
cumstances that the Salt
Department should assume
their proper duty as Executives,
and leave us to our advisers.

11. I have done all that
the Board asked, and more than
the Government have authorized,
the last high tide closed the
mouth and put us back as
nearly as possible where we were
on the 26th January, except that
the water in the river is salt,
instead of being perfectly
sweet.

12. In conclusion I would
ask the Board to consider
the remarks of the Chief Engineer
as

as to the permanent main-
tenance of the open channel.

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in his statement that the bar
generally opens itself; as he
is, regarding the artificial
opening at will; from the re-
cords it would appear that
the bar has never been opened
till now, unless rain brought
a fresh some inches higher
than the bar.

14. The cost of the work
done is Rupees 4255-0-6 or ap-
proximately as much as I estimated
for a stone groove.

15. I did not close the
Canal by a bank at Lalampi,
because it would have com-
pletely stopped all naviga-
tion; whereas, lightly loaded
boats

boats were still able to ply;
and fortunately nothing was
done, as the principal supply
came from Pulicat, the mouth
of which is now I fear rapidly
closing too.

I have &c.

Supt. Engrs. office 1st S. J. Moley by Col. V. C. C.
Chingleput. M. M. } Superintending Engineer
16th May 1896 — Chief Secy.

In this letter the Super-
intending Engineer explains
the action taken by him in the
matter of the Ennore Barr.
Without following him through
every paragraph of his letter
the Board are fully prepared
to admit that both Colonel
Moley and Mr. Smithers are
entitled to credit for the success
which

which attended their efforts
and consider that it is very
doubtful whether the Deputy
Collector would have suc-
ceeded in the same way.
At the same time it is per-
fectly clear that, from the
first, both Government
and the Board assumed that
the work now taken in hand
by the Public Works Depart-
ment would be carried through
by the same agency; and that
while it was in charge of
the Engineer the Deputy Collector
could do no good by interference.
Moreover the Board think that
Colonel Moley is under esti-
mated the good effected. The
works

water which, before the bar
was cut, was almost fresh
became so saturated with
salt after a few days work
that manufacture was
commenced and has been con-
tinued ever since. The Deputy
Collector was remiss in not
keeping the Engineers informed
of the result of their efforts.

2. Mr. Barlow has dis-
claimed all intention of find-
ing fault with Colonel Turley;
but even assuming that the
Collector's letter might bear
that construction, Colonel
Turley might have referred
it for the Orders of Government;
he was certainly not justified
in

in suddenly stopping a
work which he had ⁷¹⁴in aug-
mented with success and
which he had been requested
to continue both by the Col-
lector and the Board, especially
where abandonment might lead
to serious loss to Government.
The Deputy Collector has
now been directed to do his
best to keep open the Bar;
if, however, there is water
enough for navigation, there
will be sufficient for
salt manufacture.

3. The Board much re-
gret that this misunder-
standing should have arisen
and led to the stoppage of
work

work for which Colonel Insley
and Mr. Smithers are enti-
tled to considerable credit

/True Copy & Extract

signed / E. D. Gibson

Aty Sub Secretary

To The Superintending Engineer

Chinglaput &

Collector of Chinglaput.

/True Copy/

Lawditore

Aty Sub Secretary

To The Secretary to

Government R. D.

E. D.

30 14-5-76
 1-1-76
 1-4-76
 1-1-76
 111-

No 714

Communicated to the
 Pub. Works Department

14 To the Board of Directors 14 June 30 May 1876
 21 The Public Works Dept

26.76

Received by the
 Secretary of the
 Board of Revenue

Dated 22 May 1876

RECEIVED
 MAY 26

26 May 30 May 1876

Communicating to the
 Board the Superintendent
 of the Engineers, Chinghai,
 submitting certain
 accounts for the same.
 = a list of the Rs of the
 regarding showing the
 number of the same
 given; and directing
 by order to do his
 best in keeping them
 the Board.