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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2283	Press.
B.P. No. _____	Mis.
Dated 21 - 4 -	1877 197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

V. S. M.

(1) Number of pages 2 3
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

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G.O. No. 2290
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V. S. M.

No. 24. Read the following endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 20th March 1877, No. 176:—

From W. S. BETTS, Esq., Agent, South Indian Railway, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, I.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Negapatam, 16th August 1876, No. 2,063.

I FORWARD, herewith, a petition from certain inhabitants of Ramnad, who are desirous to have railway communication between their town and Madura. I have informed the petitioners that the granting of their prayer rests with Government and not with the Company I represent.

THE Mathurnama of the respectable inhabitants and great merchants, &c., of the town of Ramnad in the Ramnad Zemindari of the Madura District, and from the undersigned great inhabitants.

THERE are two great zemindari districts in the Southern India, viz., Ramnad and Shevagunga. In the District of Ramnad Zemindari, Ramaswaram is a place more famous than any other sacred Hindoo Temple, and for the Thanuscoti celebrated as a sacred pool.

People from Hyderabad, Baroda, Banares, Mysore, &c., in the north of India, and from the Malabar District in Southern India, and from numerous petty towns and villages therein, continually great number flock as pilgrims to the above-mentioned temple and sacred pool.

A railway line has been constructed and opened for traffic for the benefit of passengers and the inhabitants of the places and villages lying on the north, west, and south of the town of Madura, but none for these that occupy the places east of Madura.

If a similar line of railway be constructed and opened for traffic from the east of Madura town to the large boat-stand adjacent to the abovesaid Ramaswaram, it will not only be beneficial to the people who frequent the abovesaid temple at Ramaswaram for the sake of worship and on a pilgrimage to the said sacred pool at Thanuscoti, but also to the merchants averaging 1,000 a day, who generally carry on their trade by large boats at the seaport towns named Fort St. David, Ayathoray, &c., to Columbo, Candy, &c., but also will yield a great revenue to the Railway Company.

Again, if the railway system be introduced, it will not only enlarge the trade and be convenient to the merchants and traders, but also will afford a great deal of profit to the railway, for it will embrace the said two zemindari districts and their large towns, countries, and villages, and the seaport towns of Keelacaray, the public resting place, Vatharney, Paumben Channel, Fort St. David, and also the salt-pans. The merchants from Rangoon, Moulmein, Ceylon, Columbo, and other places generally load their large boats with rice, cloth, &c., and import them into the abovesaid seaport towns. These articles in question are loaded upon common carts and carried along the above-mentioned two zemindari districts, to Madura, and other important places, and on their return articles of valuable character are purchased and brought down to the said seaport towns for the exportation to Rangoon and other places. Between the above-mentioned seaport towns and Paumben there is a bar of sea, in which can be seen a broken dam built of stone, and beyond this a river twenty yards long and about three men's depth. It is across this place large boats and ships are passing. Between Paumben Channel and sacred pool, Thanuscoti, there is a plain and open ground extending to forty miles and used for footpath. A railway line along this plain ground may be constructed.

Moreover, it can be seen that a portion of sea between the sacred pool and Ceylon in which a broken dam made up by heaps of sand is visible, in some parts sea of little depth. If a line of railway along this interrupted dam be constructed by laying out a very large amount of money and cost of labor and opened for public traffic, it will entirely put a stop to the exportation and importation of goods of many and valuable character through large boats and ships and

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,129.*

No. 62. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated St. Thomas' Mount, 9th March 1877, No. 4,265:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the following remarks with reference to G.O., No. 418, of 27th ultimo, and Revenue G.O., No. 577, of 9th ultimo.

1. Original letter from the Executive Engineer, Mount Range, No. 2,697, of 18th December 1876; and one copy of letter from the Superintending Engineer, No. 3,273, 20th December 1876 (to be returned).

2. I received No. 2,697 of 18th December 1876 (enclosed) from Captain A. C. Smith just as I was starting for the Collector's Office. Fully approving

of the proposal I carried it with me to ask Mr. Barlow if he would support me in asking for a relaxation of the rule prohibiting cultivation in beds of tanks, which I thought would be better considered through his intervention.

3. He anticipated my arguments by saying that he had already suggested the proceeding to the Board of Revenue. I am under the impression that he finished his sentence by saying that "he would let me know the issue;" under this impression I wrote to the Range Officer, copy enclosed. I beg to point out that I did not even "refuse permission pending reference," though I have used those words I simply refrained from any action. Mr. Barlow has reported that I prohibited cultivation, whereas I should have been only too glad to have felt myself at liberty to allow it.

4. The Government in Revenue Department have remarked that I "did not dispute the Collector's order." You will observe that on the contrary I sought for an order, or the Collector's support in procuring a relaxation of the order which is in force under ordinary circumstances.

5. I was not informed of the Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd December 1876. They do not appear to have been published in the District Gazette; but on the 19th January I heard that the villagers had, under permission of the Revenue Inspector, begun to cultivate in the Red Hills tank bed. I cited the fact in my No. 3,649 of 19th January not with any idea of complaining that it was done, but to know if I might permit at Chembrambakum what was being done at Red Hills, where there was at least some ground for prohibition.

6. I have no means of knowing how widely Board's Proceedings No. 3,252 of 22nd December were made known. I received no copy; if the Kavanur, &c., villagers did hear of them directly, I am quite certain that no member of the Public Works Department hindered or would complain of their acting on it.

7. I received G.O. No. 300 of 24th January on the 30th; Captain Smith received a copy in due course, but I do not know whether he thought it necessary to take any action.

8. I have pointed out to the Collector that to my own knowledge the Land Improvement Act, and the larger concession made during this season are not so largely known as they might be, and proposed that notifications should be printed in Tamil, which might be freely distributed among the people. I should be glad to do the same for any other exceptional orders of Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,109.*

effect a direct communication between India and Ceylon, Columbo and Jaffna on one side, and yield great profit to the railway on the other.

In conclusion, the petitioners solicit that, for the present, a line of railway between Madura and the abovesaid boat-stand may be laid out. In the Putanus of Ramaswaram it has been ruled that no person of any caste should keep himself from paying visit to two places. Besides this, they represent that a station may be constructed at Ramnad and Shevagunga for the convenience of travellers and persons who make their pilgrimage to the said holy places, and also to the merchants who carry on their trade generally along these zemindari towns.

From MOOTHOSAAMY PILLAI, Ameeva of the Ramaswaram Temple, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Ramnad, 16th February 1877.

I RESPECTFULLY beg to submit that from No. 5,219, dated 24th October last, issued by the South Indian Railway authorities, I learn that a proposal for constructing a branch line of Railway from Madura to Ramnad appears to have been brought forward for your favorable consideration during the month of August. My attention is also now drawn to it in order that I may address you and remind your honor of the matter.

2. As the inhabitants at Ramnad and the neighbouring villages will be exceedingly glad to hear whether their appeal for the branch line in question was taken notice of by your department, I beg to state that, if the abovesaid proposal be now carried out, it will do much good to the inhabitants at the present pressure by famine and also be more convenient for the travelling public.

3. I therefore beg that your honor will take the matter into your generous consideration and favor me, as well as the inhabitants of Ramnad, with your disposal, if any, upon the subject.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of Government.

2. The papers contain petitions from certain inhabitants of Ramnad and Ramaswaram, praying for railway communication with Madura.

3. The subject of these papers has been under the special consideration of His Grace the Governor, and a note upon the general question of railway extension in the direction of Ceylon was written by the undersigned in August 1876.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 25.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1877, No. 1,109.

RAILWAY, No. 6.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council is of opinion that the question mooted in these papers is of importance both to the Madura District and to the State, and should, therefore, be carefully considered.

2. The following seem the principal points on which information is required:—

- (1.) Is Paumben a port in which vessels can be alongside a jetty or pier?
- (2.) Or at all events very near the shore?
- (3.) Of what tonnage are such vessels?
- (4.) Would the port be available for them throughout the year?
- (5.) What is the nature of the road now existing from Madura to Paumben?

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,109.*

(6.) Would the Shevagunga and Ramnad Estates contribute to the cost of the proposed railway?

3. Points 1 to 4 will be referred to the Marine Department, and points 5 and 6 to the Collector of Madura, for the submission of the necessary information.

(True Extract.)

W. M. Stewart

Lieut.-Col., R.E.

Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Railway Branch.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Marine Department.
" Revenue "

Exd. A. Grubert.

W Spare Copies

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,129.

9. I submit that no action of mine has justified the Collector's statement, and trust that the Government will exonerate me even more fully than the Revenue Order No. 577 has done.

From Captain A. C. SMITH, R.E., Executive Engineer, No. 2 or Mount Range, Chingleput District, to Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, dated 18th December 1876, No. 2,697.

THE villagers of Kavanur, Coonnattur, and Sirukallattoor are desirous of putting down cholera seed in the bed of Chembrambakum tank.

2. They declare that they would amongst them cultivate the whole of the black soil in the tank on chance of getting some rain within the next ten days or so, in which case they will sow the ground and realize some outturn as the soil is so good.

3. As this would do no harm to the tank and might do at any rate some good, the Collector might make arrangements for handing over the land as a temporary measure.

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Captain A. C. SMITH, R.E., Executive Engineer, Mount Range, dated Camp at Manaly, 20th December 1876, No. 3,273.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Collector has forwarded for orders to the Board of Revenue a petition received direct from villagers of Kavanur, &c., to the same effect as your No. 2,697 of 18th instant.

No. 63.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1877, No. 1,129.

IRRIGATION, No. 5.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue through the Revenue Department. There has been a misunderstanding between the Collector and Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, which should have been cleared up between themselves. Colonel F. J. Moberly's explanations are satisfactory.

2. Permission to cultivate the beds of tanks should be given by Collectors in communication with District Engineers, and it is particularly necessary that the latter should be made acquainted with the wishes of Collectors, when it is proposed to cultivate the beds of tanks which are in charge of Conservancy Establishments under the orders of Public Works Officers, otherwise unnecessary correspondence and references to Government will result. Independent action of either Revenue or Public Works Officers in such and similar matters is opposed to the often expressed wishes of Government.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Col., R.E.,

Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
" Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To all District Engineers.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Revenue Department

283 No 2189

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER

FOR RAILWAYS.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated April 4th.

Issued

Recd

19 April 77

Encl

G. O., 4th April 1877, No. 1,109.

APRIL

Nos. 24-25.

No 2283.
Communicated, through
the Board of Revenue, to
the Collector of Madras
for attention to para 3 of
the foregoing Order

21st April 1877

Railway communication between Raman
and Madras. — Requesting information of
certain points connected with the scheme
opening a —

With Resd

15 To the Hon. Secy Revenue 23-4-77

14/208 4/20/77

157. 14/208 4/20/77

Revenue Department
No 2222
Govt. of 1877 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

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

2290

Dated April 4th.

Issued

Recd. 21st April 77 Encl.

G. O., 4th April 1877, No. 1,129.

APRIL

Nos. 62-63.

No 2290.

Comm. to the
Board of Revenue

23rd April 1877

Cultivation in beds of tanks.—Letter from
the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput,
on the subject of —, communicated to the
Board of Revenue through the Revenue
Department with observations.