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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	<u>7.5.1877</u>	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

82

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

25th April 1877, No. 284.

Porto Novo Flagstaff.

Read the following paper:—

No. 49. From J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieut., R.N.R., Master Attendant, Madras, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated 18th April 1877, No. 2798.

Administrative Department.

I have the honor to bring to the notice of His Grace the Governor in Council that in an Order, dated 28th July 1873, and numbered 204, a sum of Rupees (840) eight hundred and forty was sanctioned for a new flagstaff at the Port of Porto Novo, which was duly erected before the close of the official year 1872-73. It will be observed that on that occasion the Officiating District Engineer reported the masts of the old flagstaff to be in a dangerous and rotten condition.

2. In a letter, dated 9th November 1876, the Collector of South Arcot forwarded to me, for submission to Government, a plan and estimate for repairing the same flagstaff. The suggestions made in this letter were, first, that the masonry work to which the rigging was set up should be rebuilt further apart so as to give greater spread to the rigging; second, that the flagstaff rigging should be renewed, and the spars painted and repaired. But in addition to these items, it was observed that the lower mast appeared to be in an unsafe condition, and the District Engineer suggested that a new one should be estimated for by this Department. In December last, I directed the late Captain Grant, Master Attendant of Negapatam, to proceed to Porto Novo, and report on the requirements of the flagstaff. This officer's letter was received in the early part of January last, and required further explanations, which were not furnished before his death. From this officer's report it appeared that the rigging was ordinary coir rope made up in the bazaar without any tar; that the rigging having stretched had never been set up afresh; that the mast therefore awayed from side to side, and working in this manner had injured the basement; that the masonry work, to which the rigging was set up, was too close to the mast; and that the cross-trees top and lower mast were in an unsafe condition. Captain Grant, however, suggested that the lower mast, if "fished," would answer its purpose for some time to come. To prevent any damage occurring to the flagstaff, I have struck the topmast and gallantmast, and now beg respectfully to submit the accompanying plan and estimate, amounting to Rupees (358) three hundred and fifty-eight, for that portion of the work to be carried out by the Public Works Department, as well as another estimate for Rupees (764) seven hundred and sixty-four, for the work to be carried out by this Department, under the orders of the Master Attendant, Negapatam. A comparison of the Public Works Estimate, amounting to Rupees (358) three hundred and fifty-eight, as revised in this Department, with the estimate for the Marine portion of the work will show that the new basement and masonry for setting up the rigging will

have to be carried out by the former, including the items for sundries and supervision. While the Marine Estimate, amounting to Rupees (764) seven hundred and sixty-four, provides for lowering and sending to the spars, refitting rigging, repairing spars, and painting, including labor, the aggregate amount for which sanction is now respectfully solicited being Rupees (1,122) one thousand one hundred and twenty-two debitable to the Port Fund.

3. While on this subject, I would respectfully observe that had a seafaring man been stationed at Porto Novo, as Superintendent of Sea Customs and Conservator, the Port Fund would doubtless have been saved the expenditure for which sanction is herein solicited. The practice of having seafaring Europeans appointed at the minor ports has worked admirably at the ports of the Coorg District. But as things are at present, at such ports as Coimbatore, Tranquebar, Cannanore, Tellicherry, and Mangalore, this Department finds itself positively unable to obtain any reliable nautical information, couched in seamanlike language, nor is it in a position to issue any orders, the execution of which require nautical experience, to the Conservators of those Ports, at most of which there are both lights and flagstaves.

No. 50.

ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1877, No. 284.

Under the explanation offered by the Master Attendant, Madras, the Governor in Council resolves to sanction the plan and estimates, amounting to Rupees, 1,122, for repairing and renovating the flagstaff at Porto Novo.

2. Of the expenditure proposed to be incurred, work to the amount of Rupees 353 is to be carried out by the Public Works Department, and the necessary funds will be transferred to that Department. It is presumed that the amount includes cost of supervision. If not, the percentage, 25 per cent. should be added. On this point the Master Attendant will advise the Accountant-General.

3. The work to be carried out by the Master Attendant's Department amounts to Rupees 764.

4. The gross charge forms a debit against Port Funds.

5. Paragraph 3 of the Master Attendant's letter will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their deliberation and report.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Offg. Chief Secretary.

Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Public Works Department.

- 1. Master Attendant, Madras, with plan and estimate.
- 2. Board of Revenue, through Revenue Department.
- 3. Accountant-General.

Edw. J. Wright.

No 2590
Communicated to the Board
of Revenue with a reference to para 1
of the foregoing Order.

2 P. to H. of Revenue 7 May 77

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Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.

- .. Master Attendant, Madras, with plan and estimates.
- .. Board of Revenue, through Revenue Department.
- .. Accountant-General.

Edw. J. Wright.

Revenue - Separated.

No. 2590
Comptroller of the Treasury
of the United States
Washington, D.C.
July 11/77