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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 949 Press
B.P. No. Mis.-

Dated 6.3.1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1877.

No. 180. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd March 1877 :—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Chingleput, 22nd February 1877, No. 126.

I was about to address the Board regarding the shallow state of the northern and southern canals owing to there being no freshes, and the consequent closing of the Bars resulting in hindrance to navigation and salt manufacture, when I received their Proceedings of the 16th instant.

2. I beg to report that it is highly desirable that the Ennore Bar should be kept open, and some measures of a permanent nature for keeping both it and the Covelong and Pulicat Bars open seem urgently called for in the interest both of traffic and of salt manufacture. I should be glad to see Colonel Moberly permitted to try his experiment either at Covelong or Ennore, whichever is deemed advisable. I believe the Superintending Engineer has given the subject considerable attention.

3. At the same time, I should remind the Board that keeping the Bars open is part of Mr. Woolley's proposals (*vide* paragraph 5 of Government Order, Public Works Department, No. 1,992, dated 3rd August 1876); but whether in connection with the main canals or the salt channels I am not aware. I will report regarding I have received no orders on the subject, that the repair of the Ennore bar has transferred to Mr. Woolley on the 1st instant.

4. Meantime, I have the honor to report that I have authorised, in anticipation of sanction, the measures proposed by the Salt Deputy Collector in his No. 59, dated 16th instant, extract from which I herewith forward for the information of the Board, and beg to draw attention to the state of the canals as therein described.

5. The plan which accompanied the Board's Proceedings under reply is herewith returned.

Enclosure No. 1.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, Chingleput District, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of Chingleput District, dated Ennore, 16th February 1877, No. 59.

In continuation of my letter to you, dated the 20th ultimo, No. 23, I beg to inform you that both the Pulicat and Ennore Bars being closed, there is no communication between the sea and Cochrane's Canal; consequently, the water in it is daily diminishing and the navigation of boats above 10 tons burden is entirely stopped, while the smaller boats of lesser burden are only plying between Kattivakum and the northern country; and I believe that in a few weeks more there will not be sufficient water in the canal for the passage of even these smaller boats.

2. The weather being clear, the salt works at all the divisions are going on, and the manufacturers have worked 760 pans more in comparison with the number they worked last year up to date, and a small quantity of salt will be produced soon; but the water in the irrigation channels intersecting the pans, and which are supplied by the Cochrane's canal is failing, so that there is great difficulty to proceed with the manufacture. I have arranged to clear immediately the

silt in the centre of the canals, so that there may be no impediment for the daily supply of water to the pans under operation for some period, and the estimates for the same are submitted for your sanction with separate letters.

2. The Ennore Bar is kept open at a cost of Rs. 3-10-0 per day from the 18th ultimo, but as the sea has been very smooth, and has not risen high in agitation, water has not been poured from it into the back-water. I have therefore arranged to work the Ennore Bar at a cost of Rs. 20 per day for a few days during the present new moon springs, and we will try all our best to secure some water in the canal; but I am afraid that a full and free communication cannot, under present circumstances, be maintained at any cost between the sea and the back-water, and the water in the canal is being daily driven towards the north by the action of the southern wind, and we shall not perhaps be able to make much salt if the present quantity of water in the canal *is not retained*. As mentioned above, the navigation in the canal is already interrupted and free navigation cannot be resumed until May next, when the sea becomes boisterous in each year and pours large quantities of water into the back-water, or until we have a good fall of rain and freshes in the canal.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 6th February 1877, No. 685.

2. It is very important that the Ennore Bar should be opened at once to admit water for salt manufacture, and if it is possible to render the canals navigable, it should be done. The Bar at Pulicat and Coopum [illegible] suitability for the purposes of Colonel Moberly's experiment. As the opening of the Ennore Bar appears from the papers recorded in G.O., dated 3rd August 1876, No. 1,902, to come within the scope of Mr. Woolley's agreement, he should be requested to proceed with the work at once. It does not appear that much good is likely to result from the Deputy Collector's operations. Meanwhile, it seems that the brine supply is failing, and that there is a difficulty in proceeding with the manufacture. The early orders of Government are therefore solicited.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 181.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1877, No. 949.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department in continuation of G.O., 19th February 1877, No. 749, for early consideration and orders.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 6th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 6th March 1877, *No.* 949.

MARCH.

Nos. 180-181.

Ennore Bar.—Communicating to the Public Works Department Board's Proceedings on letter from Collector of Chingleput regarding the necessity of keeping open the — and some others.