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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue · DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 72	Press. / Mis.
Dated 10-1-1879	197—.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

14th December 1878, No. 4,757 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 147. From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Acting District Engineer, Godavari District, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishvaram, 26th November 1878, No. 2,828.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copies of correspondence detailed in the margin, from which you will see that the Upper Godavari steamer has not been able to continue her running after the 16th October, having since her last arrival at Dumagudem been occupied in scraping the silt out of the Dumagudem Tail Lock and its lower approach.

Letter, No. 2,612, dated 13th November 1878, to Dumagudem Division Officer.
Mr. Vanstavern's letters, Nos. 270 and 271, of 19th and 20th November 1878.
No. 2,827, dated 26th November 1878, to Mr. Vanstavern.

2. Mr. Vanstavern states that never before has he seen at the place anything approaching such an accumulation of silt as in this year. And as till it was removed traffic through the canal would be entirely suspended, the steamer was as usual deputed to assist in the work. When this was done it was never contemplated that it would occupy her more than two or three weeks at the outside.

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Acting District Engineer, Godavari, to the Officer in charge Dumagudem Division, dated Dowlaishvaram, 13th November 1878, No. 2,612.

WHEN I left Dumagudem on 12th ultimo I believe you told me that all would be ready for the steamer *Godavari* to commence clearing silt from the tail locks on her return.

2. I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether when the steamer arrived it was evident work could not then be commenced and that it could not be taken in hand for some time; and if so whether you informed Captain Barber of the probable time that would elapse before the work could be commenced.

3. The very long delay of the steamer is causing serious inconvenience.

From T. VANSTAVERN, Esq., Executive Engineer, Dumagudem Division, Godavari District, to the District Engineer, Godavari, dated Dumagudem, 19th November 1878, No. 270.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 2,612, dated 13th last, and in reply to inform you—

1. After the arrival of the steamer here there was a delay of a few days before she commenced work.

2. Since the steamer has been at work she has done very well.

3. The quantity of silt to be removed is very large; whatever part is cleared in the day is found filled in again in the morning, and so the same work has to be done over for days before any length cleared is actually gained.

4. The silt near the lock is soft on the top, where that is once cleared the lower stuff is found so hard that the scraper will not sink into it and the stuff has to be loosened with sand spades before the scraper can have any effect.

10. The steamer running or not running does not interfere in the slightest with the trade when the accident occurred in the lower district, and there was not any prospect of the steamer continuing to run; orders were sent down by the merchants here for boats and they came under contract; in fact plenty of boats came up on speculation which could obtain but little freight; when the steamer stopped running, there were some 15,378 bags of galnuts besides other produce to take down; these have all left and other also been sent down with some thousand of bags; galnuts and other produce is daily coming in and being sent down now; in fact there is a brisk trade.

The merchants and boatmen are anxiously boking to the time that the boat canal will be finished as now they run great risks as in accident happening to boats or cargo the loss falls on them.

11. Should you however wish the steamer to be sent down it will be tried by Captain Barber; should any accident occur he could hardly be blamed. I much regret that these accidents should have occurred, as the steamer must be a serious want to you.

From G. T. WALCH, Esq., Acting District Engineer, Godavari, to the Executive Engineer in charge Dumagudem Division, dated Dowlaishvaram, 26th November 1878, No. 2,827.

WITH reference to paragraphs 6 and 9 of your letter, No. 271, of 20th instant, it is hardly necessary to state that the risk, which both you and Captain Barber believe to be great, of sending the steamer down must not be run. She must be docked at Dumagudem and repairs to her must be carried out there.

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of your No. 270, dated 19th instant, I do not see how the accident which has caused so much injury can be said to have been "unavoidable as the wall could not be seen." It would surely have been very easy to mark out the position of the wall with a few bamboos.

No. 148. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1878, No. 4,757 W.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, First Circle.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. C. Howarth.
20 Spare Copies

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