

- (1) Number of pages \_\_\_\_\_
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- (3) Initials of the Referencer \_\_\_\_\_

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

*Public works.*

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1642.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
410-411		
Dated	24-6-	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 410. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 28th April 1873, No. 366 :—

<sup>1</sup> In reference to G. O., 25th February 1873, No. 614, calling on me for a preliminary report on the subject of constructing a pier at Devipatam, I have the honour to state as follows :—

1. The project in question has been brought forward by Mr. Riedy, the Superintendent of Immigration, Ceylon Government, and, although it does not appear to have ever been mooted before, there can be no doubt but that landing stages, or a pier such as that proposed, is a necessity at Devipatam; and that of the two proposals the pier is far to be preferred, inasmuch as it is not only a more convenient arrangement in itself for the thousands of coolies continually embarking and disembarking at that place, but it will prove a great benefit to the surrounding country by the certain increase of the town as a place of trade. I have recently proposed to the Local Fund Board to restore, at as early a date as possible, the old line of road between Ramnad and Devipatam, and there can be no doubt but that with that road in repair the construction of the proposed pier at Devipatam will give a great fillip to the traffic between that place and Ramnad.

2. The beach at Devipatam being very shelving, necessitates a long wade to those who go down to the sea in ships, and a pier there, to be of practical use, must be at least 770 feet long.

3. The cost of the proposed structure may be approximately estimated at Rupees 8,000. The pier would consist of a ven-teak platform, 9 feet wide, supported on iron-wood piles, sheathed with copper between high water level and bottom. The pier would run into 3 feet, in depth, of water alongside, at low water level, a depth which is ample for all the cargo boats used at the port of Devipatam. The iron-wood piles can be procured from Trincomalee, and Mr. Riedy kindly promises every assistance in his power with his men and boats in landing the timber required.

4. In regard to the share of the cost to be borne by the Madras Government, the question is one which involves the consideration of many collateral points. In the abstract there can be no doubt but that the construction of a pier at a place like Devipatam, where there is at present not a road within miles, would not have suggested itself as a requirement for the local traffic. On the other hand, although the pier is a necessity for the Ceylon immigrants, it must be borne in mind that this Presidency is indirectly, and, in a commercial point of view, considerably benefited by that immigration. During the last calendar year the agency took to Ceylon 80,000 coolies, of whom it brought back 40,000, the remainder finding their own way back direct to Negapatam, or remaining on in Ceylon. These people were not only well fed and cared for during the short working season, but each one brought back a considerable sum of money; while their employment in the colony benefited to no small extent the rice-growers of Tanjore, who were thus enabled to obtain enhanced prices for the rice required for the maintenance of the immigrants, and which is shipped in great quantities

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
27th June 1873.*

for this purpose at Negapatam. There are many other collateral points on which however I need not dwell here. Suffice it to say, if the Government are of opinion that the immigration to Ceylon is a gain, or is advantageous to this Presidency, and deserves, therefore, to be supported and encouraged, they will not perhaps hesitate to defray a share (say, Rupees 2,000) or a moiety\* of the cost of the proposed pier.

\* Rupees 4,000.

5. On receiving the farther instructions of Government on this subject I shall submit, or not, such detailed plan and estimate as may be required or otherwise. Should the Government decide on co-operating in the work, I shall be happy to make the necessary arrangements for its prosecution.

No. 411.

ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1873, No. 1,672.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 28.

INTIMATION will be made to the Ceylon Government that, although the construction of a landing pier at Devi-

patam, within miles of which there is at present no road, would not have suggested itself as a requirement for the local traffic, yet bearing in mind the indirect benefits conferred upon the people of this Presidency by the emigration to Ceylon, His Excellency the Governor in Council will be prepared to contribute one-third of the cost of the required structure, which is stated roughly to be a timber pile pier nearly 800 feet in length, reaching into 3 feet water at low tide, and costing under £900. The planning, execution, and supervision of the necessary work will likewise be undertaken by the officers of the Madras Government free of extra charge.

2. The present opportunity seems a fit one for making trial of the qualities of the South Australian red gum (*Eucalyptus restrata*), which is stated to resist the attacks of the worm; and Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts will send such specifications of the lengths and scantlings of the piles required as will enable the Government to ascertain at what rate and in what time the requisite materials can be procured.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

*Secretary to Government.*

To the Public Department.  
.. District Engineer, Madras.

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies.

No 366

District Engineers Office  
Madura 28 April 1873

From

Lieut Colonel A. A. Roberts R.E.  
District Engineer, Madura

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.  
Secretary to Government (D.M.)

Sir

In reference to G.O., 25 February  
1873, No 64, calling on me for a  
preliminary report on the subject  
of constructing a pier at Devipattam,  
I have the honor to state as follows:-

1 The project in question has  
been brought forward by Mr Riedy,  
the Superintendent of Immigration  
Ceylon Government, and although  
it does not appear to have ever been  
mooted before, there can be no doubt  
but that landing stages, or a pier  
such as that proposed, is a necessity  
at Devipattam; and that, of the  
two proposals, the pier is far to be  
preferred, in as much as it is not

for the local traffic - On the other  
hand, although the price is a necessity  
for the Ceylon Immigrants, it must  
be born in mind that the Presidency  
is indirectly, and in a commercial  
point of view considerably benefitted  
by that Immigration. - During the  
last calendar year, the Agency took  
to Ceylon 6000 coolies, of whom it  
brought back 4000, the remainder  
finding their own way back direct  
to Negapatam, or remaining on  
in Ceylon. - These people were not only  
well fed and cared for during  
the short working season, but each one  
brought back a considerable sum  
of money; while their employment  
in the colony benefitted to no small  
extent, the rice-growers of Tanjore,  
who were thus enabled to obtain  
enhanced prices for the rice, required  
for the maintenance of the Immigrants,  
and which is shipped in great  
quantities for this purpose at Negapatam. -

72  
3.  
there are many other collateral points,  
on which however I need not dwell  
here. Sufficed it to say, if the Govern-  
ment are of opinion that the Immi-  
gration to Beylon is a gain, or is  
advantageous to this Presidency,  
and deserves therefore to be supported  
and encouraged, they will not  
perhaps hesitate to defray a share  
(say Rupees 2000) or a moiety of the  
cost of the proposed pier.

5. On receiving the further  
instructions of Government on this  
subject, I shall submit, or not, such  
detailed Plan and Estimate as  
may be required, or otherwise. Should  
the Government decide on co-operating  
in the work, I shall be happy to  
make the necessary arrangements  
for its prosecution.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> servant,

Rice Roberts, Lieut Col: R.E.  
District Engineer

Boston July 19<sup>th</sup> 1873  
595-596

PM 1873  
J. H. ...  
No. 2716

The ...  
Providence.

To the Secretary to Genl's

Chadron.

Received 28<sup>th</sup> April 1873.

Received 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Reports on the  
Subject of Constructing  
a pier at Newport

1871

Sept 11. 673. Re. R. 1867

1870 & 1872

1872. 27

C. M. S. No. 14

1872

Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Read the following

From The District Engineer  
Madura —

} H. E. No. 366 of 28<sup>th</sup> April 1871

~~1871~~  
1871  
1871

Intimation will be made to the Baylon Government that, al- though the construc- tion of a landing pier at Devipatam, within miles of which there is at present no road, would not have sug- gested itself as a requirement for the local traffic, yet bearing in mind



the indirect benefits con-  
ferred upon the people  
of this Presidency by  
the Emigration to Ceylon,  
His Excellency the  
Governor in Council  
will be prepared  
to contribute one third  
of the cost of the required  
structure; which is  
stated roughly to be  
a timber pile pier  
nearly 800 feet in  
length, reaching into  
3 feet water at low  
tide, and costing under  
£900. The planning,  
execution, and super-  
-vision of the necessary  
work will likewise  
be undertaken by the

Mr

Officers of the Madras Government free of extra charge.

The present opportunity seems a fit one for making trial of the qualities of the South Australian Red Gum ~~Eucalyptus~~ ~~resistant to~~ ~~worm~~, which is stated to resist the attacks of the worm, and Lieut Colonel Roberts will send such specifications of the lengths and scantlings of the Piles required as will enable the Govt. to ascertain at what rate and in what

time the requisite ma-  
terials can be pro-  
cured.

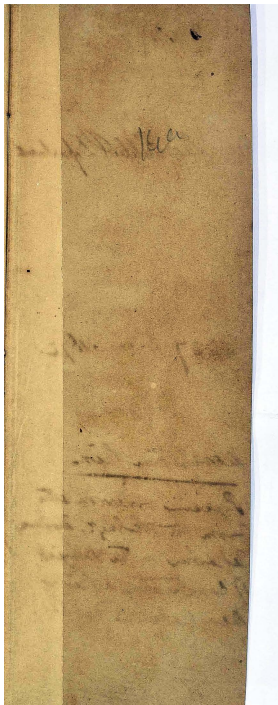
G.M.W.

Dewipatam 1.

32  
—  
3

N<sup>o</sup> 410-11.

To  
The Public Secy  
D. C. Museum  
Dated 7/7/73



No. 2716

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS,

To the Public Department

Dated

Recd.

Exct

G.O. 1873, No 1672

Nos. 4104-4111

Devipattam Pier.

Passing orders on letter  
from the District Engineer, Madras,  
reporting on the subject  
of constructing a Pier at  
Devipattam.