M.R.O. 1—77,063—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 486. Press ~~Mis.~~

204-205

Dated 23—3— 1874.

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
23rd March 1874.

No. 204. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 7th March 1874, No. 322 :—

ABSTRACT.—Approves Board's suggestions regarding the — ; refers paragraph 4 of their Proceedings to Public Works Department for instructions to Government Architect to report on the carvings, and paragraph 5 to Financial Department for issue of orders on the proposed annual grant for clearing and repairs.

No. 205. ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1874, No. 486.

The Governor in Council sanctions an annual grant of Rupees 200 for the removal of vegetation in the Gingee Fort.

2. The Collector should exercise a general supervision over the expenditure and submit to Government a brief report on the subject annually through the Board of Revenue.

3. The Board will be requested to include the grant in their Provincial Services Budget for 1875-76.

4. The charge for 1874-75 will be met from the provision of Rupees 5,000 for "Unforeseen Charges" under "Miscellaneous" in the Provincial Services Budget.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Gaz. of 1874 Extra.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 25rd.

Read.

Read-

G.O., 23rd *March* 1874, *No.* 486.

MARCH

Nos. 204-205.

Gingee Fort Grant.—An annual grant, to be included in the Revenue Board's Provincial Budget, of Rs. 200 for removing vegetation, sanctioned, and an annual report on the expenditure called for through the Board.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th March 1874.

No. 95. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th February 1874, No. 275:—

Read the following letter from H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 29th November 1873:—

I HAVE to express my regret that there should have been such long delay in replying to the Board's Miscellaneous No. 5,493, dated 28th August last, communicating G. O., Public Works Department, dated 15th idem, No. 2,029. It got mislaid amongst some other papers, and was overlooked.

2. There is the following extent of cultivation within the precincts of the fort at Gingee:—

	C.	A.	P.
Dry	53	1	3
Wet	8	8	0

yielding a revenue of Rupees 86-15-6. There are besides maniem lands—

	C.	A.	P.
Dry	2	6	2
Wet	0	6	3

3. The market-value of the land held on putta is estimated at Rupees 1,621-8-0. If the maniem lands are taken up, others might be assigned in lieu of them.

4. I really do not think it necessary, in order to the preservation of the old buildings in the fort, that this land should be resumed. It is true that the ryots do use some of the old buildings as granaries and store-houses; but this does them no injury, and as long as the orders prohibiting the removal of the stone carvings is enforced, and a small sum spent annually in keeping down the vegetation, I do not think anything else is required. In most cases, it was found impossible to get at the roots of the trees growing out of the walls, so that they will very soon throw up fresh shoots. The place is filled with monkeys who sit on the walls eating the fruit of the Banyan tree, and the seed dropping into the crevices keeps up a regular crop of young trees. If, however, a small sum is spent every year (the District Engineer suggests Rupees 100 a-year, but I do not think that sufficient, and would recommend Rupees 200) in removing the vegetation and clearing up the place, this young growth might be kept down. It would require a very large sum to carry out the restoration contemplated by Colonel Vertue.

5. There is no question as to the historic interest of Gingee, or as to the wild grandeur of its position, both of which render it well worthy of a visit; but I cannot quite agree with Colonel Vertue as to the super-excellence of its stone carvings. They cannot, in my opinion, compare for an instant with those at Srirungum and Madura, and are far inferior to those magnificent specimens which are scattered in such profusion over the site of the ancient city of Vythianugger (Humpy) in the Bellary District. The monolithic carvings there would be well worthy of removal to some place where their beauty could be appreciated; but I do not think the mantapam near the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry at Gingee is deserving of the same honour. Moreover, it is not State property, and the persons

claiming an interest in it even declined to make it over to the Local Fund Board to be used as a chuttrum.

6. There is a Mahratta, named Thirejivapari Bavaji, living at Gingee now, who claims to be the descendant of one of Morari Rao's officers, and he generally acts as a guide over the fortress. He is a well-to-do man and intelligent, and if Government determine on doing something towards keeping up the place, I would suggest his being made Killadar or warden of the fort, with an assignment of 40 or 50 acres of land as his remuneration. He would bring to the notice of the Sub-Magistrate any instance of stone being pilfered or carvings destroyed, and would be always available to act as a guide to visitors. He knows every nook and corner of the old fortress, and is able to explain what the different buildings were used for by the native chieftains.

7. Nearly all these old droogs have a legend attached to them, and when I was at Gingee last February I told my Head Moonshi, P. Ramachendra Rao, B.L., to pick up what information he could. I enclose the result of his inquiries. The name of Desing Rajah is familiar to all the inhabitants who have been born and bred in those parts, but I have never heard any mention made by them of the legendary founder Krishnappa Naik.

8. On referring again to Colonel Vertue's letter, I observe that he refers in paragraph 3 to the mantapams near the Pattabiram Covil, south of the Chakli-droog. The pillars are fine monolithic specimens, but the carvings are not, in my opinion, choice specimens. The best samples are those referred to in paragraph 13, which were brought by M. Dupleix from Gingee to Pondicherry, where, I am informed, they were buried by his orders, he having more stirring matters to attend to. It is only, I believe, within the last ten years or so that they were disinterred and planted round the Place Napoleon as suitable accessories to the statue of Dupleix which stands in the centre of the Place.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Report of Head Moonshi P. Ramachendra Rao.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G. O., 19th August 1873, No. 134.

2. The Collector thinks it unnecessary to buy up the cultivated land within the Gingee fort and stop cultivation there altogether, advises an annual expenditure of Rupees 200 in clearing away vegetation in and a round the buildings, doubts the great excellence of the stone carvings, and suggests that a man living at Gingee, who claims to be the descendant of one of Morari Rao's officers, and knows the fort thoroughly, and often acts as a guide to people examining it, should be made a Killadar or warden of the fort, and have an Inam of 40 or 50 acres of land.

3. The Board think nothing would be gained by stopping cultivation, which does much to prevent the growth of jungle and brushwood, nor would they forbid the use as granaries of such of the buildings as the Collector may assign for the purpose.

4. The question whether the carvings are so good that it would be worth-while to go to the expense of bringing any of them to Madras is very doubtful, and the Board think that, before anything of the sort is ordered, the Government Architect or some other competent authority should visit the place.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th March 1874.

5. The Sub-Magistrate, who lives near the fort, is the proper officer to expend the annual grant for removing vegetation, which the Board think should be fixed at Rupees 200, and to see that no stones are removed from the fort. The Board doubt the necessity or expediency of creating a Killadar and giving him a large Inam.

6. In G. O., dated 15th August 1873, No. 2,029, Public Works Department, Government call on the Board "to show cause why the proceeds of the trees and brushwood cut down should not be credited to the Public Works Provincial grant to which the cost of clearing away the same was debited." The Board see no objection to crediting such proceeds to Provincial Funds. The Collector will report under what head they have been credited.

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1874, No. 322.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board's suggestions are approved.

2. Paragraph 4 will be referred to the Public Works Department for instructions to the Government Architect to inspect and report on the carvings on the first suitable opportunity.

3. Paragraph 5 will be referred to the Financial Department for the issue of the necessary order regarding the proposed annual grant for clearing and repairs.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ Proceedings of Govt., Revenue Department, dated 7th March 1874 No. 322.

Ordered thereon 23 Branch No. 486

The Governor in Council sanctions an annual grant of Rs 200 for the removal of vegetation in the Gingee Fort.

2. The Collector should exercise a general supervision over the expenditure, and submit to Government a brief report on the subject annually through the Board of Revenue.

The

7 Mch 1874 Orders.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 7th.

Recd.

G. O., 7th March 1874, No. 322.

MARCH.

Nos. 95-96.

50-485

455

For ~~Gingee~~ in South Arcot.—Approves Board's suggestions regarding the — ; refers paragraph 4 of their Proceedings to Public Works Department for instructions to Government Architect to report on the carvings, and paragraph 5 to Financial Department for issue of orders on the proposed annual grant for clearing and repairs.

3 The Board will be requested to include the grant in their Provincial Services Budget for 1875-76.

4. The charge for 1874-75 will be met from the provision of Rs. 5000 for "Unforeseen Charges" under Miscellaneous in the Provincial Services Budget.

Rs 115

62 Purports

To
The Revenue Deptt
Board of Revenue
Public Works Deptt
Accountant General &c

11
14
dup 30/3
21

Rs 115

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

Financial

To

The Revenue Dept.

Dated Mar. 23. 1874, No.
Recd. 486.

Nos. 204. 205.

Ginjee Fort Grant: An annual grant of Rs. 200 ~~Sanctioned~~ included in the Rev. Board's Prov. Budget for removing vegetation and sand and an annual report on the Expenditure called for through the B^d.