M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1556 Press
~~Mis.~~

16-17

Dated 28-4-~~19~~ 47

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 16. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department, dated 14th November 1857, No. 1166.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th November 1857, No. 3779.

Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 29th October 1857, No. 165.

SIR,

With reference to Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 14th Instant, I have the honor to give cover to a reply* from the Brigadier Commanding the Provinces, on the subject of vacating the Tellicherry Fort for Prison purposes.

* Dated 27th October 1857, No. 358.

2. I must express entire sympathy with the view expressed in the 3rd para. of his letter. Such strongholds should be retained as places of safety for treasure, and in the occupation of Military for obvious reasons.

3. I venture to express an opinion that if possible, in arranging for the Jail accommodation of Convicts, it might be well to consider how far it is expedient to have large gangs of Convicts congregated at the principal civil stations of the country, where the temptation to the ill-disposed is greatest, and where in case of sudden disturbance Government has most to lose, by a temporary liberation of these desperate fellows.

4. Many Civil stations in India may be overtaken off their guard, and may temporarily be thrown into confusion by a very insiginficant popular emeute or even sudden panic. The first object of the ill-disposed generally is to liberate the Convicts, who are ever ready to avail themselves of any opportunity of escape; once Jail is broken, the most lawless acts are certain to follow. At Mangalore in 1837, the liberated Convicts did most of the mischief, and other instances might be named.

5. Were large Jails maintained at Military stations or at places at a distance from the treasuries and offices of record &c., the measure would tend to relieve local Officers of no small anxiety in troubled times.

6. I must ask the indulgent consideration of Government towards the oversight, which occurred in not sending to the Brigadier the correspondence as intended.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

To W. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of Malabar, Calicut, dated Cannanore, 27th October 1857, 358. No.

SIR,

Extract Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st March 1857, No. 994.
To Revenue Board, dated 7th April 1857, No. 40.
Extract Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of 14th October 1857, No. 3443.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4801 of the 23rd Instant, accompanied by the documents as per margin, herewith returned, and hasten to acquaint you (and which I trust you will be good enough to intimate at an early date to Government) that the letter you refer to, to my address of the 7th April 1857, has never reached me.

The opinion now asked of me that whether in a Military point of view there would be any objection to remove the hospital and place of Arms now located in the Fort of Tellicherry to another spot outside the Fort, I cannot under existing circumstances advance any, if so be, there is space or ground in the immediate vicinity of the Military Buildings outside, to allow of a Barrack for Arms and a Hospital being erected in connection with them, for I agree with you

that it would involve much extra duty on the Detachment at Tellicherry, the present strength of which would not admit it, were the several Military Buildings to be straggling from each other, and in a Military point this in my opinion would be very objectionable.

I cannot however expel from my mind, more especially from the recent occurrences in India, what the real object of a Fort, is, and how essential it might prove hereafter were such a stronghold the alone security of a Military body with its connections, not removing the present treasury therefrom, which would be doubly secure under the protection of such a tenement.

I can therefore merely suggest consequent on the above remarks how desirable it would be to remove entirely the prisoners from the Fort.

(Signed) P. THOMSON, Brigadier,
Commanding Malabar and Canara.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Collector and Magistrate.

Rev. Dept. Nos. 223 (para. 47) and 1014. Resolved that the above letter be laid before Government with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation dated 3rd March last, and 13th Ultimo, and in continuation of the Board's letter dated 7th May last, No. 1466.

2. The Brigadier Commanding Malabar and Canara reports that if sufficient space can be found, the Armoury and Hospital can be removed and established outside the Fort of Tellicherry.

3. The Board presume there can be little difficulty in finding convenient sites outside for these buildings and the Treasury, but on other grounds the Brigadier and Acting Collector strongly deprecate such a proceeding as the entire conversion of the Fort into a Jail.

4. The arguments of the local officers appear to the Board to be sound and deserving of very grave consideration.

5. The Acting Collector reports that the delay in procuring the opinion of the Brigadier on this question arose from an oversight.

In from Govt. 3rd in Cons. 31st March 1857. 6. The Collector of North Arcot has been again required to reply to para. 36 of the Extract Minutes Consultation, Judicial Department, dated 7th February last, No. 168.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

Ordered to be communicated to the Judicial Department, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation in this Department dated 20th May 1857, No. 481.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, No. 1556; dated 26th November 1857.

In his report for the official year 1855-56, the Inspector of Prisons, adverting to the healthiness of the *Tellicherry* Jail, which is situated within the Fort at that place, to the crowded state of the Jail at *Calicut*, and to the "little value" of the Civil and Military buildings within the Fort, recommended that the entire Fort should be given up to his department.

2. The Magistrate of *Malabar* and the Brigadier Commanding both strongly object to this measure. Their arguments are based on political grounds, and the Governor in Council deems them conclusive.

3. The inexpediency of establishing large Jails at any other than considerable Military stations noticed by Mr. Robinson in para. 5 of his letter is obvious and should be duly attended to by the Inspector of Prisons.

4. Resolved to forward copies of the correspondence to the Inspector of Prisons, who will give his attention to the consideration of some other means for relieving the Wards of the *Calicut* Jail.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Calicut Jail - J. D. 18-11-57.

Judicial Dept 35

No 1556

Ft. W. C. D/26 November/57

Ex. In. C. Revr dept Y here enter No 1891.
D/4th Nov/57.

In his report for the official year 1855–56, the Inspector of Prisons, adverting to the healthiness of the Tellicherry Jail, which is situated within the Fort at that place, to the crowded state of the Jail at Calicut, and to the "little value" of the civil & military buildings within the Fort, recommended that the entire Fort & Lds be given up to his department.

2. The Magt of Malabar & the Brigr. their Comdg Offr strongly object to his measure. Their arguments are based on political grounds, and the G. in C. deems them conclusive. & He is pleased to forward copies of the correspondence to the Inspector of Prisons, who will give his attention to the consideration of some other means for relieving the wards of the P.J. Calicut Jail. W. D. Ft. C. 18-11-57.

Extract Minute by Mr Rose in para 5 of his letter of 18th ult. and minute by the Inspector of Prisons

To the Inspector of Prisons
" Bermuda Distt.
} Dispd 1st Sept

10/415

Dispatch to Comm.r of Police
Judicial. 1857. Sept. 1st
No 1550
Colonel Norris. Police
Bermuda
Sept. 1st 1857.

F.O. No. 2082.
" 307/58.

C18 Nov
R 21st "