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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 538	Press ~~Mem~~
59-60	
Dated 19 —6—	~~Mem~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Judicial

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 13th April 1859.

No. 20 Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated 16th March 1859, No. 88.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge Patent from the Minutes of Consultation dated 16th November 1858, No. 1052, and 16th March 1859, No. 388, directing me to report on the advantage of Nundial as the Z.mah Station.

2 I must remark that the delay in doing this has not arisen from any fault of mine. I was desirous of avoiding the unnecessary repetition of the subject, by placing the whole matter as one view before the Government. This I could not do till I had an opportunity of seeing the Commander-in-Chief and ascertaining His Excellency's views as to the location of the troops. I was also desirous of submitting a Map showing at a glance the difficulties of either arrangement.

3 I had, by coincidence, an opportunity of meeting His Excellency Sir Patrick Grant at Mhow, on my way and accompanying him on a part of his northern tour, but I was, from the death of my Mother and Congratulations of Creditors, whom I had directed him to join me, prevented from seeing any reports from that station. A trace of the original survey which I was desirous of ascertaining had been mislaid by Gungaram Sukhrat of Cumbum and I received it only the day before yesterday.

4 I was also desirous of ascertaining whether the present arrangement by which Cumbum, Cumbum and Dumpaud were assigned to Kurnool was likely to be permanent.

5 The enclosed Memorandum was drawn up by me before leaving Nundial and though I purposely traversed by day I saw no very eligible locality to the southward.

6 I thought a mile & more south of Kurnool preferable, in a sanitary point of view, to that between the Town west of Kurnool, the location of the troops must however determine that of the Jail & Kurnool as described on as the Z.mah Station, and as a rising ground to the west of the Town and station is more determined on for the troops, the Jail would necessarily be beyond it, there is all evidence of ground available.

7 As to the relative advantages of Nundial and Kurnool as a sanitary point of view, the predominant winds [illegible] to Nundial and if the very objectionable locality selected for the town is avoided and a part of the barrack [illegible] as my Memorandum suggested, there is reason to hope that the Jail and station would not be unhealthy.

8 A reference to the sketch Map I will show the difficulties of the question, the original Kurnool province, with a population of [illegible] and an area of 7,000 square miles and having as at present a large share of business partly [illegible] its centre, is made the nucleus of a Division which is formed by the addition of two Talooks to the east having a population of [illegible] one to the south with 500,000 inhabitants and one to the west with 150,000, an extent reaching Jagheer to the south and a forested range of hills 30 miles across to the east separates it from the Cuddapah and the added Talooks of two sides, while the hilly part on the eastern [illegible]

9 If the new boundaries be adopted the lines of traffic and communication will be formed from [illegible] of a southern position as there they will converge on a point by advancing towards the Penner river, the vicinity of the Railway would also give the advantage to the latter.

10 The selection of Kurnool for the Commissioner's station that of the Treasury and troops would also [illegible] the retention of the Court at Kurnool.

Objections of Private Interest on Kurnool stated

11 It only remains for me to add that the statements of the various gentlemen of Kurnool were [illegible] and ascertained by personal enquiry, and I do not think the opinion of well informed people here healthy than that prepossessed for Kurnool, but that on my separate account was on the high ground south of Kurnool would as a sanitary point be preferable to either. Deep well generally I believe, contains good water.

12 Should the Government decide on separating Dumpaud and Cumbum from Kurnool and assume as most I think as previous [illegible] the selection of Nundial as the Z.mah Station will be confirmed.

18. I beg to append a Map of the country between Kurnool and Nundyal for which I am indebted to Colonel Haber, the crosses indicate the localities I think favourable in proportion to the number

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Extract from a Memo. of the Inspector General of Jails, dated 23rd December 1858

"To proceed to Nundyal Mr. Innes accompanied me to this place, the new road to which is for 10 miles from Calway through a comparatively open pass, the scenery and remarkable character of the rocks in which fully repaid us for marching travelling.

Before setting out we obtained from Mr. Conway a general description of the several localities to which attention was due and this enabled us at once to proceed to the most promising sites.

It was evident on enquiry that no eligible site could be selected in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Nundyal which is situated in a plain below the large tank, but on crossing the dam in the middle of the tank to the neighbourhood of Chenna Coastal um, suitable rising ground was found; thence taking the road by the south of the tank the ground was less favourable till in the vicinity of Pennapuram and about 600 yards to the east of that village where it was good, but even here the soil was not of a kind which I would select for a Prison except in case of necessity, it consisted of a good brick earth, there was no gravel in the neighbourhood and the fall in the ground was less than I should desire. Besides these there was no suitable site and neither of these could have been less than 2 miles from Nundyal."

No. 60 Orders thereon, No. 538, dated 19th April 1859

1. The above letter contains the reply of the Inspector General of Jails to the enquiries made by Government in their orders dated 16th November 1858, Judicial Department, No. 1020, and 16th March 1859, No. 360, calling for a report as to the relative advantages, and necessary grounds of Kurnool and Nundyal for the new Court-House and Jail.

2. The creation of the new Collectorate of Kurnool by the incorporation of certain Talooks belonging to the Cuddapah and Bellary Districts having been resolved upon, the town of Nundyal, the second in importance in the District, was selected as the most suitable locality for the new Court-House and Jail, and orders* were issued to the Public Works Department to prepare and submit estimates for the necessary buildings.

* See Mn. Con. 1st May 1858, No. 379, J. D., para 4

From Inspector General of Prisons, 16th November 1858

3. Subsequently Mr. Rohde represented that Dr. Munro and others acquainted with the locality gave a most unfavourable character of the town as being unhealthy for prisoners and for general accommodation, and he requested to be allowed to communicate with the local authorities, as above to those remembering the question. The Government assented to this, and directed that after further enquiry the result should be reported.

No. 1020, dated 16th November 1858.

From Inspector General, 19th March 1859, No. 68.

4. Mr. Rohde has communicated the question from two points of view, he expresses an opinion that experience will show the desirableness of forming the Talooks of Cumbum and Dupaud which are separated from Kurnool proper by a rugged line of hills, into a separate charge or of restoring them to Cuddapah, and that should either of these arrangements be hereafter adopted, Kurnool would be a more suitable position as point of convenience than Nundyal. The Government find nothing in the information submitted by Mr. Rohde which was not before them when they decided on attaching the Talooks in question to the new proposed Commissionership. They do not therefore consider it necessary to re-open this question.

5. In regard to the relative local healthiness of the two towns, Mr. Rohde confirms his former opinion in favour of Nundyal and contrary to the opinion of some of the town by the Judge† and by Mr. Boyd‡ as recording that understanding.

† From Civil Judge, 8th March 1859, No. 138.

‡ Minute of Board of Revenue, dated 8th November 1858, No. 1018.

6. It is quite clear to the Government that there is nothing to fear on the score of unhealthiness, if the original intention of placing the Judicial station at Nundyal be carried out, and it only remains to decide which of the two sites mentioned in the latter paras. of the Memo. which accompanied the letter under reply is to be preferred.

† See Chenna Coastalum.
‡ See Pennapuram.

7. Mr. Rohde will be pleased to report at an early date upon this point. Immediately on receipt of his reply, orders will be given for the completion of the plans and estimates at present under suspension.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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See 9. Cuddapah

Judicial Department

(No. 558.)

Letter from the Registrar-General
dated 19th April 1869