M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1584 Press
~~Mis.~~

141-142

Dated 23.12.1861 ~~19~~ .

3/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 141. Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Magistrate of Madura; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 2nd December 1861, No. 337.

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government, that I have been informed, through Lieutenant Hankin,* the Joint Magistrate of Paumben, who was appointed, in charge of the operations, for improving the Paumben passage that lately the Public Works in the Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shevagungah have been placed under his charge; this arrangement will necessitate his absence from Paumben for periods of 15 or 20 days at a time and perhaps longer, which I am afraid may be attended with great inconvenience unless some other arrangements can be made for the performance, at Paumben, of the duties up to this time performed by the Officer stationed at Paumben. There is a large Jail at Paumben and I much fear the consequence of leaving such an Establishment, at such an out-of-the-way place, without any resident, competent authority, for periods of 14 days or so. A superior Officer is also wanted at Paumben to see that the Pilots do their duty and to settle disputes and references made by owners of vessels, passing through the channel, to see that the light house is properly lit and attended to, to take cognizance of breaches of Act 25 of 1850, and various other port rules, and a resident Magistrate is decidedly required on the spot.

* A copy of whose letter is herewith sent.

2. If the Government are not inclined to detach an Officer as formerly to be specially located at Paumben, but are determined to add, to his public work duties, those appertaining to the Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shevagungah and I admit that the mere work to be performed in the channel at Paumben, limited, as it is, to only a few months in the year, is not sufficient work for one man, I beg to recommend that a change be at once made in the Establishment at Paumben, which would also be attended with an immense saving to Government.

3. Government in their Proceedings No. 876, dated 30th April 1861, paragraph 10, called for a report on the extravagance of the Establishments at Paumben, and I have already submitted to the Chief Engineer my proposal for reducing them.

4. The Jail is not required and is more expensive than one on the mainland; in fact the work remaining to be done in the channel at Paumben could be nearly executed, out of the saving, effected by the abolition of the Jail; it could be done away with at once, by drafting the convicts to other Jails. The Police would find it a relief at once; the Superintendent informs me, he has the greatest difficulty in keeping up his guards on the island, from the dislike of the men to the sort of banishment in which they live.

Master Attendant.....	Rupees	300
Writer...	,,	20
Store-keeper...	,,	12
Tindal...	,,	9
4 Lascars...	,,	28
2 Do.	,,	12
		381

5. Paumben passage has become a place of great call for vessels and the Officer on the spot should be not a Military but a Naval man, capable of dealing with all affairs relating to shipping &c., for which purpose, I beg to propose that a Master Attendant be appointed; he should be also a Justice of the Peace and Joint Magistrate. He might be allowed a salary and establishment as per margin per mensem.

As above..	Rupees	381
Head Pilot...	,,	100
Writer...	,,	15
4 Lascars...	,,	16
Light House	,,	74
Total..		586

6. The whole expenses, connected with the Port of Paumben, would then be as per margin per month.

7. The Government share of the Pilotage last year (60 and 61) was 14,373 Rupees. I propose the dues be increased by one fourth and that the Pilots be allowed $\frac{1}{3}$th share instead of $\frac{1}{4}$th as at present; this would not affect their rate of present remuneration which is ample, while it would increase the Government revenue from the channel, and the profits to the ship owners is so great, that they could easily bear the increase.

8. The Detachment of Sappers and Miners might be removed, after this year's work is finished, and for the completion of it, which should be effected within this working season, an Officer or Overseer might be appointed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd December 1861.

From F. G. HANKIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Paumben; to V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Magistrate, Madura, dated Paumben, 11th November 1861, No. 29.

I have the honor to bring to your notice the following circumstances and shall feel obliged by your referring the matter to Government, should you deem such a course advisable.

2. I have received a letter from the District Engineer, informing me that by Order of Government, dated 19th October, modifying the D. P. W. Establishment of Madura, the Paumben works have been amalgamated with the Ramnad and Shevagungah range, and directing me, in consequence, to assume charge of the new range thus formed.

3. Hitherto the Superintendent of operations at Paumben has not been borne on the strength of the D. P. W., he has had certain D. P. W. duties to perform and as regards those duties, has been subject to the authority of the District Engineer of Madura, but he has also had other duties, which, I would beg to submit, necessitated his constant presence in Paumben, viz., the duties of Joint Magistrate, and the charge of the Jail at Paumben and Commanding Detachment Sappers and Miners.

4. You are aware of the size of the Ramnad and Shevagungah range, extending, as it does, to within 8 miles of Madura and as far as Tripatur and Tondy on the one side, and Kamudy on the other, and even allowing that the Public Works in that range are few, it must sometimes be necessary for the Officer in charge, to visit the extreme points, which would necessitate an absence of certainly not less than 15 days at a time from Paumben.

5. Under these circumstances, I respectfully submit, it will be impossible, that I can be responsible for the interior economy of the Jail at Paumben, involving as it often does daily payments, being made (for which purpose I have an advance of Rupees 1,000 placed in my hands,) the release of prisoners and payment to them of batta, return of Warrants, &c., my absence on D. P. W. duties will often, of course, involve considerable delay in disposal of Magisterial cases Ships may be detained, &c., and various other inconveniences might arise.

6. Under these circumstances I would beg most respectfully to request that I may be relieved entirely from all charge of the Jail and from all Magisterial duties, unless you would be satisfied with such performance of them as could be carried on during my occasional visits to Paumben or that the arrangement giving me duties to perform out of Paumben may be reconsidered.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 23rd December 1861, No. 1,584.

The suggestions to abolish the Jail at Paumben will be referred to the Inspector General of Jails.

2. The Superintendent of Marine will report on paragraph 5 of Mr. Levinge's letter.

3. A copy of these Proceedings will be forwarded to the Public Works Department, in continuation of the reference on Mr. Rohde's letter of the 19th ultimo, and to the Military Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ead. T. Cartledge

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the Magistrate of Madura. Enter 2nd Dec. 61 No. 337.

Order — 23rd Dec. 1861 No. 1584

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The Inspector Genl. of Jails. } Dept & M. Military Dept. 24
" Supt. of Marine. } 24
" Pub. Wks: Dept. & Military Dept } Dept 24th
" Collr. Magistrate of Madura

Dec. 1861. Department.

No. 1584

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 23 Dec. 1861

Read No. 19302

— 19303 Copy of Minute

— 19304/62 Minute Board

Refer to the Su-
-perintending Engr.
for suggestion of
the Engr. of Roads
to abolish the Jail
at Coimbatore & convert
the Gaol of Calicut
to perform the duties
& receive the Prisoners
hereby rendered to
that Gaol.

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