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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 956-57 Press Mis.
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Dated 25-6 19 86.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 29th June 1864.

No. 277. Read the following letter from C. COLLETT, Esq., Civil Judge, Vizagapatam; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 8th April 1864, No. 148.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 393, dated 18th ultimo, I have the honor to state that from an estimate I have had prepared I find that it will cost about Rupees 820 to render the Court House here properly secure. The Inspector General of Police expresses surprise that the Court House at Kurnool should not have been protected by means of the Court's establishment; but I think that the remark must have been a hasty one, for when on Mr. Pelly's revision the number of peons was reduced to six, there was a standing Police guard at every Court House and the reduction was made accordingly; it seems to me somewhat unreasonable to suppose that six peons can now be sufficient.

2. I have no hesitation in submitting my opinion that the number of attendants allowed to a Civil Court has now been reduced below what is requisite for bare efficiency. When at Chittoor I was obliged to obtain the sanction of Government for two more peons, and that was before the Police guard was removed. I consider that, at least, four more peons should be added to the establishment; and where the Court House is at some distance from the town or Police station, six would probably be required. I think that this increase is indispensable as well on account of the increased responsibility now thrown on the Court establishment, as also because I am satisfied that business cannot be carried on in the orderly and becoming manner it ought to be, with the present limited number of attendants. Here, where the Court House is in the midst of the town, I have yet had cause to believe that the Police discharge the duty of guarding the Court House at night in a lax and inefficient manner.

3. I would beg to take this opportunity of attracting the attention of Government to the defects in the fitting up of the Court Houses. The buildings, too often very inconvenient ones, are almost always shabby; and the furniture is both scanty and coarse. I think the Government will agree that it is desirable that matters should be so arranged that the public administration of justice should, in Courts with so large a jurisdiction as the Civil and Session Courts, be attended with those outward signs of decent dignity which are thought to be politic and proper in most other countries.

No. 278. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1864, No. 956.

Before sanctioning the charges proposed in the foregoing letter for rendering the Court House at Vizagapatam secure, the Governor in Council requests that the Civil and Session Judge will submit a rough plan of the Court House, accompanied by such detailed explanation as may be necessary to enable the Government to judge as to the necessity of providing 20 battened doors for the building.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Civil and Session Judge at Vizagapatam.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 957.

To

THE HONORABLE SIR C. H. SCOTLAND, KNIGHT,
Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Madras.

HONORABLE SIR,

I am directed to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be favored with the opinion of the Honorable the Judges of the High Court on the suggestions made in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the enclosed letter from the Civil and Session Judge of Vizagapatam, with reference to increasing the number of Court peons and improving the fitting up of the Court House. If the Honorable the Judges concur in the opinion of Mr. Collett on either or both of these points, the Governor in Council would wish to be furnished with a Statement showing the number of additional peons, and the additional articles of furniture they would recommend for each of the Civil and Session Courts in the Provinces.

I have the honor to be
Honorable Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
29th June 1864.

Chief Secretary.

From C. COLLETT, Esq., Civil Judge, Vizagapatam; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 8th April 1864, No. 148.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 393, dated 18th ultimo, I have the honor to state that from an estimate I have had prepared I find that it will cost about Rupees 820 to render the Court House here properly secure. The Inspector General of Police expresses surprise that the Court House at Kurnool should not have been protected by means of the Court's establishment; but I think that the remark must have been a hasty one, for when on Mr. Pelly's revision the number of peons was reduced to six, there was a standing Police guard at every Court House and the reduction was made accordingly; it seems to me somewhat unreasonable to suppose that six peons can now be sufficient.

2. I have no hesitation in submitting my opinion that the number of attendants allowed to a Civil Court has now been reduced below what is requisite for bare efficiency. When at Chittoor I was obliged to obtain the sanction of Government for two more peons, and that was before the Police guard was removed. I consider that, at least, four more peons should be added to the establishment; and where the Court House is at some distance from the town or Police station, six would probably be required. I think that this increase is indispensable as well on account of the increased responsibility now thrown on the Court establishment, as also because I am satisfied that business cannot be carried on in the orderly and becoming manner it ought to be, with the present limited number of attendants. Here, where the Court House is in the midst of the town, I have yet had cause to believe that the Police discharge the duty of guarding the Court House at night in a lax and inefficient manner.

3. I would beg to take this opportunity of attracting the attention of Government to the defects in the fitting up of the Court Houses. The buildings, too often very inconvenient ones, are almost always shabby; and the furniture is both scanty and coarse. I think the Government will agree that it is desirable that matters should be so arranged that the public administration of justice should, in Courts with so large a jurisdiction as the Civil and Session Courts, be attended with those outward signs of decent dignity which are thought to be politic and proper in most other countries.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Memo.

The estimate forwarded by the Supt Engineer to the D.O.W., & that sent by Mr Collett direct are quite distinct -

I attribute the sanction given by the D.O.W. to the = mate should stand & the work which appears to be necessary & emergent be carried out at once -

It seems doubtful however whether it is necessary to spend Rs. 820 in providing/Batten doors for the Court wh. is apparently in the tower -

Mr. Collett, it will be seen is dissatisfied with all the present arrangements of his & other Courts. Work

Judicial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter from the Civil and Sessions Judge at Vizagapatam
(Here enter 2d April 1864 No 148)
Order thereon 29 June 1864 No 956.

Before sanctioning the change proposed in the foregoing letter for rendering the Court House at Vizagapatam secure, the Governor in Council requests that the Civil and Sessions Judge will submit a rough plan of the Court house, accompanied by such detailed explanation as may be necessary to enable the Government to judge as to the necessity of providing 20 battened doors for the building.

To
The Civil & Sessions Judge at
Vizagapatam --

Judicial Department

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No. 9.

To

The Honorable C. H. Scotland, Knight
Chief Justice of the High Court
of Judicature at Madras

Hon'ble Sir,

I am directed to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be favored with the opinion of the Honorable the Judges of the High Court on the suggestions made in the 2d and 3d paras of the enclosed letter from the Civil and Session Judge of Vizagapatam, with reference to increasing the number of Court Peons and improving the fitting up of the Court house. If the Honorable the Judges concur in the

opinion

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