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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 17-0-57

G.O. No. 455

Press
Mis.

Dated

11-3

1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 1. Read the following Extract from the Minutes Consultation in the Judicial Department, dated 24th February 1857, No. 229.

Read the following letter from GEORGE ELLIS, Esq., Register to the Court of Sudder Udalt; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 6th February 1857, No. 14.

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Judges of the Court of Sudder Udalt to forward to be laid before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying copy of a letter from the Civil Judge of Cuddalore, dated the 22nd December 1856, bringing to notice the crowded state of the Records of the Civil and Session Court, and urging the desirableness of erecting a new building to afford accommodation for the Civil and Session Court and the Court of the Principal Sudder Ameen.

2. The Judges observe that, as no public building was available for the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court at Cuddalore on its first establishment in 1813, the old factory in which the late Auxiliary Court had been held, having been entirely taken up by the Courts of Civil and Session Judge and Moofly Sudder Ameen, sanction was accorded under date the 23rd April 1814 for renting a house at New Town at a monthly charge of Rupees 35 for the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, but the Civil Judge having represented that his health had become severely affected by the offensive atmosphere of the Civil and Session Court House, and the Zillah Surgeon having also stated his opinion that "a European Gentleman was much more susceptible of the nuisance than a Native and was more likely to have his health affected by it," the Government on the 15th May 1816, authorized the monthly disbursement of 35 Rupees for the rent of a building at New Town for the use of the Civil and Session Court, and the old factory has since been occupied in part by the Principal Sudder Ameen.

3. In November 1854, the Civil Judge reported that he had removed his Court from the building formerly occupied to a more commodious house, which afforded accommodation also for the Cuddalore District Moonsiff, the rent being the same as that paid for the former building, and suggested that it would be more economical were Government to erect a suitable building affording accommodation both to the Civil and Principal Sudder Ameen's Courts, than to continue paying an annual rent of Rupees 420, but as this Court doubted the economy of building, the rent being moderate, they declined recommending the erection of a New Court House.

4. The Civil Judge, however, now brings to notice the want of fitting accommodation for the Records of the Court which have accumulated to a great extent, and the serious inconvenience and delay experienced in procuring Records from the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, where they are at present deposited, as well as in calling for explanation and information from the latter Court which is 3 miles distant from the Civil and Session Court. He also doubts the security of the building in which the Civil and Session Court is at present held, and which it appears there is little prospect of being repaired.

5. Under these circumstances and as no other building is available at a moderate rent for the use of the Court, and a large outlay (exceeding 5,000 Rupees) having been already incurred under the head of House rent, the Judges are of opinion that it is very desirable that a suitable Court House should be built as proposed by the Civil Judge to afford accommodation for the Civil and Session and Principal Sudder Ameen's Courts, the present Principal Sudder Ameen's Court being made over to the District Moonsiff of Cuddalore, and they accordingly beg to recommend that the Civil Judge be authorized to call upon the Civil Engineer for the necessary Plan and Estimate.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 17th March 1857.

Letter from S. N. WARD, Esq., Civil Judge of Cuddalore; to G. ELLIS, Esq., Register to the Court of Sudder Udalt, dated Cuddalore, 22nd December 1857, No. 99.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Judges that the Records of my Department, have accumulated to such an extent, that the rooms in the Factory of Old Town, where they are now kept, have become incapable of containing them any more; that if more fitting accommodation be not speedily provided, the safety of the Records will be imperilled; and that under such circumstances it will be unfair to hold the Record-keepers answerable for any damage done to them.

2. Already white ants have shewn themselves here and there about the rooms, and, notwithstanding all precautions taken, the Record-keeper complains that he is unable to prevent their ravages. The damp too caused by ill ventilation is beginning to tell seriously on the Records.

3. The rooms having become filled as above, I was induced to call on the Civil Engineer of the District to extend the space a little by enclosing a verandah to the west of the room, and the Estimate for that work is gone up for sanction; but even then the space gained as well as that which will accrue from the destruction of some of the Records authorized in the letter of the Sudder Udalt, dated 11th May 1855, will, I fear, not give the accommodation required, as the Record room in the house now occupied by the Court, as become choked up and insufficient; so that I shall be under the necessity of transferring a great part of the Records to the old Record room on the Jail Buildings, in order to make room for the reception of Records coming in monthly from the Moofy's and Moonsiff's Courts.

4. There is but one House here which would suit the purpose of a Court; but the rent of it is too high (100 Rupees a month) to think of my removing to it, and I doubt whether it would be rented out for a Court, even if I was to give the rent demanded.

5. The House at present occupied by the Court is very old, and if we have again such weather as we have had of late, I feel some doubts as to its security.

6. The House leaks in every direction in such a way as to wet the walls; while there seems little prospect of the Manager of the late Nawab of the Carnatic in whose charge it has hitherto been, putting it into repair; nor in fact do I know under the present circumstances whether he is the proper person to apply to for the purpose.

7. Under these circumstances I hope I shall stand excused if I call the attention of the Judges to my letter of the 1st November 1854; and again respectfully urge on them the desirableness of having a Court House specially built which will afford ample accommodation not only for the Records, but also for the Court of the Principal Sudder Ameen. The advantages of such a building, are too obvious to need particular mention; but among them would be the prevention of the delay which now takes place owing to part of the Records being at the Old Town of Cuddalore (3 miles from the Court) and the consequent necessity of having to send for them each time they are required for reference. By the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court too being in the same building, with that of the Judge would save much useless correspondence. As it is, Records are often required from each other's Court, as also explanations and informations, though unimportant in themselves, still necessary to clear up doubts arising from correspondence. All these might if the Courts were near each other be applied for and obtained immediately without involving the labour of correspondence, and without the delay of one, two or even of three days which now takes place in correcting an A. Report, or entering a note in the Calendars, &c.

8. Taking these things into consideration I trust the Judges will re-consider their resolution as regards my recommendation for a New Court House.

1. In this letter the Court of Sudder Udalt bring to notice the crowded state of the Records of the Civil and Session Court of Cuddalore, and the desirableness of erecting a new building to afford accommodation for that Court and for the Principal Sudder Ameen's.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 17th March 1857.

2. The Civil and Session Court, with that of the District Moonsiff, is at present held in a house rented for the purpose at an outlay of 35 Rupees per mensem, and the Principal Sudder Ameen occupies a portion of the Factory situated in the old town at a distance of 3 miles from the former Court, where also the Records of that Court are deposited.

3. The Civil Judge represents that the rooms in which the Records are kept have become incapable of containing any more, and that if more fitting accommodation be not speedily provided, their safety would be imperilled, white ants having shewn themselves and the damp caused by ill-ventilation having begun to tell seriously on them. He also states that even were the verandah to the west of the rooms closed and the useless Records authorized by the Sudder Court to be destroyed, removed, still the additional space thus afforded would be insufficient. The distance at which the Factory is from the Civil and Sessions Court is besides said to occasion serious inconvenience and delay in procuring the Records required by the Courts and in obtaining explanations and information from each other.

4. Under these circumstances the Right Honorable the Governor in Council approves the proposal of the Civil Judge of Cuddalore, which the Court of Sudder Udalt support, for the erection of a new building for the accommodation of his Court and of that of the Principal Sudder Ameen, and resolves to forward the papers recorded above with this Extract to the Public Works Department where the necessary orders will be issued to the Chief Engineer for the preparation of a Plan and Estimate in communication with the Civil Judge.

5. It is observed that it is intended when the proposed building has been erected to transfer the District Moonsiff's Court to the old Factory.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

ORDER THEREON, No. 455; dated 11th March 1857.

No. 2. Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with the request that he will instruct the District Engineer to prepare in communication with the Civil Judge and submit an Estimate for the erection of a new building for the accommodation of the Civil and Session and Principal Sudder Ameen's Courts at Cuddalore.

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

No. 229.

Extract from the Minutes Consultation under date the 24th February 1857,

Read the following letter from GEORGE ELLIS, Esq., Register to the Court of Sudr Udalut; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 6th February 1857, No. 14.

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Judges of the Court of Sudder Udalut to forward to be laid before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying copy of a letter from the Civil Judge of Cuddalore, dated the 22nd December 1856, bringing to notice the crowded state of the Records of the Civil and Session Court, and urging the desirableness of erecting a new building to afford accommodation for the Civil and Session Court and the Court of the Principal Sudr Ameen.

2. The Judges observe that, as no public building was available for the Principal Sudr Ameen's Court at Cuddalore on its first establishment in 1843, the old factory in which the late Auxiliary Court had been held, having been entirely taken up by the Courts of Civil and Session Judge and Moofly Sudr Ameen, sanction was accorded under date the 23rd April 1844, for renting a house at New Town at a monthly charge of Rupees 35 for the Principal Sudr Ameen's Court, but the Civil Judge having represented that his health had become severely affected by the offensive atmosphere of the Civil and Session Court House, and the Zillah Surgeon having also stated his opinion that "a European Gentleman was much more susceptible of the nuisance than a Native and was more likely to have his health affected by it," the Government on the 15th May 1846, authorized the monthly disbursement of 35 Rupees for the rent of a building at New Town for the use of the Civil and Session Court, and the old factory has since been occupied in part by the Principal Sudr Ameen.

3. In November 1854 the Civil Judge reported that he had removed his Court from the building formerly occupied to a more commodious house, which afforded accommodation also for the Cuddalore District Moonsiff, the rent being the same as that paid for the former building, and suggested that it would be more economical were Government to erect a suitable building affording accommodation both to the Civil and Principal Sudr Ameen's Courts, than to continue paying an annual rent of Rupees 420, but as this Court doubted the economy of building, the rent being moderate, they declined recommending the erection of a new Court House.

4. The Civil Judge, however, now brings to notice the want of fitting accommodation for the Records of the Court which have accumulated to a great extent, and the serious inconvenience and delay experienced in procuring Records from the Principal Sudr Ameen's Court, where they are at present deposited, as well as in calling for explanation and information from the latter Court which is 3 miles distant from the Civil and Session Court. He also doubts the security of the building in which the Civil and Session Court is at present held, and which it appears there is little prospect of being repaired.

5. Under these circumstances and as no other building is available at a moderate rent for the use of the Court, and a large outlay (exceeding 5,000 Rupees) having been already incurred under the head of House rent, the Judges are of opinion that it is very desirable that a suitable Court House should be built as proposed by the Civil Judge to afford accommodation for the Civil and Session and Principal Sudr Ameen's Courts, the present Principal Sudr Ameen's Court being made over to the District Moonsiff of Cuddalore, and they accordingly beg to recommend that the Civil Judge be authorized to call upon the Civil Engineer for the necessary Plan and Estimate.

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIS,

Register.

From S. N. WARD, Esq., Civil Judge of Cuddalore; to G. ELLIS, Esq., Register to the Court of Sudr Udalut, dated Cuddalore, 22nd December 1857, No. 99.

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(Signed) S. N. WARD,
Civil Judge.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) GEORGE ELLIS,
Register.

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(True Extract and Copies.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
Judges of the Court of Sudder Udalt.

