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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 20-12-59.

G.O. No. 2943 Press -Misc.

B.No/55—136.

Dated. 19-12- 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, for the month of December 1859.

No. 135. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 9th December 1859, No. 4346.

Calling for a plan and estimate for erecting a new magazine at Cannanúr, the site being selected under orders from the Commander-in-Chief. (Vide Military Proceedings from 11th to 20th December 1859, Nos. 217 @ 250.)

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, 19th December 1859, No. 2943.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer in view to the submission of the plan and estimate called for in paragraph 2.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, 17th May 1859, No. 27; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

With reference to Extracts Minutes of Consultation, Nos. 2470, and 3822, dated 9th July and 23rd October 1858, I have the honor to state, that I have been in communication with the Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, on the subject of the Magazine accommodation required at Cannanore, and in reply to my enquiries, I have been informed that there is no building in a defensible position outside the Fort of Cannanore, fit for the storage of Powder and Ammunition.

2. The only feasible measures which suggested themselves for adoption, were the occupation of the present Magazine after it has been secured by a Field work, as proposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and the erection of a new Magazine. To accomplish the latter, much time will be required; and, as shewn in my letter to Government of 10th August 1858, No. 216, a Bomb-proof Magazine could not be ready on the Western Coast within 4 years, so as to be completely dry and safe for the reception of Powder and Ammunition. As regards the former measure, Government are aware that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief considers it indispensable that a circular space of 200 yards should be taken in for the purpose of rendering the present Magazine a defensible position. The difficulty however of obtaining this extent of ground from the Bibi of Cannanore, unless at a large outlay, and involving the enforcement of Act VI of 1857, induced me to ascertain from the Chief Engineer, whether, in consequence of the obstacles referred to above, any building outside the Fort located in a defensible position may not be obtained for storing Ammunition. The Chief Engineer reports there is no such building.

3. I beg to submit therefore, that there is no alternative left, other than the occupation of the present Magazine, the necessary redoubt being constructed for the present security of the building, and other precautions taken to that end—and with reference to the space required around the Magazine, it rests with Government to adopt the necessary measures towards obtaining it from the Proprietor.

Referred to the Revenue Department, with a view to its being ascertained, whether the required space round the Magazine can be purchased, and if so, at what cost.

21*st May* 1859.

Petition from Ondan Onaken, Carien Carooven and others, inhabitants residing in Cannanore, Tavakara of Cherikul Talook.
Praying that their property near the Magazine at Cannanore may not be taken from them.

} Here enter 24th July 1859.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th November 1859, No. 4729.

Read the following letter from P. Grant Esq., Collector of Malabar; to W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 20th September 1859, No. 229.

In the Board's order dated 30th May 1859, No. 1974, conveying the Proceedings of the Madras Government of the 26th idem, No. 708, I am directed to ascertain whether the land, &c., around the Powder Magazine at Cannanore, for a space of yards 200, can be purchased and if so, at what cost.

2. The land is the Jemom (proprietary right) property of the Bibi of Cannanore, and is included in the limits of her Karar,* for which she pays an annual peshcush of Rupees 5,000. She is unwilling to part with the land, and justly lays much stress on the fact, that it has been made over to her by treaty, and that to deprive her of it now, would be a hardship; that she has already suffered from the fact of her lands being included in the Cantonment limits, where a restriction is laid on the planting of Cocoanut trees.

**Dated 28th October 1796.*

3. If Government are resolved to take up the land, she prays that other lands of equal value may be given to her in exchange.

4. Compliance with this request is most difficult of attainment in Malabar, where all land is private property, and every one is unwilling to sell. The only course to be pursued, therefore, is to take the land up under the provisions of Act VI of 1857, on payment of its full value, determined by a Punchayet.

5. In order to enable Government to form a fair estimate of the value of the land, (consisting of gardens, with houses, trees, wells, &c., standing in them,) I have had them valued by my subordinate Revenue servants and by a native Committee. The former give their value at Rupees 11,897, and the latter at Rupees 13,777; in each of these sums is one item of Rupees 3,900 for a gentleman's bungalow and garden, but this can only be considered as an approximation to its value. The following statement gives a somewhat clear idea of the property in question :—

Cocoanut trees.	Betelnut trees.	Jack trees.	Pepper vines.	
Trees, the stem of which is 1 span above the ground...	70	Productive trees. 4	Productive trees 105	Productive... 248 Gardens. 14
Young trees... ...	259	Unproductive do. 2	Unproductive do. 14	Plants young 124 Huts... 22
Trees about bearing	27	Trees 4 years old 11	Plants. 22	... House ... 1
Productive trees...	584	Do. below do. 1	... ...	... ... Wells... 8
Unproductive do.	32	... ...	... ...	... ... Sheds... 2
Total trees...	952	Total trees... 18	Total trees... 141	Total vines... 372 Total.. 47

Value fixed by Revenue Subordinates.	Rs.	Value fixed by Native Committee.	Rs.
Lands and trees...	6,860	Lands and trees...	8,740
Huts and wells...	1,137	Huts and wells...	1,137
Houses...	3,900	Houses...	3,900
Total Rupees...	11,897	Total Rupees...	13,777

6. I am inclined to think that the value determined by a regularly constituted Punchayet will exceed both of the above amounts.

7. There is one feature in the case which I commend to the consideration of Government; namely, the position of the tenants. At present they may be said to be in a comfortable and thriving condition; they live in their gardens enjoying the fruits of the trees they have planted and raised, with the advantage of a ready market close at hand, whilst the rent which they pay to the Bibi is very light.

8. On the occupation of their lands by Government, they will receive the value of their houses, and of their Cocoanut trees at the rate of eight Annas each from the Bibi. This is the custom of that part of the country, and it will be upheld by the Civil Court. The real value of the trees may range from Rupees 5 to Rupees 10, but this must be paid to the Bibi as proprietor, whose purse will be filled at the expense of her tenants, who will see the fruits of years of their labor and toil swept away by, as I fear it will appear to them, the act of a hard-hearted Government. Another hardship the tenants will have to encounter, will be the difficulty of obtaining any other land to settle on, as that near Cannanore is already pre-occupied by private property, and a large population.

In Consultation 27th May 1859. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their order, dated 26th May 1859, No. 708, R. D.

2. The Collector reports that the land required by Government in the vicinity of the Cannanore Magazine which is the property of the Bibi of Cannanore, will probably need to be taken under the Act, from the almost impossibility of meeting the Bibi's wish, that land of equal value may be assigned to her elsewhere.

3. Its value is estimated differently by the Revenue servants, and by a native Committee whom the Collector appointed, at Rupees 11,897 and at Rupees 13,777, and the Collector is of opinion that a Punchayet under the Act would assign a still higher value. Should Government resolve on taking the land, the Board request their favorable consideration for the present occupants who have at their own expense converted the land into valuable gardens, the value of each tree being from 5 to 10 Rupees, but who, by the custom of the district, will receive from the Bibi, the proprietor of the land, no more than Annas 8 per tree, on being ousted from their holdings, and will have great difficulty in finding land elsewhere.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

ORDER THEREON, *28th November* 1859, No. 1610.

Referred to the Military Department, with reference to the Proceedings in that department dated 21st May 1859.

The Petition No. 2790 of 1859, from certain inhabitants of Kannanúr, will also be referred to that department for disposal.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

ORDER, No. 4346, *9th December* 1859.

After a full consideration of the difficulty and hardship attending the attainment of the space of ground required to place the Magazine at Cannanore in security, as shewn in the foregoing papers; moreover, observing that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has pronounced the position of the building in question to be most objectionable, the Governor in Council has come to the conclusion, that it will be better to erect a new Magazine on an approved site, in preference to any attempt at fortifying the present one.

2. A Plan and Estimate will accordingly be called for through the Department Public Works for submission to Government, the site being selected under orders from the Commander-in-Chief.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Ordnance.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Quarter Master General.
„ Department Public Works. *With 10 spare Copies.*
„ Petition Department.

P. Cons. 30th Nov.r 59 No. 63864

P.W. 1859 Dep.t
Pro: of Gov.t 20th Dec.r
No. 3285.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in
the Military Dep.t

Dated 9th
Received 15th } Dec.r 59.
No. 4346.

Calling for a Plan
& Estimate for erecting
a new Magazine at
Bunnanur, the site
being selected under
orders from the
Commander in Chief.

No. 2943.

Ordered to be
communicated to the
Chief Engineer in reply
to the Submission of the
Plan and Estimate called
for in para 2.

Fort St. George
19th Dec.r 59.

To Copies to the Chief Engr Circ.r 19
with Pro. Pub. Dep.t No. 4346.

No. 135 & 136.

No. 2943. 19th December
Mr Mann order