

(1) Number of pages 3(2) Date of repair 7-6-58(3) Initials of the Referencer J

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 29-4-59

G.O. No.

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Dated

29-4-

1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 29th April 1859.

No. 122. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Judicial Department, dated 19th April 1859, No. 538.

Mr. Rohde to report which of the 2 sites whether the vicinity of Chiona Courtallum or that of Ponnappoorum is to be preferred for placing the Judicial station at Nundial. } (Vide Judicial Consultation, 19th April 1859, Nos. 59-60.)

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, No. 990; dated 29th April 1859:

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for information.

(Signed) W. C. SIM,

Actg. Dy. Secretary to Government.

No. 538.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 19th April 1859.

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 19th March 1859, No. 88.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 16th November 1858, No. 1629, and 16th March 1859, No. 348, directing me to report on the advantage of Nundyal as the Zillah Station.

2. I may remark that the delay in doing this has not arisen from any fault of mine. I was desirous of avoiding the inconvenience of repeated re-consideration of the subject, by placing the whole matter in 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 shewing at a glance the difficulties of either arrangement.

3. I had, by invitation, an opportunity of meeting His Excellency Sir Patrick Grant at Masulipatam and accompanying him on a part of his northern tour, but I was, from the death of my Writer and Draughtsman at Guntoor, where I had directed him to join me, prevented from completing my report from that station. A trace of the original survey which I was desirous of appending had been mis-sent to Ganjam instead of Guntoor and I received it only the day before yesterday.

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

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

6. I thought a site 4 miles south of Kurnool preferable, in a sanitary point of view, to that between the rivers west of Kurnool, the location of the troops must however determine that of the Jail if Kurnool is decided on as the Zillah Station, and as a rising ground to the west of the town and station is now determined on for the troops, the Jail would necessarily be beyond it, there is abundance of ground available.

7. As to the relative advantages of Nundyal and Kurnool in a sanitary point of view, the preference seems due to Nundyal and if the very objectionable locality selected for the town is avoided and either of the localities indicated in my Memorandum occupied, there is reason to hope that the Jail and station will not be unhealthy.

8. A reference to the sketch Map (2) will shew the difficulties of the question, the original Kurnool province, with a population of 2,28,000 and an area of 2,600 square miles and having as it were a large core of barren rocky hills occupying its centre, is made the nucleus of a District which is formed by the addition of two Talooks to the east having a population of 2,05,000, one to the south with 90,000 inhabitants and one to the west with 1,06,000, an intervening Jagheer to the south and a feverish range of hills 30 miles across to the east separates widely the original District and the added Talooks on two sides, while the hilly core in the centre impedes transit.

9. If the northern capital is selected the lines of traffic and communication will be formed from the Presidency, if a southern position is taken they will converge on a point by advancing towards the Presidency, the vicinity of the Railway would also give the advantage to the latter.

10. The selection of Kurnool for the Collector's station that of the Treasury and troops would induce the retention of the Court at Kurnool.

* Inspector of Prisons' letter
4th November 1858.

11. It only remains for me to add that the statement* of the extreme unhealthiness of Nundyal were not warranted by recent experience, and I do not think the station if well selected would prove less healthy than that proposed for Kurnool, but that in my opinion some site on the high ground south of Kurnool would in a sanitary point be preferable to either. Trap rock generally I believe, contains good water.

13. Should the Government decide on separating Doopaud and Cumbum from Kurnool (and sooner or later I think experience will induce this,) the selection of Nundyal as the Zillah Station will be undesirable.

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

Extract from a Memo. of the Inspector General of Jails, dated 29th 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 mid-day 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 plane below the large tank, but on crossing the dam in the middle of the tank to the neighbourhood of Chenna Courtallum, suitable rising ground was found; thence taking the road by the south of the tank the ground was less favorable till in the vicinity of Ponnappoorum and about 400 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."

Order.—1. The above letter contains the reply of the Inspector General of Jails to the requisition made by Government in their orders dated 16th November 1858, Judicial Department, No. 1629, and 16th March 1859, No. 348, calling for a report as to the relative advantages, on sanitary grounds of Kurnool and Nundial 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 Nundial, 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.

From Inspector General of Prisons, 16th November 1858.

3. Subsequently Mr. Rohde represented that Dr. Miller and others acquainted with the locality gave a most unfavorable character of this town as being noted for cholera and for general insalubrity, and he requested to be allowed to communicate with the local authorities, in view to their reconsidering the question. The Government assented to this, and directed that after further enquiry the result should be reported.

From Inspector General, 19th March 1859, No. 88.

4. Mr. Rohde has considered the question from two points of view, he expresses an opinion that experience will show the desirableness of forming the Talooks of Cumbum and Doopaud, 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 in point of centrality than Nundial. 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 newly created Collectorate. They do not therefore consider it necessary to re-open this question.

5. In regard to the relative healthiness of the two towns, Mr. Rohde rather inclines to give the preference to Nundial and certainly the character given of this town by the Judge† and by Mr. Bayley‡ is anything but unfavorable.

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

1 Near Chinna Courtallum.
2 Near Ponnappoorum.

which accompanied the letter under reply is to be preferred.

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.

(True Extract and Copies.)

To the Inspector General of Jails
" Civil Judge of Nundial.
" Judges of the Court of Sudder Udalur.
" Department Public Works, with a Map and Sketch.

† From Civil Judge, 5th March 1859, No. 130.

‡ Memo. at foot of letter from Inspector General, dated 4th November 1858, No. 454.

90 York 1859 Chap. 15
Census of 1850

17th 994

Robert Smith - born
in the Hudson Co 1814

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1850. 19th April 1859.

Ordered to the com-
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Engineer for information.

W. Lewis

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