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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 10-5-1860

G.O. No.	912	Press Mis.
Dated	2-5-	1860

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of May 1860.*

No. 35. Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bounna-samudram, 16th April 1860, No. 22:—

Paragraph 1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, dated 2nd November 1859, No. 2,576, calling on me to report whether the Chittoor Fort ditch may not be entirely filled up, the walls levelled, and the whole plateau of the Fort be laid out in lots, and put up to auction.

2. The purport of the Order of Government was made known to the Native community of Chittoor immediately on its receipt, when several influential persons came forward, and offered to take up the land for cultivation.

3. The Fort was at that time still occupied by the Veterans; and the Tahsildár was, therefore, directed to canvass the Native community afresh, and report, on the place being vacated by the Military, what probability there was of its being taken up for building purposes, and what was the general feeling in regard to extending the town in that direction. From the Tahsildár's report it appears that notwithstanding a proclamation setting forth the apparent advantages of the investment, no one has made any definitive offer up to the present time.

4. The plateau of the Fort measures 6 k. 13 as. 8 ch. of which an extent of 0 k. 4 as. 0 ch. is occupied by a Pagoda, a few sepulchres, and two wells. The remainder of the plateau would probably afford space for some 80 or 100 ordinary Native dwellings.

5. Were the land given over for cultivation, the practicability of irrigating it from the neighbouring River Channel is exceedingly doubtful, as judging by the eye, the plateau of the Fort is on a higher level than could be brought under the influence of that water course. Cultivation would, therefore, probably entirely depend on the two wells now available, and any others that might hereafter be sunk by the occupants of the ground. In the event of the land being made over for cultivation, the Tahsildár recommends that it may bear a 5th class single crop assessment, viz., Rupees 8 per káni.

6. The parties alluded to in paragraph 2 on being asked to make some definite offer, state that they would be willing to take up the land for agricultural purposes, provided the Order of Government on the subject of Freeholds were declared applicable to it, and they were allowed to pay up once for all 20 years, assessment, at 4 Rupees the káni.

7. These parties would, I have little doubt, raise their offer to something nearer the rate proposed by the Tahsildár, were Government to signify their assent to the plateau being appropriated in the manner they desire. Captain Watts who was requested by me to inspect the locality, and report on the feasibility of demolishing the walls, filling up the ditch, and profitably employing, or otherwise disposing of the material, gives it as his opinion (in which I am disposed to concur), that the project could not be carried out except at a very heavy outlay, against which the set off from the sale or employment of material on other useful purposes would be very trifling. Captain Watts further adds that it is his belief that the plateau of the Fort would be found too damp during the rains to be appropriated in the manner proposed by Government, and that were the ditch filled up there would be no egress as at present for the surplus water of the Kattamachi River, and Grove's Tank.

8. With this explanation, I beg to leave it to Government to decide whether it will be better to close with such offers as we have received, or let things remain as they are on the apparently remote contingency of the land being required hereafter for building sites.

9. I had a sketch plan of the locality prepared, when the question was first mooted which has been since mislaid. Under the impression that its submission is not very material to the decision of the case, I have thought it better not to delay this report whilst search was being made for it.

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-----any one who receipt when-----

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of May 1860.

10. I may mention in conclusion, that the buildings within the Fort have been made over to the new Police as a place of Arms and Powder Magazine.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 2nd May 1860, No. 912.

The Acting Collector of North Arcot reports on the proposition made by Government in their Order of 2nd November 1859, No. 2,576, for filling up the Chittoor Fort ditch, levelling the walls, and selling the ground, and he asks for instructions on certain points. As the Honorable the President purposes to visit Chittoor at an early period, the Government defer passing Orders on the points raised till His Excellency shall have inspected the locality.

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

North Arcot³.
No. 22. Collector's Circuit Station
Bonnasundram 16th April
1860.

From J. C. Robinson Esquire
Acting Collector of North Arcot.

To J. P. Croft Esquire.
Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort St. George

Sir,

Para 1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order of Government dated 2nd November 1859 No. 2576 calling on me to report whether the Chittoor Fort ditch may not be entirely filled up, the walls levelled, and the whole plateau of the Fort be laid out in lots, and put up to auction. —

Chittoor

2. The purport of the order of Government was made known to the Native Community of Chittoor immediately on its receipt, when several

Several influential persons came forward, (and offered to take up the land for Cultivation.

3. The fort was at that time still occupied by the veterans, and the Tahsildar was thereby directed to canvass the Native Community, and report on the place being vacated by the Military, what probability there was of its being taken up for building purposes, (and what was the general feeling in regard to extending the town in that direction. From the Tahsildar's report it appears that notwithstanding a proclamation setting forth the apparent advantages of the investment, no one has made any definitive offer up to the present time.

4. The plateau of the Fort measures 6-13-8, of which an extent of 2-0-0 is occupied by a Pagoda, a few sepulchres, and two wells. The remainder of the plateau would probably

5-3 probably afford space for some 80 or 100 ordinary native dwellings.

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6. The parties alluded to in para 2 on being asked to make some definite offer, state that they would be willing to take up the land for agricultural purposes, provided

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10. In my mention in con-
clusion that the buildings within
the Fort have been made over
to the new Police as a place of arms
and powder magazines.

Northbrook } I have the honor to be
Collyer's Private Secretary } Sir,

Bannamaram } Your most Obedt Servant
16th April 1860

Dalton

Acting Collector.

C. J. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

I must soon visit ^{to} Chittur and propose
that the question should remain in abeyance
till I can inspect the locality.

27 April 60.

W. H. R.

