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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

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628-629

Dated 23—1— 18 [illegible].

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th January 1866.

No. 626. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

Intimating that there are no funds available at present for the construction of the buildings required for the Head Quarters Station of the Officer whom it is in contemplation to place in charge of the Zemindary tracts in the North Arcot District. } (Here enter 19th January 1866, No. 163.)

No. 627. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1866, No. 300.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 110.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th January 1866.

No. 321. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th December 1865, No. 8,013.

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 25th October 1865, No. 213 :—

1. I have the honor to submit the information called for in Proceedings of Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 31st August 1865.

2. I am required to speak to two points : first, the salubrity of Puthur as the prospective head quarters of the Covenanted Assistant, whom it is in contemplation to place in charge of the Zemindary tracts; secondly, the propriety of its claim to be selected as such in preference to Arconum, the point whence four lines of railway radiate, and a place of growing importance.

3. The Government appear already to have formed an unfavorable impression of Puthur. My recent enquiries do not bear out this estimate. In a letter on the subject, (of which I beg to append transcript,) the Resident Engineer speaks very highly of the healthiness of Puthur, and of the Naggery valley in general.

4. So far as my opportunities of forming a personal opinion go, I should say that this valley is one of the healthiest parts of the District. It is a highly fertile tract of country, and from its very configuration must abound in excellent water.

5. The intelligent young Officer in charge of the Division reports that he had made minute inquiries throughout the neighbourhood, and that all agreed in saying that Puthur was remarkably free from sickness of any kind. Fever and Small Pox are, comparatively speaking, unknown, and there have been no cases of Cholera in that neighbourhood for the last four years.

6. Beyond the Tirupathi station, the Railway passes into a narrow gorge in the hills, where there is much low scrub and bamboo juugle. There great difficulty was experienced some years back in pushing railway operations across the border, owing to the prevalence of fever at certain seasons of the year.

7. I am not myself very well acquainted with Puthur, but learn from the report before me that there are several wells of excellent drinking water in the village, and around it some tanks which are generally pretty well filled. The village itself consists of some 300 houses and ten bazaars, and in the main street is a good Chuttrum.

The high road passes between the village and the railway station, and is still much frequented by travellers and pilgrims going to and fro between Rameshwaram and Cuddapah, Kurnool, and other more distant parts of the country.

Puthur is said to have its full share of any rain which may fall, and to have as cool and pleasant a climate as any station upon the line.

8. I now come to its claim to be selected in preference to Arconum. This rests absolutely upon its being the most central and accessible point within the charge of which it is proposed to make it head quarters.

9. A glance at the map will satisfy Government that this is the case. Now, Arconum is not only twenty-seven miles farther from the Tirupathi and Kalahastri extremities of the charge, but it is not even within the Zemindaries at all, being situated in the Wallajah Talook, which forms part of the Head Assistant's Division.

This is, I think, a fatal disqualification, as besides the inconvenience and confusion which would arise out of such an arrangement, the moral influence attaching to the presence of a Covenanted Officer within the Zemindaries would be entirely lost. Were it not for this, to my mind insuperable objection, there can be no question that Arconum is the more cheerful and eligible place of the two.

From the Resident Engineer, First Division, North-West Line, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arconum, 1st October 1865.

1. Yours No. 37 of the 20th September.

2. There are no records in my office from which I can ascertain any thing respecting the salubrity of Puthur; there is, however, in my employment a European Inspector, who has been employed for a number of years on the North-West Line, a good part of which time he spent at Puthur, he says the climate is very good; there is plenty of good water, and, on the whole, he never lived during his employment on the North-West Line in a place where there was less sickness. There were several other European Inspectors resident there at different times, and I have never heard of any complaints from them of its insalubrity.

3. There are two European Inspectors at present residing within eight or nine miles of Puthur, one on either side, where I should say the climate is very similar; they have lived there for three or four years, during which time they have enjoyed good health, and have never made any complaints against the climate.

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1. Submitted to Government with reference to their Order, under date 31st August 1865, No. 2,049.

2. From the Collector's report it would appear that Pootoor is a more suitable place for the head quarters of the Officer in charge of the Zemindaries than Arconum.

No. 322. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1866, No. 163.

Miscellaneous.

The Government have no funds available at present for the construction of the requisite buildings. The question must therefore lie over.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.

Fxd. S. T. Augustin.

Lid 9pp Civil Office No 5
No 300
Communicated to
the Superintending
Engineer of the
4th Div.
Fort St George
25th January 66
C.W.B.
6 Sets Eng dn 16
Dept 28th Jan.

1866 Dep.tt
Pro. of Gov.t for January
No. 292

Pro: of Gov.t in the
Revenue Dep.tt

D.f 19 } 2 Jan.y 66
Rec.d 23 }

No. 163

Nov. 25 January 1866.

Intimating that
there are no funds avail-
-able at present for the
construction of the build-
-ings required for the
Head Quarters Station
of the Officer to whom it is in contemplation to place in charge of the
~~Cork Coast~~ Penitentiary
~~Division~~ Districts in
the South West D.t

with orders

No. 626. 627