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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2321	Press ~~Mis.~~
26-2-7	
Dated 1 8	1869 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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**Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st August 1867.**

No. 26. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Revenue Department :—

Requesting the issue of orders in the Public
Works Department for the immediate execu-
tion of certain improvements to the Uppinan-
gadi and Udipi Talook Cutcherries in the
South Canara District, and desiring to be
furnished with the Superintending Engineer's
opinion on the question of bridging the Co-
mardari river.

(Here enter 26th July 1867, No. 1,708.)

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1867, No. 2,321.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 6.

1. Communicated to the Superin-
tending Engineer of the 7th Division,
who will instruct the Range Officer con-
cerned to give his immediate attention to the orders in paragraph 1.

2. Colonel Walker will report in due course on the subject of paragraph 3.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with Plan.
“ Revenue Department.
“ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th July 1867.*

No. 528. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th June 1867, No. 3,790.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 18th May 1867, No. 87 :—

1. With reference to the requisition contained in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings of the 22nd September 1866, No. 6,815, I have the honour to inform you that during my recent Jummahbundy tour in the district, I examined the Talook Cutcherry buildings at Uppinangadi and Udipi, which were built in 1862 on a standard plan then approved of, but which has, I believe, been since considerably altered.

2. The Cutcherry at Uppinangadi is situated on the western bank of the Kumardari river. It is very difficult of access, for the town is on the other side of the river which is unbridged, always very deep, and, in the rainy season, often impassable for days; the Cutcherry people all live in the town, and there is much complaint of the difficulty they experience in getting to and from Office.

3. The Cutcherry itself is remarkable for its stifling heat. There is no means of getting a current of air through it, and the Tahsildar told me that those who have to work for any length of time inside the building suffer very much from the close atmosphere; but if it is bad for them, it must be infinitely worse for the unfortunate individuals who are, from time to time, either sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or detained in custody, while cases in which they are concerned are being inquired into by the Talook Magistrate.

4. You will observe, on referring to the appended plan, that the room set aside for the confinement of male prisoners is only 15 feet by 12 and 11 feet high; it has one door and one window. The door is of solid plank without any opening for ventilation. The window is $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$; there are also underneath the reapers of the roof a few extremely small apertures through which a little air can pass inside, but the eaves outside come down so low, and project so far, that there can be no draft of air.

5. At the time I saw it there were no prisoners in the room, but the heat was insufferable, and I cannot conceive people being locked up there for any length of time without terrible suffering. The Talook Magistrate told me that he had known as many as nine adults confined in that room at night.

6. If the window opened so that a current of air could blow into the cell, there might not possibly be quite such serious objection to it as a place of confinement, but this is not so; the window looks out into a dark verandah with pillars immediately in front, and in order to moderate a little the glare and heat in the middle of the day, the Court yard has been covered in with plaited cocoanut leaves, which, however, there can be doubt make the air more close for those inside. The cell for female prisoners, 12 feet by 9, is fortunately very seldom occupied.

7. It seems an extraordinary omission not to have made the doors of these cells of iron bars, instead of planks, when the whole of the inner side of the treasury on the opposite side of the Cutcherry is so constructed.

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26th July 1867.*

8. Then, again, the proximity of these rooms to the place where the Tahsildar holds his Office is a very grave objection; prisoners confined there can both see and hear all that goes on in the Talook Magistrate's Office.

9. The so-called towers can be of no use whatever as places of defence. They are thatched, and therefore easily destroyed, and the only means of getting up into the one over the entrance gateway is by a ladder *outside* the building.

10. There are openings in the walls intended for loopholes, but of such width as to be only a source of danger to those who might at any time be obliged to make use of them. I observed that the best room in the Cutcherry is set aside as a Police-room and place of arms.

11. The same remarks apply, with equal force, to the Cutcherry at Udipi, as regards the accommodation for prisoners, the propinquity of the cells to the Tahsildar's seat in Cutcherry, &c.

12. The well in the Cutcherry building at Udipi is quite dry for at least three months in the year; but the building is very well situated on high ground, a short distance only from the town, and immediately adjoining the District Munsiff's Court and Travellers' Bungalow.

13. As Government have recently appointed a Commission to consider the whole question of the Talook and Subsidiary Jails, and report on the improvements that may be found necessary, I abstain from offering here any suggestions on that head.

ENCLOSURE No. 1 — Map.

1. Submitted to Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 6th June 1867, No. 3,470.

2. The buildings, judging from the plan, cannot but be oppressively close, and their construction could scarcely have been professionally supervised, or such mistakes as the towers alone present would not have occurred.

3. The whole buildings should eventually be appropriated for revenue purposes, for which they are by no means too large, and meanwhile such improvements in the way of increased ventilation as are practicable should be carried out. So far as the Jail rooms are concerned, the Magistrate has means provided in Government Order, dated 18th April 1867, No. 613, Judicial Department.

4. Mr. Whiteside will report what would be the cost of a bridge over the Kumardari.

No. 529.

ORDER THEREON, 26th July 1867, No. 1,708.

Miscellaneous.

1. Orders will be issued in the Department Public Works for the immediate provision of effective ventilators in the outer wall, and the substitution of grated Cutcheries for panelled doors to the lock-up wards in the Uppinangadi and Udipi Talook Cutcheries.

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2. The removal of the short time prisoners to some separate place of confinement will be considered in the Judicial Department with the Commissioner's report on these Cutcheries, when received.

3. The opinion of the Superintending Engineer should be taken on the question of bridging the Comardari river.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Department Public Works.
„ the Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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ex 2321 - 1st Aug 1867

Requesting the
issue of orders in the
Pr: of L. for the im-
mediate execution of
certain improvements
to the Lippinangudi and
Indipi Taluq, Cutcherry
in the South Canara.

It and desiring to be
furnished with the Subj.
Eng's opinion on the question
bridging the Komardari river.
With an order.

No. 26-27