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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 251 Press Mis.-

511-12

Dated 25-1-1867.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th January 1867.*

No. 511. Read the following [illegible] the Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Chief Secret[illegible] Govc[illegible]ort Saint George, dated Stripurusha-mangalar[illegible]h January 1867, No. 2 :—

Dated 27th Nov[illegible]ber 1866, [illegible]3,767, Public Works Department.

1. I have the honor, with reference to the Proceedings noted in the margin, to report that, for months past, I have been endeavouring to bring building operations and the conservancy of the Chuttrum at the Ranegunta (Tirpatti Railway Station) under closer control. Several reports, with sketches of the ground, had already, on my requisition, been submitted by the Deputy Collector in charge of the Division and the Range Officer, but as I had an early visit to the spot in contemplation, I deferred taking any definite action on these papers until I could satisfy myself, from personal inspection, what was the best mode of laying out the ground, and dealing with the evils complained of, in and around the Choultry.

2. This I was able to do in the early part of December last, when the building blocks and streets were all staked off, and are now being laid down in a plan of the ground, which I hope shortly to submit, with my proposition, for the considera- and orders of Government.

3. I may now state generally, that I propose to deal with the building lots for the new Petta at Ranegunta, on the same principles which are to regulate similar arrangements at the Arconum Junction Station.

4. In order the better to control operations at Ranegunta, I have resumed, with the consent of the parties, certain parcels of ground which had been given on Puttah by the local officers, but which are now required for the purpose of giving compactness and regularity to the new Petta, as now being laid down in the plan.

5. To carry out the programme in detail, several huts and other obstructions must be removed, and for these compensation will have to be paid to the owners. The amount thus payable as compensation (which will be trifling) I would propose, in the first instance, to advance from Local Funds, to be re-placed hereafter from the proceeds realized by the sale of the ground under the Freehold rules.

6. As the arrangements which have been adopted for Arconum may very properly be made applicable to Ranegunta, it will not be out of place, if I respectfully ask Government to re-consider their decision with respect to the rate (Rupees 5 per acre) fixed on the building lots at the former place. I would earnestly recommend, that both at Arconum and Ranegunta, an uniform rate of Rupees 2 per acre should be adopted. The high rate at Arconum has already seriously impeded private speculation, and no one would come forward to compete, when an attempt was made, after the fullest previous publicity, to dispose of the plateau at that place lying north of the Railway Station on the present terms. At neither place is the land intrinsically worth more than from Rupee 1 to 1½ per acre, and at the rate I propose (Rupees 2 per acre) Government would get its full dues, and the rapid development of both these new settlements be infinitely facilitated. If Government is pleased to accede to this recommendation, I would propose that all settlers who have already built, or otherwise appropriated any building lots at either place,

should be required to pay for such a proportionate average of the prices obtained for unoccupied land over and above the upset price, which would (if my rate be accepted) be Rupees 2 per acre.

7. I respectfully solicit the early orders of Government in regard to the reduction of the rate at Arconum, as, on the present terms, building operations have come to a stand still. If it be objected, that land at Arconum is prospectively more valuable with reference to its central position to three lines of Railway than at Ranegunta, I would answer, that the cost of all building materials there will be infinitely greater than at the latter named place, which adjoins some of our best forest tracts. Arconum, on the other hand, lies in the middle of a vast plain, where there is no timber of any kind, except palmyra, and that small in size, and not very plentiful.

8. As regards the Choultry at Ranegunta, the difficulties which present themselves are considerable. The owner has expended from first to last some Rs. 6,000 in its erection, and neither is the building itself nor the premises in any respect complete. Neither Appacooty Pillay, the owner, nor any of his representatives attended on the occasion of my visit, and from all I could learn they are not a little disheartened at the trouble and expense into which their charitable efforts thus far have brought them.

9. They say, as is perhaps true enough, that the accommodation provided is far superior to what is to be found in the vast majority of chuttrums with endowments of Government land, and that any more airy plan of building would be utterly distasteful to the native travellers who frequent such places. The ordinary plan of native chuttrum may not fulfil the European standard of ventilation, but if the construction of such places of accommodation at Railway Stations is to be left at all to private charity, any interference of Government in this direction would probably be fatal to the undertaking. In saying this, I would not be understood to defend the present state of the new chuttrum and premises at Ranegunta. The sanitary arrangements are most defective, and the building itself has not yet been finished off even on its own plan. In the absence of any of the representatives, (who are said to be either unable or unwilling to spend more money on the building,) it is very difficult to come to any understanding on the subject of these improvements, but, in the meantime, the Range Officer is preparing a specification of further requirements. This, when ready, will be forwarded to the proprietor, with a request that he will at once declare what he can and will do towards providing for them. The result of these overtures will then be communicated to Government.

10. As the place has for some months past been declared to be within the operation of the Police Act, and a part of the Constabulary located at Kirkambadi has been recently transferred to it, a fair degree of cleanliness and comfort should, meanwhile, if the Police do their duty, be easily maintainable.

No. 512. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1867, No. 251.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 101.

1. Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this letter will be referred to the Revenue Department for consideration, with reference to the Orders in that Department No. 1,092, dated 8th May 1866.



2. The Government will await the receipt of a further report from the Collector on the subject of the Chuttrum at Tirupetty.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue Department.
,, Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 251

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No 251

W.H.

Fort St. George
25 January 1867

To Rev Dept
" CE for Rep
" Coll of S. Arcot

Desp 28 January 1867.