

(1) Number of pages 20
(2) Date of repair 15-4-62
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	9.	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	4. 1	1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th January 1871.*

No. 18. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1870, No. 4,933 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th May 1870, No. 1,279.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 25th March last, No. 1,957, to submit copy of a communication from the Officiating Sub-Collector, dated 28th April, No. 210.

2. I trust that the Board will not consider that in so doing I am needlessly taking up their time. It appears to me, as to Mr. Hughesdon, that the circumstances of the Sub-Collectorate are so altered since the late Acting Third Member of the Board held charge of the Sub-division of this district that the actual position of affairs at the time referred to in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings needs to be put on record.

3. A long correspondence took place in 1855 and 1856 on the propriety of Ramapatam being the head-quarters of the Sub-Collector. The Government had expressed an opinion that Ongole should certainly be the principal residence of the Sub-Collector, the hot weather being spent at Ramapatam. The then Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 12th October 1855, No. 748, Judicial Department. To Collector, dated 16th October 1855. Sub-Collector, Mr. Minchin, pointed out that "from April to July the heat at Ongole is more severe than in most stations in this part of India. At Ramapatam there is the advantage at times of a sea-breeze which renders existence bearable even during those months, the heat of which in this division is not known by those who live only at Madras, and is unquestionably most trying to the health of any European for repeated seasons."

4. In their letter of 18th October 1855, No. 2,736, the Board asked "whether the public Cutcherry at Ongole is in a state suitable for the accommodation of the Sub-Collector's establishment."

5. From Mr. Minchin's reply, dated 5th November 1855, it appeared that Communicated to Board with Collector's letter, dated 10th November 1855, No. 205, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 8th December 1855, No. 3,258. "the Cutcherry bungalow at Ongole is chiefly occupied by the records of the division, which, indeed, fill the building, with the exception of the front hall and two side-rooms, which are about the size of large bath-rooms. The front rooms have hitherto been used as the residence of the Sub-Collectors on their temporary visits to Ongole, and I have myself occupied them on such occasions according to the custom which I found in existence. There is no accommodation for the Cutcherry-people beyond the back verandah of the building, which would be highly inconvenient for them for more than the limited period to which their visits there have heretofore been confined. Even if the front hall be used only as the Sub-Collector's own Cutcherry, and not in any way as a residence, the same inconvenience would be felt, and further accommodation would be imperatively called for."

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th January 1871.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 5th February 1856, No. 118, Revenue Department, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 15th February 1856, No. 444.

6. It was eventually decided that Ongole should be the Sub-Collector's head-quarters from 1st November to 30th April, and Ramapatam from 1st May to 31st October.

7. The six months, from November to April, of course included the greater portion of the settlement, so that only a part could by any possibility be spent actually at Ongole. If it is assumed that three months were so spent, it would probably be a liberal* estimate, and to these three months in the cool part of the year the constant occupation of the building in question as a Cutcherry must refer. Its occasional use as a dwelling house has already been noticed.

* The extract from Mr. St. Clair's letter quoted by Mr. Hughesdon shows that this is too liberal an estimate.

8. I submit that paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings under reply does not show that I was wrong in describing this Cutcherry "as such that it is impracticable to hold office therein," (paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings). On the contrary, I think that it is clear, on Mr. Minchin's own showing, that under the altered circumstances of the division "further accommodation" is "imperatively called for."

9. I will only add that Mr. Dykes, whose long administration of this district gave in the opinion of the Board great weight to his views in the matter of the location of the divisional officers, never seems to have imagined that the existing building at Ongole would be sufficient or suitable for the Sub-Collector's office, for he expressly recommended that a Court should be built for that officer's accommodation.

Board's Proceedings, dated 15th April 1869, No. 2,551, paragraph 4.

Dated 20th January 1869, No. 129, paragraph 13.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Officiating Sub-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Nellore, dated Addanki, 28th April 1870, No. 210.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following remarks with reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 1,957, dated 25th ultimo.

2. My request was either that Government should provide a temporary Cutcherry for the Nellore Sub-Collectorate at the public expense, or that the Sub-Collector might be permitted to build the Cutcherry and draw the monthly allowance usual on such occasions.

3. The Board do not think it expedient to adopt either course, but have recommended that Government repair a building which has on former occasions been used as a Cutcherry. They admit, however, that a new Cutcherry is "very much required."

4. Your statement and my own, that the existing building is not fit for even temporary use, the Board by implication traverse by remarking that Mr. Minchin, when Sub-Collector, held office there "constantly." By "constantly," however, is probably meant "occasionally," for Mr. Minchin's head-quarters were at Ramapatam. Here I beg to be permitted respectfully to point out that even in Mr. Minchin's time the propriety of the Sub-Collector's permanent residence being fixed at Ongole was a subject of discussion. If the traditions of the district may be trusted (I have never seen any papers bearing on the point, but it used to be a favourite topic of

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th January 1871.

conversation among district officers, whenever Messrs. Dykes's and Minchin's names happened to be mentioned together), Mr. Dykes was as emphatically in favour of Ongole as Mr. Minchin was of Ramapatam. A compromise, however, was effected by an order that the Sub-Collector might reside at Ramapatam for six months in the year. In 1865, Mr. St. Clair, then Sub-Collector, in reply to Mr. Dykes's observation, that a sufficient portion of the year was not spent by him in Ongole and the northern taluqs, remarked, "During the years 1858 to 1863, at least two months of the period fixed for the residence in the northern taluqs have been annually spent either at Ramapatam or Nellore, and the Jamabandi of the southern taluqs has still further reduced this period. I wish to draw your attention to the invidiousness of reviving in my case an order which has for long become obsolete and forgotten, and which has not been enforced with regard to my predecessors," (Sub-Collector to Collector, No. 103, dated 23rd November 1865). Thus the Sub-Collectors in those days had and made abundant use of a pleasant retreat which is no longer available. The Sub-Collector's residence at Ongole and his occupation of the Cutcherry there were occasional; very much at his own convenience, and only during the cool months. I held the office of Sub-Collector for some eighteen or twenty months on these terms; during that time (both on public and private grounds, as stated in my previous letter) I steadily refrained from using the Cutcherry at Ongole; I suited my own, and, as I believe, the public convenience also by holding office in tents. I made no complaint, and did not think that I was suffering any great hardship, because the existence of what I considered to be an unsuitable building prevented me from drawing tentage allowance. Thus far I was only in the same position as Mr. Minchin and the rest of my predecessors.

5. But the case is very different now. It is not convenient to keep tents pitched at Ongole now that the greater part of my time is spent there, and I am able to say, without fear of serious contradiction, that during the hot months, at all events, it is perfectly impossible to hold office in the Cutcherry, and I am assured that, as regards the hot weather at least, my request to be provided with something more suitable was perfectly reasonable. I respectfully submit that the Sub-Collector ought not to be put to the expense and inconvenience of providing office-room for even a portion of the year, for in consequence of the impossibility of procuring a suitable private residence at Ongole such expense and inconvenience have a real existence.

6. As the Department of Public Works will have to prepare an independent report on the state of the building, it is scarcely necessary for me to speak further on that matter. I desire, however, to state that its appearance is mean and desolate in the extreme; that the white-ants are in possession of a portion of it; that in the walls and roofs are numerous and extensive cracks, though whether these are radical and effect the safety of the structure I am, of course, unable to judge. With regard to the insufficiency of the accommodation, I beg to state that the records and furniture brought up from Ramapatam, with what the bungalow formerly contained, completely fill the building; greater economy of space will indeed presently be possible, as I am destroying large quantities of old records; but the room thus rendered available will be absurdly insufficient for the Sub-Collector's establishment. At present the office-business is carried on partly in my own house and partly in the Tahsildar's Cutcherry.

7. If I ask you to submit this letter to the Board (as I hope I may be permitted to do without being considered wanting in feelings of deference to the Board), it is because the Board have not had clearly before them the altered circumstances of the Sub-Collectorate, and have apparently not allowed any weight to the consideration that Ramapatam is no longer available as a residence for the Sub-Collector during the hot months. The question, therefore, regards not the temporary use of the building for a short time during the cool weather, but its permanent occupation in all seasons of the year. In stating the case for myself and my successors, I regret that I have had to make mention of the names of officers no longer concerned in the matter. This, however, reference having been made to the practice of a former Sub-Collector, was obviously unavoidable, and I am convinced that if Mr. Minchin had had a more distinct recollection of events that happened eight or ten years ago, he would not have permitted it to be stated without qualification that the building to which I have raised objections had been used by himself "constantly."

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th January 1871.*

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In their Proceedings,* dated 25th March 1870, No. 1,957, the Board remarked that a new Cutcherry was much required for the Sub-Collector at Ongole, and recommended that, pending the ability of Government to provide funds for the construction of one, measures should be adopted for the repair of the existing building.

3. On taking into consideration the further testimony of the Collector and Sub-Collector as to the utter unfitness of the present building, the Board resolve to recommend that, simultaneously with the preparation of the estimate for repairs, another be prepared for the construction of a new Cutcherry, and that funds be provided for the purpose, even at the risk of postponing some other Civil building less urgently required.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 4th January 1871, No. 9.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government desire to be furnished at once with a plan and estimate for a Sub-Collector's Cutcherry at Ongole, and a sketch map of the proposed site. The Collector will request the Superintending Engineer to have these prepared as speedily as possible, and with disposal of Government for the work. The Collector will be likely to be at

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated January 7th,

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 4th January 1871, No. 9.

JANUARY.
Nos. 18-19.

Sub-Collector's Cutcherry at Ongole :
Nellore District.—Plan and estimate for
construction, ordered to be furnished at once.

Vide No. 3910 from
Mr. B. P. P. P. P.

6.

4 January 1871

75

18. Read the following

No. 4,933.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th July 1870.

Read the following letter from C. G. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th May 1870, No. 1,279:—

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 25th March last, No. 1,957, to submit copy of a communication from the Officiating Sub-Collector, dated 28th April, No. 210.

2. I trust that the Board will not consider that in so doing I am needlessly taking up their time. It appears to me, as to Mr. Hughesdon, that the circumstances of the Sub-Collectorate are so altered since the late Acting Third Member of the Board held charge of the Sub-division of this district that the actual position of affairs at the time referred to in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings needs to be put on record.

3. A long correspondence took place in 1855 and 1856 on the propriety of Ramapatam being the head quarters of the Sub-Collector. The Government had expressed an opinion that Ongole should certainly be the principal residence of the Sub-Collector, the hot weather being spent at Ramapatam. The then Sub-Collector, Mr. Minchin, was very averse to any change in existing arrangements, pointing out that "from

Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 12th October 1855, No. 748, Judicial Department.

"As it is, July the heat at Ongole is more severe than in most stations in this part of India. At Ramapatam there is the advantage at times of a sea breeze which renders existence bearable even during those months, the heat of which in this division is not known by those who live only at Madras, and is unquestionably most trying to the health of any European for repeated seasons."

4. In their letter of 18th October 1855, No. 2,736, the Board asked "whether the public Cutcherry at Ongole is in a state suitable for the accommodation of the Sub-Collector's establishment."

5. From Mr. Minchin's reply, dated 5th November 1855, it appeared that "the Cutcherry bungalow at Ongole is chiefly occupied by the records of the division, which indeed fill the building, with the exception of the front hall and two side-rooms, which are

Communicated to Board with Collector's letter, dated 10th November 1855, No. 205, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 8th December 1855, No. 3,258.

"about the size of large bath-rooms. The front rooms have hitherto been used as the residence of the Sub-Collectors on their temporary visits to Ongole, and I have myself occupied them on such occasions according to the custom which I found in existence. There is no accommodation for the Cutcherry people beyond the back verandah of the building, which would be highly inconvenient for them for more than the limited period to which their visits there have heretofore been confined. Even if the front hall be used only as the Sub-Collector's own Cutcherry, and not in any way as a residence, the same inconvenience would be felt, and further accommodation would be imperatively called for."

6. It was eventually decided that Ongole should be the Sub-Collector's head quarters from 1st November to 30th April, and Ramapatam from 1st May to 31st October.

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7. The six months, from November to April, of course included the greater portion of the settlement, so that only a part could by any possibility be spent actually at Ongole. If it is assumed that three months were so spent it would probably be a liberal* estimate, and to these three months in the cool part of the year as a Cutcherry must refer. Its occasional use the constant occupation of the building in question as a dwelling house has already been noticed.

* The extract from Mr. St. Clair's letter quoted by Mr. Hughesdon, shows that this is too liberal an estimate.

8. I submit that paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings under reply does not show that I was wrong in describing this Cutcherry "as such that it is impracticable to hold office therein," (paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings). On the contrary I think that it is clear, on Mr. Minchin's own showing, that under the altered circumstances of the division "further accommodation" is "imperatively called for."

9. I will only add that Mr. Dykes, whose long administration of this district gave, in the opinion of the Board, great weight to his views in the matter of the location of the Divisional Officers, never seems to have imagined that the existing building at Ongole would be sufficient or suitable for the Sub-Collector's office, for he expressly recommended that a Court should be built for that officer's accommodation.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. C. HUGHESDON, Esq., Officiating Sub-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Nellore, dated Addanki, 28th April 1870, No. 210.

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3. The Board do not think it expedient to adopt either course, but have recommended that Government repair a building which has on former occasions been used as a Cutcherry. They admit, however, that a new Cutcherry is "very much required."

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months. I held the office of Sub-Collector for some eighteen or twenty months on these terms; during that time (both on public and private grounds, as stated in my previous letter) I steadily refrained from using the Cutcherry at Ongole; I suited my own, and, as I believe, the public convenience also by holding office in tents. I made no complaint and did not think that I was suffering any great hardship because the existence of what I considered to be an unsuitable building prevented me from drawing tentage allowance. Thus far I was only in the same position as Mr. Minchin and the rest of my predecessors.

5. But the case is very different now. It is not convenient to keep tents pitched at Ongole now that the greater part of my time is spent there, and I am able to say without fear of serious contradiction that during the hot months, at all events, it is perfectly impossible to hold office in the Cutcherry, and I am convinced that, as regards the hot weather at least, my request to be provided with something more suitable was perfectly reasonable. I respectfully submit that the Sub-Collector ought not to be put to the expense and inconvenience of providing office room for even a portion of the year, for in consequence of the impossibility of procuring a suitable private residence at Ongole such expense and inconvenience have a real existence.

6. As the Department of Public Works will have to prepare an independent report on the state of the building it is scarcely necessary for me to speak further on that matter. I desire, however, to state that its appearance is mean and desolate in the extreme; that the white-ants are in possession of a portion of it; that in the walls and roofs are numerous and extensive cracks, though whether these are radical and affect the safety of the structure I am, of course, unable to judge. With regard to the insufficiency of the accommodation, I beg to state that the records and furniture brought up from Ramapatam, with what the bungalow formerly contained, completely fill the building; greater economy of space will indeed presently be possible, as I am destroying large quantities of old records, but the room thus rendered available will be absurdly insufficient for the Sub-Collector's establishment. At present the office business is carried on partly in my own house and partly in the Tahsildar's Cutcherry.

7. If I ask you to submit this letter to the Board (as I hope I may be permitted to do) I am not, as it were, wanting in feelings of deference to the Board) it is because the Board have not had clearly before them the apparently not allowed any weight to the consideration that Ramapatam is no longer available as a residence for the Sub-Collector during the hot months. The question, therefore, regards not the temporary use of the building for a short time during the cool weather, but its permanent occupation in all seasons of the year. In stating the case for myself and my successors I regret that I have had to make mention of the names of officers no longer concerned in the matter. This however, reference having been made to the practice of a former Sub-Collector, was obviously unavoidable, and I am convinced that if Mr. Minchin had had a more distinct recollection of events that happened eight or ten years ago he would not have permitted it to be stated without qualification that the building to which I have raised objections had been used by himself "constantly."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Officiating Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In their Proceedings, * dated 25th March 1870, No. 1,957, the Board remarked that a new Cutcherry was much required for the Sub-Collector at Ongole, and recommended that, pending the ability of Government to provide funds for the construction of one, measures should be adopted for the repair of the existing building.

* Government Order, 20th April, No. 543.

3. On taking into consideration the further testimony of the Collector and Sub-Collector as to the utter unfitness of the present building the Board resolve to recommend that, simultaneously with the preparation of the estimate for repairs, another be prepared for the construction

Revenue Department.

Memo: for Orders on No 2262

In the G. O. under date
8th June 1869, No 1614 the Govt
decided that the headquarters
of the Sub-Collector of Nellore
should be fixed at Ongole
from the 1st of April last.

2. Mr. Hughesdon, the
Ag. Sub-Collector accordingly
took up his residence at
that place, but brought
to notice that the building
which had been occasionally
used as an office was
quite unsuited to this
purpose

I would call for
a plan for
a new ~~cut~~ chery
in the shape of
a table. No patching
up in the middle
the present place
is suitable.

J. D.
B/A

of a new Cutcherry, and that funds be provided for the purpose, even at the risk of postponing
some other Civil building less urgently required.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. G. M.
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Officiating Collector of Nellore.
.. to the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

No. 20 of June 1870. No 229-30
18 June 1869. 179-50

Dec. 1870. 25th

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS. 22/12/70

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH JULY 1870, No. 4,933.

Decd 26th 1870 Encl.

Received

JULY.

No. 4,933.

Sub-Collector's Cutcherry—at Ongole in Nellore
District.—Recommendation to Government that,
simultaneously with preparation of an estimate
for repair of, another be framed for construction
of a new building, and that funds be provided
for this purpose, even at risk of postponing
some other Civil building less urgently required.

10
18
26/6/70 R. D. M.

¹²
purpose from its construction
and position, and was also
in wretched repair.

3. Mr. Master, then Asst.
Comm. of Nelson, who had
himself visited Croyde Cor-
poration Mr. Hughson's
account of the office and
supported his alternative
proposal that a temporary
office should be constructed
pending the erection of a
new building, or that he
should himself provide
his office accommoda-
tion being permitted to
draw extra rentage

4. The Board, however,
observed that Mr. Minchin,
¹³
then Acting third member,
had constantly occupied
the condemned building
first as a residence and
then as an office, and
recommended that such
temporary repairs should
be made ^{but} as were needed
pending the erection of a
new office. The Govt.
accordingly ordered the
temporary repairs to be
undertaken.

5. It now appears
that Mr. Minchin's occupancy
of

of the building must
14
have been very occasional,
and in deference to the
opinions of the late Coll.
and Aq. Sub-Coll. it is
submitted that instead
of the Board's reiterated
proposal of placing the
building in temporary re-
pair, a sum of Rs. 1,000
may be placed at the Aq. Sub-
Coll's disposal for the purpose
of erecting a temporary office in
the vicinity of his residence if
such a situation would also
be convenient for his office
subordinates.

M

End

Memo
Sub Collr's Cutcherry
at Ongole in Bellary
District

2262

20. 10. 9. 4. Jan. 1871

Dec

No. 9

Rev. Depart
17

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 11. January
1870

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Recommending that sumuttane-
=ously with preparation of an esti-
mate for repair of Sub Collector's
Cutcherry at Ongole in Bellary Dis-
trict, the Government be requested
for this purpose to give a view of providing
some other Civil building less unsuitably
required.

Received 19. July 1870
No. 4933.

The Government
desire the furnished at
once with a plan & estimate
for a Sub Collector's
Cutcherry at Ongole
and a Sketch Map of
the proposed site. The
Collector will request the
Superintending Engineer
to have them prepared as
speedily as possible. and
with

with a careful regard
to economy of cost, as
only limited means
are likely to be at the
disposal of government
for the work.

V.B.

List - By Order

In S. App. to R. of R. Dec. 14. Dec. 19.

32



La Grange
or Grange in
District

2

McGowan

List

1/20

