

MASULIPATAM, 21st February 1886.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

MADRAS.

MOST RESPECTED SIR,

We, the undersigned inhabitants of the town of Masulipatam most respectfully beg leave to represent that we hear with no less regret than surprise that Mr. Weld our present Acting Collector has recommended the transfer of the Head Quarters of the Collector from here to Bezwada. We cannot understand how the Acting Collector knowing the present financial circumstances of the country and knowing also His Excellency the Right Honorable Mounstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff's able minute on the Sixth Tour of Inspection, from which an extract is appended to this Memorial, has thought it fit to make this proposal to the Government.

2. The Government is well aware that for centuries this place had been famous as an emporium of trade, and its printed cotton goods and calicoes have had a world-wide celebrity. In the 17th century, besides the English, the French, and the Dutch, had their settlements in this important town. There are *petahs* and suburbs here that still bear the names of these foreign powers. And until recently it was also an important British Military Station. As might be expected its importance attracted large numbers of people of different callings and avocations, such as traders, merchants, money-lenders, artisans, &c. from various parts of India, and they are all now permanently settled here. If the Head Quarters of the District should once be removed to Bezwada, it will be nothing short of ruin to hundreds, if not to thousands, of families settled here; and its commerce, now so extensive, will dwindle into insignificance.

3. It is the largest town in the Northern Circars and has a great antiquity. The objection that this town is not in the centre of the District applies equally to the Head Quarters of several other Districts such as Coconada, Vizagapatam and Cuddalore and to the Presidency town itself. Yet it was never thought that this circumstance alone afforded a sufficient reason for recommending the removal of the Head Quarters of the Collectors from the former and the seat of the Local Government from the latter. Another argument urged in favor of the proposed change is, we understand, that Bezwada will soon be connected with Hyderabad by Railway and thus it will rise into importance. This argument ignores that Masulipatam is already an important sea port at which steamers and merchant vessels regularly call; and that the value of its imports and exports is incomparably greater than that of the whole trade of Bezwada which is situated about 50 miles from the sea which is the principal high road of commerce in this part of the country. This circumstance alone, we venture to think, is quite enough to recommend the continuance of the Head Quarters of the Collector here, and furnishes a strong objection to its removal to Bezwada. It will not be out of place here for us to add that we have also memorialized the Local Fund Board, Kistna, to open with the sanction of Government, a short Railway between Masulipatam and Bezwada which, when done, will add to the importance of this ancient town and become also a permanent source of income to the Board.

4. Besides, Masulipatam is the residence of several noble and ancient families, such as the family of the Nabob and Kandregula Rajah's family who are recipients of large monthly pensions from Government.

5. As regards education, it is immensely better than Bezwada. There is here the renowned Noble College of the Church Mission Society, besides several other efficiently conducted schools of a lower status.

6. A spacious magnificent building has just been erected for the Collector's Office here at a considerable outlay. The District Court House—a palatial building—was sometime ago purchased from the Nabob and large sums of money were expended for repairs and necessary alterations. The Collector's private residence is also a Government building acquired at the cost of Rs. 25,000.

7. In the European Quarters there are many other beautiful Bangalows available at a moderate rent for the District Judge and other European Officers.

8. Now to forego these advantages, what has Bezwada to recommend? In respect of its climate, it is one of the worst places in the District; in Summer it is so intensely hot that the very children of the soil, inured as they are to its climate, would fain leave it for cooler places in the District. It is a petty town, its inhabitants numbering less than ten thousand. It is so circumscribed that it seems overcrowded with this small population. There are few good houses in the town; and though standing on the banks of the Kistna, it is ill-supplied with water; and this evil cannot be remedied without a water supply project at a tremendous outlay. The Head Assistant Collector's Office there is a small building; it will not do at all to accommodate the Collector's Establishment. In fact considering the present position of Bezwada, the removal of the Head Quarters to that station cannot be accomplished without a cost of at least 4 lacs of Rupees to Government, a needless expenditure which on no account could be justified.

9. In conclusion, we beg to request that you would be graciously pleased to recommend to the Government not to sanction the proposed change of Head Quarters and to remove our apprehensions by granting us their kind assurance of its continuance here.

Extract from the Minute of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor of the Madras Presidency :—

PART II.

(6th Tour of Inspection).

“ 221. Thirdly, they asked that the head quarters of the Collector and the Judge of the Kistna should be transferred from Masulipatam to Guntur.

“ 222. That would be profoundly disagreeable to Masulipatam and would not be justified by the present circumstances of the district.

“ 247. They then asked for a Bench of Honorary Magistrates, and wished, like the inhabitants of Guntur, that District Court should be transferred from Masulipatam to their town (Bezwada).

“ 248. Their wish for increased Judicial strength may perhaps be met ere long, in a somewhat different, but more effective way. The second wish was not reasonable.”

Awaiting your orders,

We beg to remain,

Most respected Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servants.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from M. R. WELD, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna district, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 14th January 1886, No. 187 :—

I have the honor to forward copies of letter, No. 1685-Ks., dated the 26th November 1885, from the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, and its enclosure for the information of Government.

2. The rent of the Collector's house at Masulipatam is fixed at Rs. 150 a month by G.O., dated the 29th October 1884, No. 2662 W., Public Works, embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 20th November 1884, Mis. No. 10866.

3. I beg to suggest that this is much too high for such a house, and that the rent should be reduced to Rs. 100. Undoubtedly too much was paid for the house, and I do not think that it is equitable to throw the burden of that mistake on the Collector for the time being.

4. I agree with the Superintending Engineer that the Collector of this district should live at Bezwada with the Head Assistant at Bandar; the present Collector's cutcherry at Bandar would do for the Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate's office, the Taluk cutcherry, the Post office and the Registrar's office.

5. The Collector's house, however, should be repaired for the present; the place where the white-ants threaten immediate destruction has no part of the upper story over it, so that the repairs would not be so difficult as Mr. Grant states in paragraph 10 of his letter.

READ—the following letter from M. R. WELD, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna district, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 8th February 1886, No. 429 :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 187, dated the 14th ultimo, I have the honor to subjoin a copy of Mr. Grant's (Executive Engineer, Eastern Delta Division) inspection notes for December, received with the Superintending Engineer's letter, No. 1868-Ks., of the 14th January 1886, and my reply thereto.

Inspection Notes.

“ 6th December—Inspected Collector's house. The roof is everywhere in bad order, and it is difficult to do anything to keep it quite safe without absolutely blocking up the verandahs, &c., with peeps and scaffoldings; the beams too are plastered over, so that their condition is not readily seen. Early orders regarding this house are necessary, as we must either reconstruct or abandon it, and I do not feel that it is quite to be depended on, particularly during rain.”

Reply.

“ With reference to your letter, No. 1868-Ks. of the 14th instant, I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to Board, and to state that I think that temporary repairs might be undertaken by pulling out rotten rafters and replacing them by casuarina rafters which should be propped with forked posts and the ends made fast by packings of tar and sand. When the composition hardens, the forked props can be removed. But till I know what orders Government pass, I cannot say whether the house should be abandoned or reconstructed.”

READ—the following petition from S. SURIYANARAYANA ROW and others, inhabitants of Masulipatam, Kistna district, dated 21st February 1886 :—

ABSTRACT.—Protesting against the Collector's proposal to transfer his head-quarters from Masulipatam to Bezwada; praying that the Board will request Government not to sanction the proposed change of head-quarters.

2
2699/86
Row

1276/18580

RESOLUTION—dated 25th March 1886, No. 728.

Submitted to Government.

2. In the first letter read at the head of these proceedings, the Collector advocates the reduction of the rent payable by him for the Government building which he occupies at Masulipatam from Rs. 150 to Rs. 100; and in connection with the question of accommodation, he suggests the transfer of the district head-quarters to Bezvada.

3. No independent arguments are advanced in support of the latter proposal by the Collector, but he is understood to accept the representations urged by the Superintending Engineer on this head. In the Board's opinion no case has been established for the projected change, and moreover the question is hardly ripe for discussion in the absence of information regarding the estimated cost of removal which, it is believed, must amount to a very considerable sum.

4. As regards the Collector's house at Masulipatam, the Board observe that its purchase for Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned in G.O., dated 8th August 1878, No. 1589, Judicial department, since which date no less than Rs. 7,420 have been laid out upon repairs.

5. This expenditure notwithstanding, the building is exposed to the ravages of white-ants, owing to the walls being set in mud instead of mortar down to the foundations, and the whole structure is evidently in a most unsatisfactory condition; in fact the District Engineer in his inspection notes expresses grave doubts as to its stability.

6. This expression of opinion is, in the Board's view, conclusive and determines them to urge upon the Government the necessity of undertaking the construction of an entirely new house for the Collector, and in the meanwhile they strongly recommend, as a special case for the approval of Government, that the rent of the existing building be reduced to Rs. 100 a month which was the amount charged up to October 1884, in consideration of the allegation contained in the Superintending Engineer's letter, printed in G.O., 27th January 1885, No. 215, "that the amount asked by the ex-Nawab for the building was sanctioned more to keep the Nawab who was in difficulties, than to acquire a property financially valuable."

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. F. MacCARTIE,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with petition and enclosures in original, to be returned.
„ Collector of the Kistna District.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1886.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Printed April 2nd.

Proceedings, 25th March 1886, No. 728.

Submitting to Government, with remarks,
papers regarding the rent of the Collector's
house at Masulipatam and removal of district
head-quarters to Bezwada.

Revenue Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ The following papers.

* Copy attached

Petition from the Inhabitants of Masulipatam,
Kistna, dated 21st February 1886, praying
that the Head quarters of the Collector be now
transferred from Masulipatam to Bezwada.

* Copy attached.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 25th March 1886, No. 728, submitted
to Government, with remarks, papers regarding
the rent of the Collector's house at Masulipatam
and removal of district head quarters to Bezwada.

Order thereon, 21st April 1886, No. 294.

1 The Government, concur with the
Board, and consider that no sufficient
reason for transferring the Collector's Head
Quarters from Masulipatam to Bezwada
has been shown.

2 The question of the rent and
repairs of the Collector's residence at
Masulipatam will be referred to the
Public

Adm. 322

Memorandum
of Prof. to Govt.

To The Public Works Department

10. 2239W. 20.9.83.
 1204W. 20.5.83.
 2240W. 11.9.83.
 2150W. 24.6.83.
 2052W. 24.10.83.
 1224W. 11.9.83.
 2032W. 21.8.83.
 2046W. 21.4.84.
 1957W. 11.8.84.
 1958W.
 2027W. 21.8.84.
 1629W. 21.10.84.
 2144W. 20.11.84.



To W^h

3244

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Board of Rev. strongly recommend that the rent of the Collector's residence at Manipaliam be reduced from Rs 150 to Rs 100 per mensem, & they also urge upon Govt. the necessity of undertaking the construction of an entirely new house for the Collector.

3 MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the _____

READ the following

N^o 728 of March 25. 1886)

" 294 of April 21. "

The present building,
was purchased from the
ex-kawale of Masulipatam
for Rs 20,000, - vide GO.
28.8.78. No 1589 Judicial,
in the same order, the rent-
was fixed at Rs 100 per
month.

In G.O. of 14.8.83, No. 2265-W, an estimate amounting to Rs 5.744 for repairs to the building was sanctioned, & in G.O. of 29.10.84, No. 2662-W, the rent was raised to Rs 150 per month -

In para 7 of his 11

Communicated to the
Suptg Engineer II Circle,
who will, without delay,
submit an estimate for the
thorough repair of the
Collector's residence at
Maenlipatam.

Until that estimate
before the Govt, it will
not be possible to consider
the proposal to reduce
the rent of the building.

Ref. 88/4.
 submitted to 1-6-86, 2-10-86

Public Works Department

True

Madras
Office.

To The Public Works Department

1284/85 20.5.85
1285/86 11.8.85
1286/87 27.10.85
1287/88 21.8.86
1288/89 21.1.87
1289/90 11.8.87
1290/91 2.10.87
1291/92 2.10.87
1292/93 2.10.87

letter of 10.1.85, recorded in G.O. No 215W of 27.1.85, the S.E. reported that on the sanction of 5.744 for repairs, the actual sum spent was Rs 4637, & that the total cost to Govt. for the building was Rs 24,637 - a rent of Rs 150 per annum would therefore be nearly 7 1/2 percent on the capital cost -

The grounds on which a reduction of rent is now asked are the same as those put forward in the course printed with P.L. of 27.1.85, No 215W, viz. that the sum of Rs 20,000 paid for the house was too much, & that the purchase was made with to help the ex. Nawab than to acquire a property financially valuable. In that G.O. the Govt. declined to reopen the question of rent.

It is for consideration whether the question shall

now be reopened, on the strong recommendation of the Board of Rev.

Rs 100 per annum would ~~do~~ not be quite 5 percent on the capital cost.

The building is again in bad order & requires extensive repairs.

The Rev. Dept. do not notice the Board's recommendation that an entirely new residence be constructed for the Collector, but merely refer to the P.W.D. the question of the rent & repairs of the present building. It must apparently be assumed therefore that the Govt. in the Rev. Dept. do not approve the proposal to construct a new building, & the action

15W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1E MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 13th May 1886

Read the following

N^o 728 of March 25. 1886)

" 274 of April 21. "

Communicated to the Deputy Engineer II Circle, who will, without delay, submit an estimate for the thorough repair of the Collector's residence at Masulipatam.

Until that estimate before the Govt., it will not be possible to consider the proposal to reduce the rent of the building.

Page 88/4

Adm. Secy.

The first thing to be done is undoubtedly to call for an estimate for the thorough repair of the building.

until that is before fort.
it is not possible to deal
with the proposal to reduce
the rent.

the rent.
With respect to W. Weld's
contention that too high a
price was paid for the house,
reference to the papers printed
with Pro: Judicial of 8-6-78
W. 15-89 will show that the
then Collector recommended the
purchase as a favourable one
for Govt.

111
5.5.16

Chas: 3244.

Aug. 88/4

2. 10. 5. 02

Ref. 88/4.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 13th May 1988

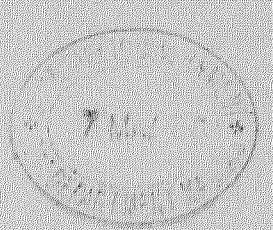
READ the following

Proceedings, Board of Rev. (A.E. No 728 of March 25. 1886)
" Revenue dept ... (" " 294 of April 21. ")

Communicated to the
Supty Engineer II Circle,
who will, without delay,
submit an estimate for the
thorough repair of the
Collector's residence at
Masulipatam.

2. Until that estimate is before the Govt, it will not be possible to consider the proposal to reduce the rent of the building.

3. With respect to
 Mr. Wolds' contention
 that too high a price
 was paid for the house,
 reference to the papers
 printed with Proceedings
 dated 8th August 1878,



B. V. 1215 W. d. 13 May 1878

N^o 1589 Judicial, will
 show that the then
 collector recommended
 the purchase as a
 favourable one for the
 Government.

W.
 5-5-86
 6/5

J. E. White ✓
 Rev. Sept ✓
 (The Secy: Rev. Sept.
 for a name of counter-
 initials)
 Auth: in Rept. Secy

9/5/86
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 10/5