

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Rev. Department
Read the following:

BOARD OF REVENUE, 17TH MAY 1886, No. 1102.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th March 1886, No. 240:—

I have the honor to draw the attention of the Board to the need for a new taluk cutcherry at Pullampet.

2. The history of the housing of the taluk office at that station is as follows. Up to 1868-69 the office was held in a hut in the bazaar. A cutcherry of stone and chunam was built and finished in 1869, and the office moved there. In October 1874 part of the ceiling fell down, and the tahsildar and clerks rushed out of the building. They had scarcely got out when the whole building collapsed like a house of cards. On the authority, as I am informed, of the Head Assistant Collector the office was then located in the public bungalow, where it now is.

3. That building is wholly unsuited for the purpose. It contains the usual two small rooms, with dressing-rooms and bath-rooms adjoining. Part of one room is railed off for the treasury, and the rest just accommodates the cash gumastah and shroff. The other room contains the records. A bath-room and dressing-room form the subsidiary jail and treasury guard-room, the other dressing-room and bath-room accommodating some of the gumastahs; but, the space being insufficient, the rest of them have had to overflow into the verandah, which they share with the stamp-vendor. The Board will observe that the tahsildar and sheristadar are not provided for, and that the jail accommodation is not in accordance with the recommendations of the Jail Committee of 1866.

4. An attempt has been made to remedy this. Another building was erected, with terraced roof, at an estimate of Rs. 539, as I am told, to accommodate the tahsildar and the correspondence clerks. This was built in 1882-83. The estimate, as I conclude from the sum spent on the Sub-Registrar's office, should have come to a good Rs. 2,500, and it was preposterous to expect to get good value for the money. I am further told that a late tahsildar spent Rs. 120 on it out of his own pocket. The result, however, is that this building, within three years of its construction, is in ruins. In fact it is so dangerous and rotten, roof and walls together, that it is not safe to enter it for inspection.

5. Encouraged by the success of the latter building, an estimate for Rs. 800 was sanctioned to build a record-room and another sum of Rs. 1,000 to build a sub-jail of three cells, which, even if otherwise satisfactory, would not meet the requirements of the Sub-Jail Committee. These buildings were reared in 1884-85, and are supposed to be completed. On the former Rs. 643-12-8 were spent, and on the latter Rs. 567. Charge has not been taken of them; but the tahsildar, perforce, is using a room in the former building, the roof of which is shaky. As to the other, the roof is shaky and breaking; the reapers are too light; the tiles and chunam are too heavy, as also the bressumers; the walls over the doors and windows are deeply cracked, and, in my opinion, the building should be taken down rather than patched up.

6. Instead of any further tinkering, I think that it would be much better to build a new standard cutcherry. An adjacent and most suitable site of about three acres could be had for about Rs. 35 per acre. There is a lot of valuable stone handy in the ruins of the cutcherry of 1869, and other heaps piled close by. Within a quarter of a mile, in the river bed, is an inexhaustible quarry of easily won and worked limestone of the finest quality for building purposes.

7. There need be no thought of waste in the abandonment of the public bungalow, for it can be utilized as a taluk school for the villages of Pullampet, Reddipalle, Anantarazupet, &c. I was surprised to find that there was no taluk school at Pullampet, and still more surprised to find that there had been one and that it had

been abandoned. In fact the pretty, and prettily-situated, little edifice, now used as a dispensary, was built for a taluk school. The resuscitation of this defunct institution will be a matter for further care.

8. I regret to have to trouble the Board with these proposals for further expenditure; but something must be done, and I think that it would be cheaper in the long run to give Pullampet a standard cutcherry in stone and chunam than to try any further amateur experiments in brick and mud.

READ—the following letter from W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th March 1886, No. 248:—

In my letter, No. 246, dated 18th instant, I reported the destruction of the taluk cutcherry at Pulivendla by fire. I have the honor to request that early consideration may be given to the urgent need for a new cutcherry at Badvel.

2. The present building is, I am told, part of some Nawab's house. It is quite unfit to be a taluk cutcherry. The whole office is crowded into one room, if it may be called so. It is rather an immense verandah facing the north; in front of it and immediately west it is a space roofed in with heavy thatch, and beyond that is a long rotten shed dignified by the name of record-room; to the east of this is what is called the subsidiary jail.

3. To the record-room I use the word "rotten" advisedly; for there is little of it that would not come down if a judicious push were administered. One large piece of the wall has come down, and access to the records from outside is prevented only by a tatty. I despair of repairing this wall temporarily, for the local mud—the wall is a mud wall—is made of slaty dust and has no binding properties. The roof it is needless to observe leaks *passim*. To this however we are well accustomed. The jail—if two rooms, one like a small cook-house and the other like a smaller stable, with wooden gratings in front can be called a jail—does not fulfil any of the requirements of the Committee on Subsidiary Jails which was sitting twenty years ago. There is, I must add, another stable adjoining, erected, I believe, during the famine. Even, however, with three stalls available, it is evident that males and females, under trial and convicted, cannot be accommodated; solitary confinement is impossible; there is no latrine, and no cook-room, and no hospital. I thought that the cutcherry at Dharmapuri was the most unsuitable building I had ever seen, but that at Badvel surpasses it.

4. I do not propose to order the thatch in front of the cutcherry to be removed, even with the experience of Pulivendla before me; for the cutcherry would be unbearable without it. I find a Chisholm-muster cutcherry at Sidhout, old enough to have cracks in the walls and its wood-work seedy. I allude especially to the record-room venetians. I cannot understand, when progress reached Sidhout, that it should have stopped short of Badvel. I am going on to Pullampet to-morrow and hope not to find things there as at Badvel. May I ask the Board to try and see if provision cannot be made for Badvel in the current year. I am sorry to have to make so many requests, but the district suffers from over-modesty on this score in former years.

READ—the following letter from C. H. MOUNSEY, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector in charge, Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st May 1886, No. 367:—

With reference to my letter, No. 240, dated 25th March 1886, I have the honor to inform you that the site particularized below was selected by Mr. LeFanu as suitable for the construction of the new taluk cutcherry at Pullampet.

Government.	Number.	Extent.	Assessment.	Names of owners.
Dry	276	ACRES. 0.22	RS. A. P. 0 3 8	D. Vencoba Row and Kristnamma, trustee of Angenayaswamy temple.
Do.	277	1.27	1 4 8	Papayyagari Chinnabbi.

The owner of land No. 276, Duvur Vencoba Row, pensioned Tahsildar, has consented to give the land without any compensation, and for acres 1.27 of field No. 277 money payment at the rate of Rs. 26-10-8 has been fixed by a punchayet, to which the owners have agreed. I request that permission of the Board may be obtained for acquiring the land which, if not needed immediately, will be required sooner or later and is the best site at Pullampet.

RESOLUTION—dated 17th May 1886, No. 1102.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The necessity for building new taluk offices both at Pullampet and Badvel appears to be great, and the Board therefore request that orders may be issued in the Public Works Department for the preparation of plans and estimates at an early date, and, if the financial pressure will allow of it, for the provision of funds in the current year's budget.

3. The opinion of the Public Works Department, the Board think, should also be taken as to the stability of the buildings now in occupation.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Collector of Cuddapah.

Copy to W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq.,
care of Messrs. Binny & Co., Madras.

Order thereon, 10: June 1886, No. 3414.

Transferred to the Public Works Department for early orders. The Government in this Department are of opinion that the construction of taluk cutcherries at Pullampet and Badvel is most urgent and should precede of other buildings elsewhere.

Exd. J. Moses.

*True Extract
Hedrick
As Secy. to Govt.*

J. W. C. No. 4539.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1886.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.



Recd. 14. 6. 86

Printed May 26th.

Proceedings, 17th May 1886, No. 1102.

No. 1526 W. d. 16 June 1886

Submitting, for the orders of Government, with remarks, letters from the Collector of Cuddapah reporting the necessity for the construction of new taluk cutcheries at Pullampet and Badvel.

With order

526 W. d. 16 June 1886

*Communicated to
Communicated to*

Sup. Engr. III

Sup. Engr. III

for very early

submission of the

exquisite estimates.

The question of

The question of

provision of funds for

the two buildings will

be considered on receipt

of the estimates.

This call should

be treated as urgent.

W

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