Govt. of {1888} Madras.

PWC No 3301

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT * P.W. DEPARTMENT, MADRAS. 6 APR. 88 Encl.

MARCH.

Cumbum Town.

Instructions issued with regard to the abandonment of — as the head-quarter station of Government officers.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 16th June 1887, No. 237 :—

H. S. THOMAS, ESQ., F.L.S., F.Z.S.
J. H. GARSTIN, ESQ., C.S.I.

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1887, No. 217-F. :—

ABSTRACT.—Submitting letter from the Deputy Collector of Cumbum regarding the unhealthiness of Cumbum town, and submitting proposals for the transfer of Taluk and Division head-quarters.

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1887, No. 91 :—

ABSTRACT.—Reporting that Giddalur has been selected as temporary head-quarters of Cumbum taluk.

Read—the following petition from G. CHENCHIAH CHETTY, on behalf of the inhabitants of Cumbum, Kurnool District, dated 25th March 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Praying to order the retention of the Taluk Cutcherry at Cumbum, as its removal to another place is a public grievance.

Reference on the above, dated 9th May 1887.

Referred to the Collector, who is requested to inquire and report if any Mahazar on the subject may be expected.

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Kurnool, with petition to be returned.

Read—the following letter from C. KOUGH, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary of the Board in the Department of Land Revenue, dated 18th April 1887, No. 137 :—

I have the honor to submit the reply called for in Proceedings of Board of Revenue, dated 14th ultimo, No. 476.

2. I regret that my report embodied in that Proceedings should have been considered unsatisfactory.

3. That report however did not aim at anything beyond forwarding the views of the District Medical and Sanitary officer, which appeared to me so very decided in character as to justify the supposition that they would be held by the Board as sufficient to warrant Government being asked to reconsider the decision of retaining Cumbum as head-quarters of the division.

4. In his inspection report that officer alluded to the selected site of Kondalapuram (or Malakonda) in terms which the Board considered "very vague." But I confess they implied to me that Dr. King regarded the two places of Cumbum proper and Kondalapuram as a distinction without a difference. And being now asked to

"specify what fault I have to find with Kondalapuram," I have only to repeat that I hold this opinion still, and, in confirmation thereof, beg to enclose a further report from Dr. King, than which I think there can be nothing stronger, both in theory and fact, in condemnation of the proposed location of Government buildings.

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6. Thus, the answer as to what my objections are to Kondalapuram is, that I have none, except the fatally unsanitary state of the place, regarding which, when I first wrote, I put forward the strong opinion of an officer much better qualified than I was to form it, and as to which now facts leave no uncertainty.

7. As to my being called upon to make complete proposals, I very respectfully submit that the first thing to be done is to decide upon abandoning Cumbum and its vicinity, regarding the advisability of which I conceive there can be no longer any shadow of reasonable doubt. Then when this *has* been done, I must have the authority of Government to have a professional examination made of nominated sites before I can presume to offer any proposal for the adoption of any particular place. The omission to do this in the present instance shows how impolitic it is, and how results upset an aspect of things which appeared most plausible at first sight.

8. As to Dr. King's mention of Márkápur, it is after all only an addition of one to several names in the division already mentioned. These are to be found in former correspondence on the subject, and are noted in the margin. But as I said before I am not prepared to give any opinion, or to profess preference for any of them, until its fitness on sanitary grounds has been professionally tested and reported upon.

Aravid.	Kondalapuram.
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9. In conclusion, I beg to report that all that has been spent to the present at Kondalapuram is Rs. 110-6-4, of which Rs. 108-11-4 represents compensation paid last year and Rs. 1-11-0 charges incurred in excavating trial pits.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Surgeon-Major W. G. KING, M.B., District Medical and Sanitary officer, Kurnool, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Kurnool, 6th April 1887, No. 209-B.

With reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 476, dated 14th ultimo, kindly communicated to me, I have the honor to state that I am afraid I am not in a position to give information of a more definite character as to my reasons for considering that Malakonda is a site unfit for habitation by Government servants, than those I have already supplied in my letter, No. 126-87, of the 10th ultimo, and my report of May 1885, an extract of which was an enclosure thereto. I confess to feeling astonished that the details already given should not have been considered more than sufficient to induce the giving of definite orders as to the abandonment of the position.

2. I note that I am accused of making "a very vague statement" as to Malakonda being "subject to much the same aërial conditions as Cumbum." I presume the sentence in one of my periodical sanitary reports to you is referred to, which runs as follows:—

"Malakonda, which has been selected as the site for building a Cutcherry, Superintendent of Police quarters, Police Hospital, &c., it is true is far better than Cumbum, but being only a mile and a half from the town, it is subject to at least much the same aërial conditions, &c."

Now I cannot see why this statement should be regarded as "vague" unless it be that I have incorrectly assumed that the importance of the sanitary facts involved would be appreciated, without adding matter to support ordinarily accepted sanitary axioms.

3. I think that sufficient has now been made known as to Cumbum to leave no just room for doubt that the locality is intensely malarious. No one would also feel inclined to dispute that the malarial poison has its birth place in the tract of paddy land surrounding Cumbum, and extending actually up to Malakonda—5,420 acres of wet cultivation. Without troubling about

theories as to the exact nature of the malarial poison, in the present day, no authority can be produced who would not assign to it the condition of a solid. It is well established that this poison is capable of transport by currents of air to distances estimated by some at a maximum of 5, and by others at double that number of miles. *In a calm* it is considered that it will make its presence felt at 1,000 feet from the centre of the place of origin. But its extent of horizontal spread may be limited by obstructions, such as belts of trees and hills; sheets of water also offer impediment. As regards vertical spread, it also has its limits; the maximum attainable must evidently be affected much by the nature of obstruction offered to currents of wind, the presence of ravines converging to an elevated point, and so forth; but regarding the matter as one of mere height, it is found that 1,000 feet or 1,200 feet is the least that can be trusted, whilst to be perfectly secure not less than 4,000 feet should be obtained.

4. Now, if it be granted these laws govern the spread of malaria from its point of origin and it be stated that a site shares "much the same aërial conditions" as one admittedly malarious *in its immediate neighbourhood*, this surely ought to be regarded, not as a "very vague statement," but as a sanitary fact of some importance. Holding these laws in mind, if you will kindly turn to my description of the site of Malakonda written in 1885 above quoted, you will find further reasons sufficing for my arriving at the conclusion as to "aërial conditions." I stated—

"This is a gently sloping site, situated a mile and a half from the town. At present about a dozen bungalows used by the European staff of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway exist here. No hills or woods intervene between this site and Cumbum; it simply forms one of the borders of the cup-shaped depression in which Cumbum lies. On one side, however, is a ridge of hills separating it from a tract of paddy fields which extend even thus far."

Manifestly a gentle sloping site is not the best to offer opposition to currents of air, nor would such a condition be improved by the complete absence of intervening hills or trees. Further, elevation above the immediately adjacent paddy-cultivated country is so slight as not to be more than 100 feet, and I should think it is less than 200 feet above the general level of the whole tract; and at these heights, if the surface be sloping, not abrupt, it is considered by sanitary authorities that not only no protection is afforded, but actually the access of air-borne poison from the ground below is facilitated. It will thus be seen that a site such as Malakonda but one and a half miles distant from the town of Cumbum, which is undoubtedly dangerously unhealthy from malaria, will not subserve sanitary dictates as to "aërial conditions."

5. But I have added in the sentence complained of as being "vague,' the following:—"And as entrance to the town would necessarily be frequent for the inhabitants, the supposed benefits would after great expenditure sink to a minimum." Now I believe that if all I have said up to this point be inapplicable, and that the site be admirably suited in all ways for the purpose of Government, this fact should of itself suffice to condemn its selection, provided always it is conceded that Cumbum is malarious. Government presumably, although they decided to build a cutcherry, would not think it desirable that quarters should be built for the use of the full staff employed at the cutcherry; nor would they think it requisite to trammel the private actions of their servants by a rule to the effect that Cumbum should not be entered. Yet, unless both these conditions be scrupulously complied with, to locate the cutcherry at Malakonda *could do no possible good*, if health is the object aimed at. The cutcherry work throughout the majority of the year would certainly be conducted during the day-time. In the early morning and at night officials would be at liberty to go where they like, and they might, or might not, dwell at Malakonda; and it must be remembered that the time when malarial poison is most active is between sunrise and sunset. But even if Government built sufficient houses for all their servants there, there would still arise the necessity for the inhabitants of Malakonda to proceed to Cumbum for supplies, and even arrangements for the erection of shops locally would not cover requirements. In this connection it must be remembered that *one*, not a multiple of, exposure to the influence of malaria is *enough* to wreck a constitution for a life-time.

6. On finding that the Bellary-Kistna State Railway had located their staff at Malakonda, in my report, dated May 1885, I foretold that the place would not prove healthy, and I have now attempted to show more fully my reasons for coming to that conclusion *theoretically*. But "it is dangerous to prophesy unless you know." Well I believe I now avoid any danger in prophesying, as it has been satisfactorily proved that the site is *very* unhealthy. This fact I referred to with, I thought, sufficient fulness in my letter, No. 126, dated 10th ultimo.

7. It is usual when a site is about to be elected for use by the Military authorities to have a medical opinion placed before them on the subject; and then, if it be favorable, not to spend money on the erection of buildings without further care, but to practically test the healthiness of the locality by causing a detachment of troops to occupy the place in temporary buildings for a definite time; on this experience being gained, permanent buildings are sanctioned. Without obtaining a medical opinion, and without carrying out an experiment of the nature mentioned, the Bellary-Kistna State Railway located a mixed number of Europeans, Eurasians and Natives on the spot, not subjected to the discomforts of temporary buildings, but living in excellent well-built houses. What was the result? Fever shortly after occupation showed itself amongst the Engineer and office staff, and work day by day became so interfered with from this cause that, ultimately, the whole work came to a stand-still. It was a frequent matter in the

Executive Engineer's office that ten out of twenty were absent on account of fever. On more than one occasion four and even two only were mustered. These facts I gathered from personal inspection with the Executive Engineer, Bellary-Kistna State Railway, Cumbum—Mr. Addis—of the attendance roster of his office, and from the records of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway Hospital at Malakonda. I at that time found that during the occupation of the site, three head clerks, two accountants, and four draughtsmen had been sent away permanently as unfit to stand the climate longer; besides several other important subordinates. Further, the Executive Engineer and the Assistant Engineer resident on this spot—Mr. Godwin—became so ill that they had to leave the place on sick certificate; and, indeed, work was so interfered with that the Engineer-in-Chief readily adopted my suggestion of granting the whole staff leave from the 3rd March to 15th April 1887, when, as I ascertained from hospital statistics, there is a decline of the severity in the prevalence of fever in Cumbum. On the date of my inspection of the office staff at Malakonda there were 20 present. I examined each person carefully and found that all except four were suffering severely from the various sequelæ of fever, viz., anæmia, enlarged spleen, malarial asthma and chronic hepatitis. Even the four regarded as fit for further duty had suffered within a fortnight of date of examination from fever.

8. Now, I think, when malarial fever proved so prevalent amongst the staff located on this site, as actually to produce a complete collapse of office work, that there ought not to exist much doubt as to whether the choice of Malakonda is judicious or otherwise. I may add that the arrangements made by the Bellary-Kistna State Railway are such that a very large proportion of their subordinates not only perform their office work at Malakonda, but also reside on the spot—an advantage (?) that could not be derived by officials attached to a cutcherry there.

9. In the Proceedings alluded to it has been noted that I recommend Márkápur which has merit of being "a place which has never been suggested before." From what I know of Márkápur, I believe it to be a healthy place, and I believe that a good site could be obtained near the railway at Venkatapuram. But in making this recommendation, I did not conceive that the ordinary precautions necessary in fixing a site, and before incurring expenditure, would be omitted by the officer I addressed. My main object was to force upon observation the necessity of no longer subjecting Government servants to the wrong of being victimized by the climate of Cumbum—even as modified in name only at Malakonda. My intention was to give an illustration of the ease with which a spot could be found within convenient distance of Cumbum, and I most undoubtedly would not have assumed the responsibility of fixing definitely upon Márkápur, or any other place, without conducting an exhaustive inquiry as to its suitability sanitarily.

10. If it be ultimately determined to vacate Cumbum and Malakonda, I shall be happy, should I receive instructions so to do, to examine sites and obtain evidence from officials and others on the point, and place the result before you to enable you to form a decided opinion.

11. In the concluding paragraph of my letter, No. 126-87, of the 10th ultimo, I referred to the birth and death rate of Cumbum, stating that I was not in a position to give the former. I am now in receipt of the necessary data, and I think the acknowledged effect of malaria upon fecundity is sufficiently well shown to confer a further proof of the nature of the climate of Cumbum. The average birth-rate for the past three years has been 19·37 per mille, and the death-rate 40·40 per mille. These results may be more convincing when contrasted with the rates for the whole district excluding the taluk of Cumbum, viz., birth-rate 44·8 per mille and death-rate 24·2 per mille.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I am in receipt of information from the Engineer-in-Chief of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway, stating that it has been determined to abandon Malakonda, and asking me to report concerning another site* he suggests. This certainly does not look as if it was considered that the position has been proved by actual experience of residence by the Engineer staff on the spot to be healthy.

* Not however in this district, but Kistna.
(Initialled) C. K.

Read—the following letter from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 4th May 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings, No. 476, dated 14th March 1887, petition from the inhabitants of Cumbum taluk, Kurnool district, protesting against the transfer of their taluk cutcherry and treasury.

Read—the following letter from C. KOUGH, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board in the Department of Land Revenue, dated Kurnool, 1st June 1887, No. 206 :—

In returning the enclosure received with Board's order on Petition Register No. 1092 of 1887, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. The sender of the message, G. Chenchiah Chetty, is, *as I at once conjectured*, a retail liquor seller in the town of Cumbum, whose profits, like those of others of his class, may doubtless be interfered with if the Government offices as well as the head-quarters of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway are removed from Cumbum.

3. I am informed that a Mahazarnama was subsequently despatched, the writers being Komatis and petty merchants, &c., of the town, whose motives are, of course, transparently selfish, and should, in my humble opinion, not weigh for a moment against the public interests concerned.

Read—the following petition from M.R.Ry. P. KRISHNAMAH and others, Gumastas of the Taluk Cutcherry of Cumbum, Kurnool District, dated 4th June 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Complaining of the removal of the taluk cutcherry at Cumbum to Giddalur, and praying that some other locality may be selected and orders issued by wire as the taluk treasury has been ordered to be removed to Giddalur on the 4th instant.

Resolution—dated 16th June 1887, No. 237.

Submitted to Government for orders.

2. The papers on the subject of the removal of the Revenue offices from Cumbum have been detained in the Board's office longer than would otherwise have been the case, owing to the receipt of a petition from some of the inhabitants of Cumbum objecting to the proposed removal of the offices. The Collector now reports that attention need not be paid to the request of these petitioners, who are chiefly merchants in the town whose private interests may suffer by the proposed change.

3. The Board note that the present seems a good opportunity for considering the question of the removal of the offices, as there are proposals now before Government for building a new taluk office and new offices for the divisional officer, besides various buildings for the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the removal of whose office has already been sanctioned.*

* G.O., dated 27th May 1887, No. 3055, Revenue Department.

4. As to the unhealthiness of the town of Cumbum, there can be no question. The papers now submitted by the Collector prove that it has been continuously unhealthy for many years, and that the establishments of all the Government offices situated there are never free from malarious fever of a malignant type. The medical officer and the Collector agree in considering that it would be no improvement to remove the offices to Kondalapuram, which has been proved by the experience of the Railway offices lately situated there to be almost as unhealthy as Cumbum itself. As long as the clerks of the Government offices there have to sleep in the town, there can be no hope of improvement.

5. The Board therefore recommend that the Collector be directed to examine with the help of the medical officer other suitable sites, with a view to the removal of all the Revenue offices from Cumbum. Such a site should be, if possible, situated on the Railway line. The Collector's attention will be drawn to the petition which has been received from some of the taluk clerks objecting to Giddalur as the site for the new offices; he should consider the merits of the petition when examining into the matter.

6. There is the question whether or not it would be advisable to appoint a deputy tahsildar to Cumbum after the removal of the taluk and divisional offices therefrom. If the new site for these offices is fixed on the Railway line, at no great distance from the town, it will probably not be necessary to retain a deputy tahsildar and sub-magistrate there, and the First Member of the Board is of opinion that nothing but absolute necessity would justify the keeping of establishments in a feverish locality. The Second Member is of opinion that, in view of the large population and importance of the town, a sub-magistrate should be retained there. The Police Act is, it is believed, in force in the town, and the number of petty magisterial cases, in which it would be

a hardship to compel the parties to go to a distance for trial, must be large. There must also be many occasions on which it will be convenient that there should be a resident magistrate in the town.

7. In view of the difference of opinion on this last point, the minute of the First Member is submitted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and twelve enclosures in G.R. No. 1550,
and petition and enclosure in Petition Register No. 480
of 1887, to be returned, and First Member's Minute.
„ the Collector of Kurnool, with petition in Petition
Register No. 668 of 1887, to be returned.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

READ—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 11th July 1887, Mis. No. 1818.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government petition from Mahomed Ghowse and others, inhabitants of Cumbum Town, &c., bringing to notice the inconveniences resulting from the proposed transfer of the Cumbum taluk cutcherry to Giddalur.

ORDER—dated 13th March 1888, No. 213, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

From the papers recorded above, it seems clear that owing to the advent of the famine of 1876-77 and other causes, no steady progress has been made in carrying out the remedial measures ordered in G.O., dated 1st April 1876, No. 610, Financial, and that in consequence no head has been made against the fever which has devastated the town of Cumbum during the last twenty years. Having regard to this fact and the condition of the public buildings as described by Mr. Farmer in 1877 (G.O., dated 17th March 1877, No. 939, Financial), His Excellency the Governor in Council has arrived at the conclusion that the idea of retaining Cumbum as the head-quarters of officers of any department should be definitively abandoned. The Board will accordingly call upon the Collector to take early steps, in consultation with the medical and other officers concerned, to select a suitable place for the divisional and taluk head-quarters as near Cumbum as sanitary and other conditions will permit. Any place that is selected should be tried experimentally before expensive buildings are constructed.

2. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings read above, the Government are of opinion that it is unnecessary to station a deputy tahsildar and magistrate permanently at Cumbum.

3. It has occurred to the Government that it would tend to equalize the work in the Kurnool and Kistna districts if the taluk of Vinukonda was detached from the latter and added to the former. The taluks of Cumbum, Márkápur and Vinukonda might then be constituted a division, the Deputy Collector now stationed at Cumbum being moved to Vinukonda and the Deputy Collector at Vinukonda being moved elsewhere. The Collector and the Judge at Kurnool might be stationed at Nandyál, which is in a central position and on the line of railway, the Head Assistant being located at Kurnool. The Board of Revenue are requested to report fully on these suggestions, furnishing in communication with local officers an estimate of public buildings to be provided, if the proposals are carried out.

4. His Excellency in Council is at the same time of opinion that steps should be taken for carrying out vigorously the measures contemplated in 1876 for improving the

sanitary condition of Cumbum, a special grant being made from Provincial Funds for the purpose. This question will be further considered in the Local and Municipal Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with enclosures returned.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Judicial Department.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

120 Copies.

No 1087 ad 2/11 dated 4 April 1888

Comd to the Supty. Engs III Circle.

(Sd) Illegible.

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 13th March 1888, No. 213.

No 1087 ad 2/11 dated 4 April 1888

MARCH.

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Instructions issued with regard to the abandonment of — as the head-quarter station of Government officers.

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J. H. GARSTIN, ESQ., C.S.I.

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Now I cannot see why this statement should be regarded as "vague" unless it be that I have incorrectly assumed that the importance of the sanitary facts involved would be appreciated, without adding matter to support ordinarily accepted sanitary axioms.

3. I think that sufficient has now been made known as to Cumbum to leave no just room for doubt that the locality is intensely malarious. No one would also feel inclined to dispute that the malarial poison has its birth place in the tract of paddy land surrounding Cumbum, and extending actually up to Malakonda—5,420 acres of wet cultivation. Without troubling about

theories as to the exact nature of the malarial poison, in the present day, no authority can be produced who would not assign to it the condition of a solid. It is well established that this poison is capable of transport by currents of air to distances estimated by some at a maximum of 5, and by others at double that number of miles. *In a calm* it is considered that it will make its presence felt at 1,000 feet from the centre of the place of origin. But its extent of horizontal spread may be limited by obstructions, such as belts of trees and hills; sheets of water also offer impediment. As regards vertical spread, it also has its limits; the maximum attainable must evidently be affected much by the nature of obstruction offered to currents of wind, the presence of ravines converging to an elevated point, and so forth; but regarding the matter as one of mere height, it is found that 1,000 feet or 1,200 feet is the least that can be trusted, whilst to be perfectly secure not less than 4,000 feet should be obtained.

4. Now, if it be granted these laws govern the spread of malaria from its point of origin and it be stated that a site shares "much the same aërial conditions" as one admittedly malarious *in its immediate neighbourhood*, this surely ought to be regarded, not as a "very vague statement," but as a sanitary fact of some importance. Holding these laws in mind, if you will kindly turn to my description of the site of Malakonda written in 1885 above quoted, you will find further reasons sufficing for my arriving at the conclusion as to "aërial conditions." I stated—

"This is a gently sloping site, situated a mile and a half from the town. At present about a dozen bungalows used by the European staff of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway exist here. No hills or woods intervene between this site and Cumbum; it simply forms one of the borders of the cup-shaped depression in which Cumbum lies. On one side, however, is a ridge of hills separating it from a tract of paddy fields which extend even thus far."

Manifestly a gentle sloping site is not the best to offer opposition to currents of air, nor would such a condition be improved by the complete absence of intervening hills or trees. Further, elevation above the immediately adjacent paddy-cultivated country is so slight as not to be more than 100 feet, and I should think it is less than 200 feet above the general level of the whole tract; and at these heights, if the surface be sloping, not abrupt, it is considered by sanitary authorities that not only no protection is afforded, but actually the access of air-borne poison from the ground below is facilitated. It will thus be seen that a site such as Malakonda but one and a half miles distant from the town of Cumbum, which is undoubtedly dangerously unhealthy from malaria, will not subserve sanitary dictates as to "aërial conditions."

5. But I have added in the sentence complained of as being "vague,' the following:—"And as entrance to the town would necessarily be frequent for the inhabitants, the supposed benefits would after great expenditure sink to a minimum." Now I believe that if all I have said up to this point be inapplicable, and that the site be admirably suited in all ways for the purpose of Government, this fact should of itself suffice to condemn its selection, provided always it is conceded that Cumbum is malarious. Government presumably, although they decided to build a cutcherry, would not think it desirable that quarters should be built for the use of the full staff employed at the cutcherry; nor would they think it requisite to trammel the private actions of their servants by a rule to the effect that Cumbum should not be entered. Yet, unless both these conditions be scrupulously complied with, to locate the cutcherry at Malakonda *could do no possible good*, if health is the object aimed at. The cutcherry work throughout the majority of the year would certainly be conducted during the day-time. In the early morning and at night officials would be at liberty to go where they like, and they might, or might not, dwell at Malakonda; and it must be remembered that the time when malarial poison is most active is between sunrise and sunset. But even if Government built sufficient houses for all their servants there, there would still arise the necessity for the inhabitants of Malakonda to proceed to Cumbum for supplies, and even arrangements for the erection of shops locally would not cover requirements. In this connection it must be remembered that *one*, not a multiple of, exposure to the influence of malaria is *enough* to wreck a constitution for a life-time.

6. On finding that the Bellary-Kistna State Railway had located their staff at Malakonda, in my report, dated May 1885, I foretold that the place would not prove healthy, and I have now attempted to show more fully my reasons for coming to that conclusion *theoretical y*. But "it is dangerous to prophesy unless you know." Well I believe I now avoid any danger in prophesying, as it has been satisfactorily proved that the site is *very* unhealthy. This fact I referred to with, I thought, sufficient fulness in my letter, No. 126, dated 10th ultimo.

7. It is usual when a site is about to be elected for use by the Military authorities to have a medical opinion placed before them on the subject; and then, if it be favorable, not to spend money on the erection of buildings without further care, but to practically test the healthiness of the locality by causing a detachment of troops to occupy the place in temporary buildings for a definite time; on this experience being gained, permanent buildings are sanctioned. Without obtaining a medical opinion, and without carrying out an experiment of the nature mentioned, the Bellary-Kistna State Railway located a mixed number of Europeans, Eurasians and Natives on the spot, not subjected to the discomforts of temporary buildings, but living in excellent well-built houses. What was the result? Fever shortly after occupation showed itself amongst the Engineer and office staff, and work day by day became so interfered with from this cause that, ultimately, the whole work came to a stand-still. It was a frequent matter in the

Executive Engineer's office that ten out of twenty were absent on account of fever. On more than one occasion four and even two only were mustered. These facts I gathered from personal inspection with the Executive Engineer, Bellary-Kistna State Railway, Cumbum—Mr. Addis—of the attendance roster of his office, and from the records of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway Hospital at Malakonda. I at that time found that during the occupation of the site, three head clerks, two accountants, and four draughtsmen had been sent away permanently as unfit to stand the climate longer; besides several other important subordinates. Further, the Executive Engineer and the Assistant Engineer resident on this spot—Mr. Godwin—became so ill that they had to leave the place on sick certificate; and, indeed, work was so interfered with that the Engineer-in-Chief readily adopted my suggestion of granting the whole staff leave from the 3rd March to 15th April 1887, when, as I ascertained from hospital statistics, there is a decline of the severity in the prevalence of fever in Cumbum. On the date of my inspection of the office staff at Malakonda there were 20 present. I examined each person carefully and found that all except four were suffering severely from the various sequelæ of fever, viz., anæmia, enlarged spleen, malarial asthma and chronic hepatitis. Even the four regarded as fit for further duty had suffered within a fortnight of date of examination from fever.

8. Now, I think, when malarial fever proved so prevalent amongst the staff located on this site, as actually to produce a complete collapse of office work, that there ought not to exist much doubt as to whether the choice of Malakonda is judicious or otherwise. I may add that the arrangements made by the Bellary-Kistna State Railway are such that a very large proportion of their subordinates not only perform their office work at Malakonda, but also reside on the spot—an advantage (?) that could not be derived by officials attached to a cutcherry there.

9. In the Proceedings alluded to it has been noted that I recommend Márkápur which has merit of being "a place which has never been suggested before." From what I know of Márkápur, I believe it to be a healthy place, and I believe that a good site could be obtained near the railway at Venkatapuram. But in making this recommendation, I did not conceive that the ordinary precautions necessary in fixing a site, and before incurring expenditure, would be omitted by the officer I addressed. My main object was to force upon observation the necessity of no longer subjecting Government servants to the wrong of being victimized by the climate of Cumbum—even as modified in name only at Malakonda. My intention was to give an illustration of the ease with which a spot could be found within convenient distance of Cumbum, and I most undoubtedly would not have assumed the responsibility of fixing definitely upon Márkápur, or any other place, without conducting an exhaustive inquiry as to its suitability sanitarily.

10. If it be ultimately determined to vacate Cumbum and Malakonda, I shall be happy, should I receive instructions so to do, to examine sites and obtain evidence from officials and others on the point, and place the result before you to enable you to form a decided opinion.

11. In the concluding paragraph of my letter, No. 126-87, of the 10th ultimo, I referred to the birth and death rate of Cumbum, stating that I was not in a position to give the former. I am now in receipt of the necessary data, and I think the acknowledged effect of malaria upon fecundity is sufficiently well shown to confer a further proof of the nature of the climate of Cumbum. The average birth-rate for the past three years has been 19·37 per mille, and the death-rate 40·40 per mille. These results may be more convincing when contrasted with the rates for the whole district excluding the taluk of Cumbum, viz., birth-rate 44·8 per mille and death-rate 24·2 per mille.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I am in receipt of information from the Engineer-in-Chief of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway, stating that it has been determined to abandon Malakonda, and asking me to report concerning another site* he suggests. This certainly does not look as if it was considered that the position has been proved by actual experience of residence by the Engineer staff on the spot to be healthy.

* Not however in this district, but Kistna.

(Initialled) C. K.

Read—the following letter from the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 4th May 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings, No. 476, dated 14th March 1887, petition from the inhabitants of Cumbum taluk, Kurnool district, protesting against the transfer of their taluk cutcherry and treasury.

Read—the following letter from C. KOUGH, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to the Secretary to the Board in the Department of Land Revenue, dated Kurnool, 1st June 1887, No. 206 :—

In returning the enclosure received with Board's order on Petition Register No. 1092 of 1887, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. The sender of the message, G. Chenchiah Chetty, is, *as I at once conjectured*, a retail liquor seller in the town of Cumbum, whose profits, like those of others of his class, may doubtless be interfered with if the Government offices as well as the head-quarters of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway are removed from Cumbum.

3. I am informed that a Mahazarnama was subsequently despatched, the writers being Komatis and petty merchants, &c., of the town, whose motives are, of course, transparently selfish, and should, in my humble opinion, not weigh for a moment against the public interests concerned.

Read—the following petition from M.R.Ry. P. KRISHNAMAH and others, Gumastas of the Taluk Cutcherry of Cumbum, Kurnool District, dated 4th June 1887 :—

ABSTRACT.—Complaining of the removal of the taluk cutcherry at Cumbum to Giddalur, and praying that some other locality may be selected and orders issued by wire as the taluk treasury has been ordered to be removed to Giddalur on the 4th instant.

Resolution—dated 16th June 1887, No. 237.

Submitted to Government for orders.

2. The papers on the subject of the removal of the Revenue offices from Cumbum have been detained in the Board's office longer than would otherwise have been the case, owing to the receipt of a petition from some of the inhabitants of Cumbum objecting to the proposed removal of the offices. The Collector now reports that attention need not be paid to the request of these petitioners, who are chiefly merchants in the town whose private interests may suffer by the proposed change.

3. The Board note that the present seems a good opportunity for considering the question of the removal of the offices, as there are proposals now before Government for building a new taluk office and new offices for the divisional officer, besides various buildings for the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the removal of whose office has already been sanctioned.*

* G.O., dated 27th May 1887, No. 3055, Revenue Department.

4. As to the unhealthiness of the town of Cumbum, there can be no question. The papers now submitted by the Collector prove that it has been continuously unhealthy for many years, and that the establishments of all the Government offices situated there are never free from malarious fever of a malignant type. The medical officer and the Collector agree in considering that it would be no improvement to remove the offices to Kondalapuram, which has been proved by the experience of the Railway offices lately situated there to be almost as unhealthy as Cumbum itself. As long as the clerks of the Government offices there have to sleep in the town, there can be no hope of improvement.

5. The Board therefore recommend that the Collector be directed to examine with the help of the medical officer other suitable sites, with a view to the removal of all the Revenue offices from Cumbum. Such a site should be, if possible, situated on the Railway line. The Collector's attention will be drawn to the petition which has been received from some of the taluk clerks objecting to Giddalur as the site for the new offices; he should consider the merits of the petition when examining into the matter.

6. There is the question whether or not it would be advisable to appoint a deputy tahsildar to Cumbum after the removal of the taluk and divisional offices therefrom. If the new site for these offices is fixed on the Railway line, at no great distance from the town, it will probably not be necessary to retain a deputy tahsildar and sub-magistrate there, and the First Member of the Board is of opinion that nothing but absolute necessity would justify the keeping of establishments in a feverish locality. The Second Member is of opinion that, in view of the large population and importance of the town, a sub-magistrate should be retained there. The Police Act is, it is believed, in force in the town, and the number of petty magisterial cases, in which it would be

a hardship to compel the parties to go to a distance for trial, must be large. There must also be many occasions on which it will be convenient that there should be a resident magistrate in the town.

7. In view of the difference of opinion on this last point, the minute of the First Member is submitted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and twelve enclosures in G.R. No. 1550,
and petition and enclosure in Petition Register No. 480
of 1887, to be returned, and First Member's Minute.
,, the Collector of Kurnool, with petition in Petition
Register No. 668 of 1887, to be returned.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

READ—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 11th July 1887, Mis. No. 1818.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government petition from Mahomed Ghowse and others, inhabitants of Cumbum Town, &c., bringing to notice the inconveniences resulting from the proposed transfer of the Cumbum taluk cutcherry to Giddalur.

ORDER—dated 13th March 1888, No. 213, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

From the papers recorded above, it seems clear that owing to the advent of the famine of 1876-77 and other causes, no steady progress has been made in carrying out the remedial measures ordered in G.O., dated 1st April 1876, No. 610, Financial, and that in consequence no head has been made against the fever which has devastated the town of Cumbum during the last twenty years. Having regard to this fact and the condition of the public buildings as described by Mr. Farmer in 1877 (G.O., dated 17th March 1877, No. 939, Financial), His Excellency the Governor in Council has arrived at the conclusion that the idea of retaining Cumbum as the head-quarters of officers of any department should be definitively abandoned. The Board will accordingly call upon the Collector to take early steps, in consultation with the medical and other officers concerned, to select a suitable place for the divisional and taluk head-quarters as near Cumbum as sanitary and other conditions will permit. Any place that is selected should be tried experimentally before expensive buildings are constructed.

2. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings read above, the Government are of opinion that it is unnecessary to station a deputy tahsildar and magistrate permanently at Cumbum.

3. It has occurred to the Government that it would tend to equalize the work in the Kurnool and Kistna districts if the taluk of Vinukonda was detached from the latter and added to the former. The taluks of Cumbum, Márkápur and Vinukonda might then be constituted a division, the Deputy Collector now stationed at Cumbum being moved to Vinukonda and the Deputy Collector at Vinukonda being moved elsewhere. The Collector and the Judge at Kurnool might be stationed at Nandyál, which is in a central position and on the line of railway, the Head Assistant being located at Kurnool. The Board of Revenue are requested to report fully on these suggestions, furnishing in communication with local officers an estimate of public buildings to be provided, if the proposals are carried out.

4. His Excellency in Council is at the same time of opinion that steps should be taken for carrying out vigorously the measures contemplated in 1876 for improving the

sanitary condition of Cumbum, a special grant being made from Provincial Funds for the purpose. This question will be further considered in the Local and Municipal Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with enclosures returned.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Local and Municipal Department.
,, the Public Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Judicial Department.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

120 Copies.

B. No 1087 dt. d/ 11th April 1888

Communicated
Communicated
to the Supdg. Engineers
III Circle
III Circle

Jm 6/4/88

P.W.C. No. 330 R

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

REVENUE.

24.50

Issued

Recd. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 6 APR. 88 P.W. DEPARTMENT, MADRAS. Encl.

R. No. 10. dt. 4-4-88

G.O., 13th March 1888, No. 213.

No. 1087 dt. d/ 11th April 1888

MARCH.

Cumbum Town.

Instructions issued with regard to the abandonment of — as the head-quarter station of Government officers.

O.S. 26/IV 6.4.88

O.S. 11/4

Copies to Supdg. Engr. III Circle

Copies to Supdg. Engr. II Circle

respects to 00 11/4

JM 12/4

Circle

Circle

O.S. 29 dt. 7-4-88

Encl.

P.W.C. 2