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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 16th June 1893, Mis. No. 2216, Revenue :—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 26th May 1893, Forest No. 608, Mis. :—

Read—the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 7th March 1893, No. 61 C. :—

With reference to the decision to make the permanent head-quarters of the Conservator, Northern Circle, at Bezwada, I have the honour to ask if Government may be moved to reconsider the question.

2. The main reason for the original choice was, I believe, the central situation of Bezwada. This is indisputable. Bezwada is geographically central for the Northern Circle as at present constituted and is at the junction of three canals and an important station on the railway.

3. In asking for a reconsideration, therefore, of the decision to make this the permanent head-quarters, it is incumbent on me to bring forward arguments on the other side of the question which with diffidence I now attempt.

4. It is not perhaps necessary to cumber the subject with quotations to show that it has been more than once acknowledged that, after a long service which entails exposure to malarious influences, a forest officer's constitution is liable to be more or less shaken, and that during the intervals between his tours he is more likely to do efficient work if he can return to a climate which will tend to brace rather than enervate him.

5. To go no further than the correspondence about the head-quarters in question, it may be remarked that permission has been graciously accorded to spend the hot weather at some favorable station within the circle. For the Northern Circle Waltair has been mentioned among other places as there is no hill station proper; and I would urge in this connection that as a Conservator must tour for at least ... months in the year, a residence of two months at a station other than his head-quarters would leave only four months in the year when he would be with the full strength of his office. If, therefore, other things admit of the head-quarters being in a favorable climate, there would be the additional advantage of a complete union of all available office forces during the whole period not spent on tour.

6. Bezwada is situated inland at the junction of three large canals. So far as I could ascertain on the spot the average height of the station is only some 60 feet above sea-level. There are some stony hills in the vicinity which tend to raise the mean temperature by radiation. This mean temperature is admittedly high, but I could not ascertain it at taluk cutcherry or elsewhere. This is however, I submit, a situation calculated rather to foster than expel incipient fever.

7. On the other hand Waltair has peculiar climatic advantages. It is somewhat hilly, and a situation can probably be found at an appreciable height above sea-level; but the circumstance which especially favours it seems to be that the bend of the coast exposes it freely to the sea-breezes, and the circumstances which, at a trying time of the year, produce shore-winds in the more southern districts, produce only sea-breezes here, because of the stretch of sea over which these prevailing currents blow.

8. As a further argument I would state that my inquiries seemed to prove that Bezwada was exceptionally liable to cholera. I do not know if the native town is particularly unhealthy or not; but an explanation was suggested that as this place

was at the junction of several canals, if there happened to be cholera about, it was likely to be conveyed by passengers along these water routes.

9. In addition to this there is no Civil Surgeon at Bezwada, but only a hospital assistant.

10. More important still, however, from the point of view of work is that there is no Collector there. With the intimate relations now existing between the Revenue Board, Collector, and the Forest Department it seems certainly advantageous to be able to communicate ideas with a Collector at head-quarters. It simplifies work for at least one district and enables an interchange of ideas with a District Revenue officer which may be likely to afford a clue to the correct policy to adopt towards other District Revenue officers.

11. There is the further consideration that the railway rather discounts the advantages of a central geographical position. Bezwada will soon be little more than 24 hours' journey from Waltair.

The railway authorities are, I believe, fully impressed with the importance of Vizagapatam as affording good shipping facilities, and it will soon be an important railway centre, the head-quarters of this line being probably at Waltair.

12. In conclusion I would ask that if Government should be pleased to decide that Waltair, rather than Bezwada, should be permanent head-quarters of the Conservator, the assistance of the Collector may be called in to secure a site for house and office with as little delay as possible, because of the circumstances hinted at in the last paragraph.

The value of land is not fully realised as is shown by the price at which the railway secured the sites of their officers' quarters, but it very soon will be.

Resolution—dated 26th May 1893, Forest No. 608, Mis.

The Conservator's letter is submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board considers that Mr. Peet's reasons against selecting Bezwada as the head-quarters of the Conservator of the Northern Circle are not without force. Under present rules the Conservator must be on tour for six months in the year, and it is then immaterial where his nominal head-quarters may be. For the remainder of the year it is desirable, in the interests of Government, as well as for the officer himself, and for his office establishment, that he should be located in a healthy station, provided this can be effected without detriment to his work. As far as healthfulness is concerned, either Cocanada or Waltair is preferable to Bezwada, and both are on the point of being brought into communication with the rest of the Circle by rail and will be within 24 hours of Bezwada. If Waltair were selected, the cost of building a residence for the Conservator would be saved. At Bezwada certainly, and at Cocanada probably, a dwelling house would have to be erected by Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—dated 16th June 1893, Mis. No. 2216, Revenue.

Before passing final orders on the proposal regarding the head-quarters of the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, the Government desires to be furnished with full information as to buildings or sites for his residence and office available both at Waltair and Cocanada.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 2nd October 1893, Forest No. 1244, Mis. :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 23rd June 1893, Forest No. 735, Mis. :—

Read—G.O., dated 16th June 1893, No. 2216, Revenue.

Resolution—dated 23rd June 1893, Forest No. 735, Mis.

Communicated to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, for early report. If the Conservator is not in a position to report on the buildings or site for buildings at Cocanada, he should obtain the necessary information from the Collector of Gódávari.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

Read—also the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 31st July 1893, No. 966 :—

In answer to Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd June 1893, Forest No. 735, Mis., I have the honour to state that I have made inquiries in person at Cocanada and there are no houses available for accommodation, and some of the officers now there have had great difficulty in getting houses for themselves. There are none likely to be for sale which can be recommended as an investment.

2. As regards sites I could not hear of any which were convenient. It seemed to me that Cocanada was so much more shut in by the native quarters and by vegetation, and in consequence of its position, that fresh sites for European dwellings were infinitely more difficult to find than at Waltair. Added to these considerations is the fact that owing to the silting up of the bay the future of Cocanada is not sufficiently promising to invite investment in house property.

3. In Waltair I have consulted the Collector and agree with him that there is no available house which it would be right to recommend for purchase. Most of the old houses are honey-combed by whiteants and are more or less unsafe.

4. On the other hand there are convenient sites still available, and I believe that the acquisition of a site for Government, pending orders about house and office, will be a good investment. The site of which I am thinking will have to be taken up under the Land Acquisition Act, and I would ask early permission to do so to the extent of some 12 acres.

There are reasons for not specifying the locality till permission is given and the the acquisition commenced; but if permission is accorded I will do nothing without the approval and co-operation of the Collector with whom I am in communication. When proceedings have commenced, a map of the site will be sent at once in time for staying the acquisition should Government disapprove of the choice.

Resolution—dated 2nd October 1893, Forest No. 1244, Mis.

Submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 16th June 1893, No. 2216, Revenue.

2. From what Mr. Peet now says it would seem that the argument in favour of Waltair, put forward in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th May 1893, No. 608, that the cost of building a residence for the Conservator would be saved at that station, no

longer applies. The Board does not, however, understand why private buildings should not be rented by the Conservator for dwelling house and office purposes as at present.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. MEYER,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd June 1893, Mis. No. 735.

READ—also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 2nd October 1893, Forest No. 1245, Mis.

ABSTRACT.—Recording endorsement of the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, forwarding Kistna Collector's letter requesting to be informed if it is necessary, under the circumstances stated, to acquire land for the Conservator's office at Bezwada.

ORDER—dated 24th October 1893, No. 932, Revenue.

Forest No. 339.

In modification of the orders contained in paragraph 11 of G.O., dated 27th October 1891, No. 1017, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to declare that Waltair shall be considered as the head-quarters of the Conservator, Northern Circle.

2. After consultation with the Collector of Vizagapatam, Mr. Peet reports that he is unable to recommend to Government the purchase of any of the existing houses at Waltair. It is not reported whether the arrangements at present made by the Conservator for his dwelling house and for his office are suitable, and the Board suggests that private buildings might continue to be rented. The Government desires to receive a further report on this subject, but in the meantime, as the construction of an office would in any case appear to be desirable, the Public Works Department will be requested to prepare a plan and estimate for a combined office and residence; it would appear to be practicable to accomplish this object by constructing a building with an upper storey and the advantages of this arrangement would be twofold, in that it would save the Government the extra expense of providing two separate buildings and of acquiring sites therefor, and it would also tend to reduce the rent that would be demanded from the Conservator.

3. Orders in regard to the acquisition of a site for the above building will be deferred pending the receipt of the report above called for in regard to the question of maintaining the present system of renting private buildings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), with one enclosure.
„ the Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads).
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

60 Copies.

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Govt. of {1893} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 24th October 1893, No. 932.

OCTOBER.

Head-quarters of the Conservator, Northern Circle.

Declaring that Waltair shall be considered as the —; calling upon the Board to report whether the present system of renting private buildings for the Conservator's residence and office are not suitable; and requesting the Public Works Department in the meantime to prepare a plan and estimate for a combined office and residence.

No. 2953-W dt/15 Nov/93

Communicated to the Supty. Engr. I Circle, who will submit the required plan and estimate

(Sgd.) J. P.

W.

Supty. Engineer, I Circle