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00-13-11-5

Financial

Department.



## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper :—

From the Public Works Department, d/ 15th November  
1895, No. 3489 C.

O R D E R.— 22nd November 1895, NO. 1194.

The Secretary, Lawrence Asylum Press, is requested  
to Supply the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department,  
with four copies of the Madras Quarterly Civil List commencing  
with the issue for the present quarter.

2. The necessary addition will be made to the appendix to G.O.  
No. 689, Financial d/ 12th/September 1895.

(True Extract)

*W. D. Phillips*  
Ag Assistant Secretary.

For Chief Secretary.

To the Secretary, Lawrence Asylum Press.

,, , Public Works Department.

,, , Accountant General.

*8/11*

Govt. of {1895} Madras.  
Financial Dept

Recd: 28.11.95

To

P. W. D.

No 3086 W of 2 December 1895

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Recorded

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Proceedings, dated 22 Novr 1895,  
No. 1194

Subject.

Regarding the Secy. Lawrence Anglin  
to supply the Secy. to Govt. PWD with  
our Copies of the Madras Quarterly Civil  
Lit.

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R.S.

15.11.95 - No 3489C  
25.4.95 - 9814

DESPATCHED  
2 DEC. 95

No. 188.

District Munsiff's Court, Edumalpet

11<sup>th</sup> September 1895.

From

A. Srinivasa Sengar,

District Munsiff,

Edumalpet.

To

The District Judge of  
Coimbatore.

Sir

6. - From enquiries I have made, I  
learn that the Court-house was built  
nearly half a century ago when Edumalpet  
appears to have been no better than a  
village. Then the present site had, to the  
east of it, garden lands under cultivation  
and no houses at all. To the west,  
and south there were houses whose  
was not even one fifth of what it is now,  
and which were situate at some distance  
from the site so as to cause no incon-  
venience to the Court. The Court hall  
with two rooms on the east side was the  
only building then in existence. The  
entrance to it was in the north side. The  
Clerks (the old Rayasams and gunastots)  
used to be seated on mats on the ground  
around

around the Munsiff's seat. There were half a dozen pleaders or so who used to sit on mats on the ground for some time and then on a bench or two on both sides of a table placed before the Munsiff's seat. Then Mr Pasupattur Mudahar, a late District Munsiff, appears to have closed the north entrance and to have connected the old pyal on both sides of that entrance, which adjoined the ditch of the road, into a room for the clerks. The entrance to the Court hall was then placed in the south wall which was formerly the back part of the hall with a yard behind. The yard lay to south, east and west of the hall and was enclosed by mud walls on Reg's north and south sides. A gate to serve as an entrance to the south yard from whose ingress is had to the Court hall was formed in a tiled shed built on the east side of the open yard. This tiled shed which now forms the front of the Court house serves as pleaders' and parties' shed. Since a few years before these changes were made a new town had been springing up on the old garden lands to the east and is now a flourishing and important suburb of the old Kurnalpet and known as Sullivanpettah named

named after the then Collector. In front of the Court house which now faces the east there is a high road with a tank on the opposite side of the road. This tank serves as drinking water reservoir when there are freshes in the river which supplies it. Houses have, since the present Court house was built, come into existence on the south and west in close proximity to the Court-house: also opposite to the north wing (which is the clerks' room) on the other side of the road immediately to the north of it. The nearness of the Court house to the public road on the east and north and to dwelling houses on all sides but the east renders it undesirable as a public office on account of the frequent procession preceded by noisy music and on account of the occasional wordy quarrels in the neighbourhood. There is a pyal school located in one of the houses on the north side: the loud way in which all boys read out their lessons at the same time and the kolattam play which the boys are taught in August-September of each year for a month preceding the navarathin feast are all matters which make the Court house a very inconvenient one. So much

about the surroundings and the condition of the building.

7. As regards space the Court-house is utterly insufficient. A horse-shoe table has since been provided by pleaders for their use around which hardly ten chairs can be placed without inconvenience. The small space left behind the pleaders' seats has to serve as a way for parties going to the clerks' room where the Head Clerk is seated; and as a space to sit for witnesses who have been examined in a case under trial. There is no space at all for the Spectators to remain in the Court house. As regards the north wing referred to above, a small room at the western extremity of it is used as Deputy Magistrate's office. This is too small to serve as the Magistrate's office with four Amins and twenty five persons having business in the room and as a place for the custody of attached moveables. The rest of the wing which is partitioned by a wall from the Magistrate's room is occupied by seven clerks, two process writers, one examiner and four copyists with the tables, chairs, boxes, shelves &c. required for their use. This wing has windows opening into  
the

the street on the north side and the roof of the wing is very low. The glare and heat when the windows are open and the sultriness and the want of sufficient light when the windows are closed hardly need mention. The crowding of the whole staff of the establishment in this narrow building is hardly consistent with sanitary requirements of a public office.

8. As regards ventilation, the Court-hall having the record-room and the Munsiff's retiring room to the east of it receives no free air from that direction. The west wall of the hall has a window which opens into the vacant yard next to which are private dwelling houses or godowns. The hall is thus ill-ventilated and gets dark at about 5 or 5-30 P.M. and in the rainy season, earlier.

9. In connection with the question of space, it may be noted that the number of pleaders has increased (it is now 22 or 23). All pleaders cannot remain in the bar at all times. Persons have to go out frequently and call the pleaders from the front shed. The parties and witnesses are obliged to remain at

so great a distance from the Court hall that two persons are required to be posted to call them out, one at the south entrance of the hall and the other at the gate in front, and the Court has generally to wait for a minute or two in the case of each person called out to see whether he is present or not. The loss of time entailed in this way would be obviated if there was a place to serve as gallery where all parties and witnesses would wait to be called out and appear at once when called, and if there was sufficient room in the bar for pleaders to sit. The Court can spare the time required to wait for them for legitimate purposes.

10. As a non professional man I have stated all conceivable objections to the present Court-house, so far as my enquiry and personal experience permitted me. It is certainly unsuited as a public office according to the modern idea and standards of fitness of things and, when contrasted with the splendid Taluk Cutcherry premises and the High School building close by, presents an —  
undignified

undignified appearance.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. Sriwasa Sengar,  
District Munsiff.

(True Copy).

(Signed) J. Weir,

District Judge.

(True Copy).

High Court of Judicature,  
Appellate Side,  
Madras, 29<sup>th</sup> October 1895

D. W. L. Courie

Acting Registrar.

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A. J. J. J.