

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 2017N

DATED 14 July 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Site for the Residence of the Head
Assistant Collector, Chidambaram.
Prod Revenue Dept regarding the
Communicated to the Dyptg
Engineer T. Arule.

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ANNUAL REPORT
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Collectors Office.
Camp, Kuringipadi
Dated 16th May, 1896.

From

L. W. Dance Esquire,
A. G. Collector of South Arcot.

To

The Secretary to the
Commissioners of Land Revenue,
Madras.

I have the honour to reply to B.P. No.
1871 Mies. dt 21st April 1896 and to resubmit
the petition received with B.P. Ref on Govt Ref.
No. 2791 dated 11.1.96.

2. The delay in deciding on a site for the
Head Assistant Collector's house at Chidambaram
has been owing to the difficulty in
finding a suitable one. Out of several pro-
posed only two have commended themselves
to the Executive Engineer.

3. One of these is situated in Patta Jiali
No. 304 in the village of Usuppar. It is situa-
ted near the Annamalai Travellers' Bui-
galar about half a mile beyond the

Municipal toll-gate on the road to Shigga.

The Executive Engineer thinks however that this is not altogether unobjectionable. There is a good deal of wet cultivation in the vicinity so that it is liable to damp. There is also a small tank which might become stagnant and foul at certain times.

4. The best site procurable in the opinion of both the Head Assistant Collector and the Executive Engineer is one to the east of the Railway station. It comprises the whole of Poramboke field No 381 and portions of Patta fields Nos. 382 and 387 in the village of Kottangudi (The survey numbers quoted are subject to correction as the plan is not very clear). It is situated just outside the Municipal Toll gate on the road to Pichavaram.

5. The Head Assistant Collector says that as soon as he fixed on this site he saw it would be necessary to acquire the Mutt which is to the South of it. This has given rise to the enclosed petition. The petitioners' allegations that the proximity of a European residence would be a source of profanation to their religious services is of course absurd. The old Collector's Bungalow at Bhavani in the Coimbatore District is built within the walls of a large temple and my house at Palghat was quite close to one. But the petitioners would have been quite in the right if they had objected to our acquiring the Mutt. I do not think this would be at all expedient or desirable. But unless the Mutt is acquired the site selected will be too confined and I would

not approve of it. There is however plenty of ground to the South which might suit. A top standing on part of it would require to be thinned out. If this were done, I think a suitable site could be obtained, though not so breezy as the one to the North of the Mutt. I am asking the Executive Engineer whether he approves of my suggestion and if so to mark out a site and prepare a plan.

6. I do not think the music in the Mutt will be very audible here. I doubt in fact whether there ordinarily is much music. I visited the place twice. The first time I heard no sounds from the Mutt. The second time I was recognised by two or three men who were strolling about the top. They immediately rushed into the temple and shortly afterwards I heard a drum and a bell being very vigorously played on, but it was obviously for my benefit. Music of an aggressive nature might at all events be prohibited during the small hours of the morning under pain of prosecution under Sec. 290 I.P.C.. On hearing from the Executive Engineer I will address the Board again.

I have &c.
(Signed) G. V. S. S. S.
for as. Collector.

(True copy)