M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 795 Press ~~Mis.~~

91-92

Dated 17-5- 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

31-8-23

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of May 1860.

No. 91. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department, dated 4th May 1860, No. 287 :—

Approving for execution, with certain modifications, the several arrangements proposed by the Commissioner of Tanjore respecting the accommodation available at that place for Kachéries, Courts, &c., and desiring that steps be taken for causing the movements connected with the Revenue Department to be made at once. (Vide Political Proceedings from 1st to 10th May 1860, Nos. 15-16.)

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1860, No. 795.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

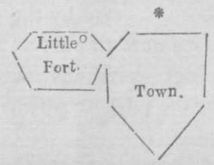
Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 30th March 1860, No. 945.

In the last paragraph of the Order by Government dated the 5th December last, No. 705, I am required to ascertain and report whether suitable accommodation could be provided at Tanjore for the Huzúr Kachéri, Court House, Treasury, &c., in the event of its being thought desirable to fix that station as the Collector's Head Quarters and station of the Zilá Court.

2. I should earlier have submitted the desired information, had I not understood that a new Court is decidedly to be established at Negapatam, and had I not also had the honor of personally communicating on the subject of the Order, with the Honorable the President of the Council on his visit to Tanjore. It has now, however, occurred to me, that I am bound formally to state my views, which accordingly I have the honor to do.

3. At Tanjore there is more than sufficient accommodation for both Kachéri and Court convenience, if the Government resolve to direct the transfer of those Departments to this town, and a few hundred Rupees would cover all the cost of the trifling requisite changes for doors and barred windows to the several buildings which the transfer would bring into use.

4. An important benefit will arise from the change. The Kachéri and its records and the General Treasury of the Province could be located in what is called the Little Fort, a place of great strength affording every advantage that could be deemed necessary for the custody and preservation of the public archives and Government funds during any crisis likely to arise from popular tumult. This Fort, with reference to the strongly walled and fortified Town of Tanjore, is situated as roughly shown in the marginal diagram.*



5. Around both is a deep, well excavated, ditch, in capital order at the present time, a great part of which is always wet. In the Little Fort is the only reservoir of drinking water used by the inhabitants of Tanjore which, on an emergency, could thus be commanded and cut off.

6. The buildings available for the revenue Treasury and revenue records are vaulted, high, capacious rooms, open at present on the inner side which would have to be bricked up and partially barred. For this operation, however, there are thousands of iron bars which have been lying about in Store and in other places in the Palace, untouched for years past, or standing in the window frames of buildings in extreme disrepair.

7. There is a large upstair Palace called the Surja Mahal, the second story of which consists of three rooms, each of which would answer the purpose of a Collector's Kachéri. Below, there is corresponding space for the English Department. Beyond this, if wanted, is another Palace designated the Anay Mahal where a Subordinate or Principal Sadr Amín's Court might be held. There is also space sufficient for many Judicial records; and a small body of Prisoners could be well accommodated within the Fort at the sides of an old Gate now closed by brick work.

8. Close to the Little Fort, but inside the Gate of the Town, is "Venkat Ráu's" house which Mr. Cadell and myself considered as most admirably adapted for a Talook Kachéri, it being by all means desirable that the Cusbah of Talook Trivadi should be removed as soon as possible to Tanjore from Trivadi, seven miles distant, where it now is.

9. This house of Venkat Ráu has, however, been occupied by the new Police Head quarters under the consent to that effect which is understood to have been given personally by the Honorable the President of the Council, as he passed through Tanjore.

10. It appears to me, however, not to be by any means so well calculated for Police Head quarters as a large House outside the Town called the Rájá's Hospital, and I would most strongly advocate the issue of Orders for the delivering over of Venkat Ráu's house to the Collector Mr. Cadell, who will then be in a position to give up the Rájá's Hospital.

11. I am aware that Lieutenant Duncan, the local Superintendent of Police, entirely agrees with me in this respect and I observe from the Minute of the Honorable the President which appeared in the Newspaper of the 26th instant, that the house called the Ráj Hospital is the one which has been approved by him as the Police Head quarters. As a principal advantage of this site, I may mention that close to it is open ground available for hutting, whereas the contracted piece of ground at the back of Venkat Ráu's house would suffice for no more than 35 huts, if it could be appropriated to that purpose, which, in consequence of a claim to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of it, it cannot now be, with safety to the interests of Government.

12. In the rear of Venkat Ráu's house are two square strongly constructed houses, built in the Native style, open in the middle, which would answer capitally for a Jail or for two Sadr Amín's Courts. Close to them is the excellent house of Somanáda Punt, the upper story of which is out of repair. But this would easily be converted, if required, into a public Office of any kind. Either of these three buildings would do for a District Munsiff's Court house.

13. More to the northward in the Town, is a large upstair house called the Ram Mahal, formerly occupied by the Resident, where I temporarily located the present District Moonsiff in November 1858. This building would make an excellent Zilá Court House. Its ground floor rooms are strongly vaulted and could be occupied by records.

14. In point of fact, there are so many excellent buildings available for public offices, that the only difficulty is that of distribution and appropriation.

15. The establishment at Negapatam of a new Zilá Court having been deemed by the Honorable the President in Council to be advisable, it would ill become me now to offer an opinion on the point. Had I, however, had an opportunity, I should strongly have advised its being fixed at Tranquebar, where buildings would have been found fit for the purpose which are Government property.

16. I should also have suggested that Tranquebar be selected as the Head Quarters of the Sub Collector and Joint Magistrate of Tanjore. Under present arrangements, this Officer resides at Myaveram, and in consequence of there being no Government building there, available for the accommodation of his Kachéri Servants, the State is subjected to the monthly expense of extra Tent allowance all the year round.

17. If the Government records be removed under the proposed arrangements to Tanjore, the public buildings at Tranquebar will be free for occupancy by the Sub Collector and his Establishment, and there will be a saving to Government, whilst the duties of the northern part of the District will in no wise be impeded.

18. I had this plan in contemplation when I was Collector of Tanjore, but it was necessarily kept in abeyance pending the appeal in Kamakshi Bhai's suit against the Government. Should this proposal not meet with the approval of Government, there can be no doubt, I submit, as to the urgent necessity of removing the records and Treasury from Tranquebar to Tanjore and of bringing in to this place, also, the Talook Treasury and Kachéri from Trivadi.

19. The Residency at Tanjore might then be placed at the disposal of the Collector as his ordinary abode and I would suggest that a monthly rent be demanded of not less than 70 Rupees per mensem.

20. Some provision seems necessary for retaining on a proper footing, the Hospital which the late Rájá kept up at a monthly outlay of Rupees 500-0-0. At present the sanctioned allowance is Rupees 220, from which Rupees 35 are paid to the Assistant Apothecary stationed here in charge of the detachment of Sepoys. That sum was formerly drawn by a dismissed Apothecary who happened to be in Tanjore; but it was found necessary to discontinue his services, and as the Assistant Apothecary of the ~~Department~~ has little to do, I engaged him to Superintend the Hospital for the above rate of remuneration. Under the new Police arrangements, he will of course depart from Tanjore when the Department quits the station and then there will be no Medical Officer of any kind in the place, although there are several Public Works Department European Officers frequently here, and the Collector of the District is for many months of the year at a distance of 7 miles from Tanjore.

21. Assuming that the Jail is henceforward to be at Tanjore and that the Government are pleased to order the removal to it of the Kachéri Head Quarters from Tranquebar, an Assistant Surgeon will be wanted here, as a matter of course. If this be not done, I submit that a medical subordinate of a grade not inferior to an Apothecary should be in charge of the Hospital and that it be placed on the usual footing of a Civil Dispensary with the privileges of an establishment of that class.

22. The sum now drawn monthly, for its aggregate expenses in the Serkle's Indent, *viz.*, Rupees 220-0-0 will then be unnecessary.

23. The Ráj Hospital which I have proposed to occupy as the Police Head Quarters was built where it is, in consequence of the late Rájá's aversion to its being within the walls of Tanjore itself; and some consideration may have been paid to the convenience of the Ex-Residency Surgeon who became its Superintendent. The site for all the purposes of the inhabitants of the Town who are likely to benefit by it, is most inconvenient and the distance is a great draw-back to their acceptance of the aid it offers.

24. It will therefore, in my opinion, be desirable to assign for Hospital purposes a part, or the whole, of the vaulted buildings which are annexed to the north wing of the Horse stables and that wing itself. Some trifling alterations may be requisite on the first appropriation of these buildings as a Hospital, but I would undertake to do all that is wanted, if Government would sanction for the purpose the sum of Rupees 500.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1860, No. 287.

In the above letter the Commissioner reports, in accordance with the instructions he has received, on the accommodation available at Tanjore for the Kachéries, Courts, &c., intended to be removed thither, and on the arrangements which he would propose in connection therewith. He states that there is more than sufficient accommodation for the Departments to be transferred to Tanjore, and that a small sum would cover the cost of the trifling alterations necessary to adapt the several buildings to the purposes for which they are required.

2. The arrangements submitted by Mr. Phillips comprise:

Paragraphs 4 & 18. The removal of the Collector's Kachéri, Records and Treasury from Tranquebar into the "Little Fort" at Tanjore.

Paragraph 7. The Palace called the "Surja Mahal" in the above Fort should be adapted for the reception of the Collector's Kachéri and for that of the English Department, and another Palace, the "Anáy Mahal," should be applied to a Subordinate or Principal Sadr Amín's Court, there being space sufficient for many Judicial records, and accommodation within the Fort at the sides of an old gate for a small body of prisoners.

Paragraphs 8 & 18. The removal of the Talook Kachéri and Treasury from Trivadi to Tanjore.

Paragraph 8. The appropriation of "Venkat Rau's" house close to the "Little Fort" but inside the gate of the town, for the purpose of a Talook Kachéri.

Paragraphs 10 & 11. The transfer of the new Police Head Quarters from Vencat Rau's house to a large house outside the town called the Rájá's Hospital, and the delivering over of the former building to the Collector for the purpose above stated.

Paragraph 12. Two strongly built houses are in the rear of Venkat Rau's house, and close to them the house of Somanada Punt. Either of these three buildings would be well adapted for a District Moonsiff's Court House and for a small Jail.

Paragraph 13. More to the northward in the town a large upstair house called the "Ram Mahal," is well adapted for a Zilá Court House.

3. The Government approve of the several arrangements as above specified, except that they direct that the Zilá Court House no less than the Collector's Kachéri should be in the

" Little Fort," and with this modification they order that these arrangements be carried out. The Collector will allot the buildings in the Little Fort in conjunction with the Civil Judge of Combaconum and the Commissioner; the buildings in question being, it is understood, clearly part of the State property of the late Rájá, and not being at present occupied by any of the Rájá's family, nor in any way required for their comfort and accommodation.

4. Paragraphs 9 to 11 of the Commissioner's letter will be communicated to the Inspector General of Police with instructions to make over to the Collector the building known as " Venkat Rau's house," and now occupied as the new Police Head Quarters.

5. The Government dissent from the proposals submitted in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the Commissioner's letter. They consider that Negapatam, as the Sea port and chief place of business of the District and the eastern terminus of the Railway, is clearly the proper situation for the second Court; and that Mayaveram is a remarkably central situation for the Sub-Collectorate which Tranquebar would not be.

6. With respect to the movements connected with the Revenue Department, the Government desire that steps be taken for having them made at once. More delay may occur in the transfer of the Combaconum Civil and Session and other Courts.

7. The measures necessary for adapting and fitting up the buildings for the various purposes for which they are required will be carried out by the District Engineer in communication with the Commissioner, Collector of Tanjore, and Judge of Combaconum. The District Engineer will submit, through the Department Public Works, plans and estimates of the works required to be done. Meanwhile he will proceed at once with such Revenue buildings as do not involve any considerable expense.

Paragraph 19. 8. The Government approve of the Residency at Tanjore being given up to the Collector as his ordinary residence, but they do not think that a monthly rent of more than 50 Rupees should be demanded for the occupation of these premises. This sum will accordingly be the fixed rent.

9. The proposal submitted in paragraphs 20 and 21 for placing the late Rájá's Hospital on the footing of a Civil Dispensary with the privileges of an Establishment of that class, and for having an Apothecary in charge of the Hospital, will be considered hereafter when the Combaconum Court and Zilá Surgeon are transferred to Tanjore. Meanwhile the Commissioner is authorized to expend, as proposed, a sum not exceeding 500 Rupees for making the necessary alterations to adapt the buildings referred to in the last paragraph of his letter, to the purposes of a Hospital.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner at Tanjore.
" Collector and Government Agent at Tanjore.
" District Engineer.
" Civil Judge of Combaconum.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Court of Sadr and Faujdárí Adalat.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Auditor.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Revenue 1860 Dept.
Pro: of Govt 20th May.

No. 1006

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Political Depart.

Dated 4th
Rec. 14th } May 1860.
No. 287.

Approving for execution,
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at that place for Kacheries,
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that steps be taken for
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No. 795.

Recorded.

17th May 1860.

No. 91 & 92.