M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1798 Press ~~Mis.~~

7-8

Dated 1-10- ~~19~~-863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 7. Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George, dated Tenkasy, 14th September 1863, No. 261 :—

SIR,

Referring to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 2nd September 1863, and to my letter to your address of the 8th September, I have the honor to forward for the information of Government copy of a Report from Mr. Underwood, Deputy Collector stationed at Tuticorin, and I beg to state that I perfectly concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Underwood, regarding the inadvisability of at present selling the swamp at the back of the town of Tuticorin, and I consider the opinion expressed by Captain Moberly in paragraphs 17 to 19 of his letter to Government, to be erroneous.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy Collector, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Courtallum, 12th September 1863, No. 310.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, enclosing Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Works Department, 2nd September 1863.

2. Captain Moberly in his report paragraph 3, must have misunderstood what I said in respect to encroachments. I was of opinion that some of the land had been planted with Palmirah trees without application having been made for the land, and pointed out to Captain Moberly that the enclosures were only of recent erection, and the hedges, &c., had been put up since my arrival at the station.

3. I have since been over the ground with the Deputy Tahsildar and village officers, and herewith enclose an Urzee received from the above said officer, forwarding depositions taken by him. So great is the anxiety felt by the inhabitants, that they are ready at once to give up the land required, and to cut away any trees that are in the way of the cutting.

4. I cannot too strongly urge the absolute necessity there exists for an outlet for the back-water. Captain Moberly in paragraph 7 of his letter admits that the water way on the beach road is not sufficient, nor can it be increased at this point, "owing to the immediate neighbourhood of costly buildings erected before any outlet existed." Being on the spot last year when the flood came down, I can point to the imminent danger the town was placed in by the inefficiency of the water way; and further, a great portion of the town would have been destroyed if the water had forced its way (which it was very nearly doing) down the Cotton road into the sea between the Protestant Church and public Bungalow. This, in a great measure, was prevented by the exertions of the Sub-Magistrate and Police, who acting under my orders collected above one hundred men, and these under Mr. Barter's superintendence widened the water way at the south end of the town; but not before considerable damage had been done, and a portion of the south and east wall of the south screws carried away. But immediate relief was felt, as the cutting at the south was enlarged; and the water found a free outlet into the sea.

5. By the last flood the destruction of property was considerable, numbers of native houses destroyed, my own Bungalow was for two or three days crowded with above one hundred persons driven out of their houses. The distress felt by these poor people for the loss of their property is not to be described.

6. The position they are placed in this year, by the only outlet there was for the water being closed, without any very apparent means being afforded for the back-water to find a clear course, necessarily makes them feel anxious for what may be the result of this year's monsoon.

7. Captain Moberly, from paragraph 12 of his letter, is evidently aware of the urgent necessity there exists for the channels proposed by him, being immediately carried out. The merchants are constantly asking me whether the works proposed are to be proceeded with? And I am certain if nothing is done towards opening up the old outlets immediately, that in case of a heavy fall of rain, there will be great risk of damage to the town and its valuable contents. The only source left will be in the event of these channels not being ready, to cut away the

road put across the beach, should a large body of water fall into the swamp at the back of the town; this would be a pity, very considerable annoyance and inconvenience has already been felt by the community, through the great delay there has been in the interruption at this place, which is the sole means of communication through the town.

8. I do not concur with the proposition made by Captain Moberly in his letter, for selling the swamp for building purposes, nor do I think at present large prices would be obtained. Purchasers there would be for portions of the land, if not all, but the price obtained would be inconsiderable; and if cut up into building sites, the ground would first have to be raised. The land if puchased in its present state would only be held by the parties as an investment, in case of a Railway coming down, or a Company being formed for erecting new screws; considerable expense would be entailed on either Company to raise the ground, but this they could afford to do, which individual purchasers could not; and if built on in its present low state, the place would always be an annoyance during the wet weather, with puddles collected around the houses built, and from the stagnant water remaining on the unbuilt lots. The land if sold as building lots should first be raised and marked out, and parties should be required to build within a given, time, and pucka houses only; the cost for raising the swamp, so as to make it properly fit for building purposes, I would estimate at about Rupees 20,000 if not more; this amount might be returned when the land was sold, after being raised, but I very much doubt if it would even then fetch any thing like the money expended on raising it.

Should the Railway be carried out, the swamp would be a more suitable place for erecting warehouses upon than upon the sand to the west of the town. It would be the object of the Company to get as near the sea as they could, and if possible to have their terminus on the beach road (I do not know of any land to the west of the town so suitable for the erection of Railway premises), and I believe it was the opinion of the Surveyors of the Company when down here, that the swamp was the best site to be found for the purpose.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, *Collector.*

Referred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, D.P. W.

Chepauk,
22nd September 1863.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, 1st October 1863, No. 1,798.

1. On a perusal of this letter and its enclosure, the Governor in Council does not see what object would be gained in forcing a sale of the swamp in question. When applications are made for any parts of the land they may be disposed of on their merits, and it can then be determined on what terms they shall be acceded to in regard to the raising of the ground, character of the buildings to be erected, &c.

2. The estimate for the drainage of the Tuticorin Harbour, it is observed, was sanctioned for immediate execution in G. O. 18th September 1863, No. 2,714,* Public Works Department.

* In G. O. 24th September 1863, No. 1,750, Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Public Works Department, with reference to paragraph 2 of G. O. in that Department, 20th September 1863, No. 2,530.
„ Collector of Tinnevelly.
„ Board of Revenue.

Exd. S, T. Augustin.

No. 261.

Tinnevelly Collector's
Circuit Cutcherry
Tenkasy 14th September 1863

From

S. Silver Esqre.
Collector

To Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort Saint George

Sir,

Referring to the Proceedings of the Madras Government dated 22d September 1863, and to my letter to your address of the 8th September, I have the honor to forward for the information of Government copy of a Report from Mr. Underwood Deputy Collector stationed at Tuticorin, and I beg to state that I perfectly concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Underwood regarding the inadvisability of at present selling the swamp at the back of the town

town of Tuticorin, and I consider the opinion expressed by Captn. Moberly in Paras 17 to 19 of his letter to Government, to be erroneous.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed. Servt.
J. [illegible]
Collector

Pro 9th Septr./63 No. 124-125
" 24 — — 1751

Referred to the
Revenue Department
[illegible]
Col. R. C.
Secy to Govt. D.P.W.

[illegible]
22d Sept/63
No. 87

For orders.
I do not see what would be gained by throwing this land into the market – It may be sold as applied for. [illegible] I see
[illegible] Septr/63 [illegible] 7 & 8.

[illegible] 1863 No. [illegible] 2272 [illegible]
From
The Collector of
Tinnevelly
To
The Secretary to Govt.
Public Works Deptt.
Fort Saint George
Dated 14th
Recd 23d September 1863
No. 261
Encs. 1
No.

Concurring in the opinion expressed by Mr. Underwood regarding the inadvisability of at present selling the swamp at the back of the town of Tuticorin

No. 1798 – 15th Octr.
With an Order
[illegible]

No 1798.

1. On a perusal of this letter and the enclosure, the Governor in Council does not see what object would be gained in forcing a sale of the swamp in question. When applications are made for any parts of the land they may be disposed of on their merits, and it can then be determined on what terms they shall be acceded to in regard to the raising of the ground, character of the buildings to be erected &c.

2. The estimate for the drainage of the Fortification harbour, it is observed, was sanctioned for immediate execution in Cy. O. 18th Sept. 1863 No. 2714. P. W. D.

*Ju G.O. 24 Sept. 1863. No. 1750 R.D.

Fort St. George
1st Oct. 1863.

2nd Cy. P. W. D. with reference to para 2 of G. O. in that Department 20th Sept. 1863 No. 2530.

Collector of Tinnevelly
Board of Revenue