M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2857 Press ~~Mis.~~

377-378

Dated 22 - 11 — 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 377. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th November 1865, No. 7,209.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nannagarum, near Tenkasy, 11th July 1865, No. 273 :—

Received with the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th January 1865.

With reference to the Order of Government, 5th January 1865, No. 17, disapproving of the plan and estimate for the public Offices proposed to be erected at Tuticorin, and requesting the plan and estimate to be revised so as to give two-thirds of the lower floor of the proposed building, which will suffice for the Deputy Collector and Sea Customs Offices, I have the honor to state that, on consultation with Mr. Banbury, the late Acting Collector, and on a reference to the Superintending Engineer, a modification of the plan and estimate can scarcely be deemed advisable; and I would respectfully request the re-consideration of the various arguments used for the erection of a central and convenient building to supply the wants of so important a trading town as Tuticorin. Copies of letters from the Superintending Engineer and Deputy Collector are subjoined.

From the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Coilputty, 18th January 1865, No. 20.

No. 79, 11th July 1865.

1. In forwarding the enclosed Order of Government, I have the honor to observe that the Government can scarcely be aware of the difficulty which exists as to procuring any site for building offices in Tuticorin.

2. The plan submitted by me was drawn to suit the only piece of ground, as I was informed, available, at present occupied in great measure by the small buildings allotted to the Customs, the Post Office, and the Master Attendant, and was submitted to the head of each Department concerned before it was fair copied.

3. The Deputy Collector, as you are doubtlessly aware, holds his Cutcherry in the upper part of a rented house, the lower storey of which is occupied by his Office ; the Telegraph Office and residence are in a very miserable house, and when I saw it the Signallers were working in the back verandah.

4. I would further remark that if the trade of Tuticorin continues to increase, as it has done of late years, the owners of the houses now occupied as Government Offices will probably demand a very large rent, and the cost of building new Offices then will be considerably greater than it is even now.

From the Deputy Collector, to the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Turicorin, 23rd February 1865, No. 55.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th January 1865, forwarded with your Memorandum, No. 304, enclosing a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, on the subject of constructing a new Cutcherry for the several Departments of the public service at Tuticorin.

2. The present building occupied by the Deputy Collector and Magistrate has an upper storey. No inconvenience is felt by the public on this account ; all parties have ready access to him. The only inconvenience is, that the Cutcherry is so far from the Custom house. Captains

and merchants have complained of the heat experienced by them in walking from the Customs to my office for information on any subject requiring a reference. To remove the building to any other site than the one proposed would considerably increase the inconvenience already felt. The site proposed is also the most central and convenient for both the Court and Cutcherry.

3. The present Sea Customs building is very deficient in accommodation for the considerable trade of this place. References are frequently required to be made to the Deputy Collector in charge. The piece of ground is insufficient to afford accommodation for the Customs Office and Deputy Collector's Cutcherry on the same floor. Even were there sufficient ground it would be almost impossible for the Deputy Magistrate to do his work on the ground floor. The buildings are quite close to the sea, almost daily three to four hundred coolies are passing through the Master Attendant's Office : the like number landing and having their baggage examined. The clatter and noise of all kinds, bringing things in, taking articles out, that it would be most inconvenient to have the Court on the same floor as the Customs Offices ; other sites might be got, but any other than the proposed site would not be so convenient to the public, or allow the Deputy Collector to have the constant supervision which is so absolutely necessary in such an important Department. The trade of Tuticorin has of late years considerably increased, about (400) four hundred per cent. in the last few years. The present rent paid for the Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Cutcherry is Rupees 40 per mensem. The same building could now be let out on godown rent fetching 70 to 75 Rupees a month. Referring* to the former letters on the subject from this office.

* No. 61 of the 28th April 1864.
No. 65 of the 9th May 1864, and No. 180 of the 3rd December 1864.

2. I should consider that an upper room, well lighted and ventilated, is better for the transaction of business than the ground floor of a Custom house, in which the moving about of goods, &c., would be likely to disturb the progress of business.

3. As regards the location of different Departments in one building, even if some inconvenience arose to one or other of the Departments, it, I think, would be counterbalanced by the additional convenience to the public of finding a Post Office, Master Attendant's office, Telegraph, and Custom House in such close position.

4. The eventual superior economy of utilizing space in the concentration of Government Offices, both as regards sites for buildings and expense of erection is, I think, evident. The superior defensibleness of such concentrated buildings might also be considered ; but I would be most inclined to base a request for the re-consideration of the subject, on grounds of public convenience—a concentration of Government Offices to those whose time is of value is much appreciated.

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1. The Government in their Order of 22nd May 1863, No. 890, sanctioned the renting of a building at 40 Rupees per mensem at Tuticorin for the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry, pending the erection of a suitable building for the purpose; but the Deputy Collector having in the meanwhile proposed that the Sea Customs, Telegraph, and Master Attendant's Offices, as well as the Postal Department, should be located in one Office, the Collector, after a personal discussion of the subject with the Master Attendant, the Deputy Collector, and the Executive Engineer, expressed an opinion that it was advisable to adopt the Deputy Collector's suggestion, as the several Departments could be accommodated at a far less expense in one building than would be required for constructing separate buildings for each Department.

2. The Collector accordingly forwarded with his letter of 13th May 1864, No. 187, a ground-plan of the proposed building, in which were provided office

accommodation and residence for the Telegraph Department, and also office accommodation for the Deputy Collector, the Master Attendant, the Sea Customs Department, and the Post Office. The Board approved of the plan, and considered the report conclusive as to the necessity for better and more extensive accommodation than that at present provided for the several Departments above-mentioned ; and on subsequently receiving a proper plan and estimate, amounting to Rupees 27,000, they submitted them to Government (Proceedings 19th December 1864, No. 8,098,) observing, that although the estimated cost appeared large, the arrangement was probably far more economical than that of separate offices for each Department.

3. The Government, however, did not approve (Government Order 5th January 1865, No. 17,) of the proposed arrangements, on the grounds that a Deputy Collector's Office ought to be on the ground-floor where the people can have ready access to him, and that it would be very inconvenient to place four different Departments, one of which requires quarters for residence in the same building. The Government further observed that two-thirds of the lower floor of the proposed building would suffice for Deputy Collector and Sea Customs Offices, and directed that the plan and estimate should be revised accordingly.

4. The Collector now re-submits the original plan and estimate, with further explanation for the re-consideration of Government.

5. Mr. Wedderburn states, that, after consultation with the late Acting Collector and the Superintending Engineer, he is convinced not only of the greater economy of the arrangements originally proposed, but also of their superior convenience to the public. His words are as follows :—"As regards the location of "different Departments in one building, even if some inconvenience arose to one or "other of the Departments, it, I think, would be counter-balanced by the additional "convenience to the public, of finding a Post Office, Master Attendant's Office, "Telegraph, and Custom House in such close position. The eventual superior "economy of utilizing space in the concentration of Government Offices, both as "regards sites for buildings and expense of erection, is, I think, evident. The "superior defensibleness of such concentrated buildings might also be considered ; "but I would be most inclined to base a request for the re-consideration of the "subject on grounds of public convenience—a concentration of Government Offices "to those whose time is of value is much appreciated."

6. With reference to the remark of Government, that a Deputy Collector's Office ought to be on the ground-floor, where the people can have ready access to him, it appears that the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Tuticorin *now* occupies an upper storey, and no inconvenience is felt therefrom by the public who have free access to him, and that the noise with which the business of a Custom House is carried on would render it almost impossible for the Deputy Collector to conduct his Magisterial duties efficiently should his Office be located on the same floor with that of the former Department.

7. The Board are induced by the above considerations to re-submit the original plan and estimate for the re-consideration of Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd November 1865.

No. 378. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1865, No. 2,857.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government remain of opinion that th Deputy Collector's Office should be on the groun floor, and that the extent of accommodation provide for him may be reduced by the omission of the private room, which the Goverr ment consider unnecessary. The plan and estimate will be revised accordingly.

2. The Board will expedite their reply to the Government Order calling fo a report on the distribution of the Deputy Collectors in Tinnevelly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

4-59

R. Ot

No. 3231. of 1865.

Nothing Mal. has been since submitted
moves my belief that a Dep. Coll. should
be stuck up in an upper room of house
do work of subrs. requirement suits and
comm. an entrance easy of access to the comers
classes of the native public, who will be chary
of ascending stairs such as the plan provides
for reaching the room laid out in M.
Underwood's "by cours Cutcherry." —
Pattis, cumpli, wipers, prisoners, Ryots and
Putacoorn Merchants would all crowded together
outside the door of Mr. U's bath room. The entrance
to the Cutcherry conveniently close to the door
of the master attendants office
What is the room intended for in which the
work of which Collector can entered? Mr. 26-6 by
20-6. Told for the Dy Coll upon apartment? —
Lobrene Rodrigues Assistant has visited
the Plan, wish to open, shew the ground
Plan & diam. a panel ask liberty to the municip
of "a yard pukkah road" Pattis Putacoorn Mr. may
be told such municipal powers & Putacoorn
further municipal powers

terraced roof verandahs on either side of the one called "yard" &c. If the a yard at all is only 10 feet broad & consequently scarcely large enough for the alleged necessities of a yard.

I am not aware from my past experience of Sea Customs work at Negapatam, that all that the Depy Colr has written is to be accepted as painting in plain colors what happens at a place like Tutacorin. I think he has made the most of the difficulties and it is quite clear on perusal of the whole correspondence that Mr U's personal comfort is one of the impediments he has insisted up in his narration.

I consider the plan has been prepared in far too expensive a scale. If the four (4) departments must be brought together and accommodated on a single site & if the Colr, Mr Underwood is willing to state that no other site is available than the one covered by the Sup. Engr [illegible], I would order the plan to be recast and that all accommodation for the private use of the Depy Colr be excised from it, a design being new drawn out for the official use of (1) Master Attendant's office, (2) Post office, (3) Telegraph staff and (4) Depy Colr.

The first office may without objection be in an upper story - so with the private rooms of the Telegraph people who must live by their public office. But the Post Office, Telegraph office & Depy Colr. should in my opinion undoubtedly be below on the ground floor.

I may add that the unwisdom of building upstairs private apartments for the Deputy Colrs' occupation, whether free or paid for as Govt. tenant, is sufficiently obvious, if we assume the possibility of Mr Underwood's successor in the Depy Collectorship being a Brahmin, a Pillay, a Moodelly or a Mussalman.

Salute - 15 Nov [illegible] WDL

I think the Verandahs [illegible]

The Telegraph Office [illegible]

The submission of this subject for re-consideration of Govt. has been unduly delayed in the Collector's office and also in that of the Revenue Board - WDL

I think that it would be very desirable that the several Depts at Tutacorin - S Cartons -

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P. Office. Telegraph Office Attendant & Dispr
Collector should look to all in the
case of building and looking to the
importance of the Tuticorin trade
is probable extension that the recom-
-mendation provided should have a
reasonable liberal scale - I know
agree with Mr Phillips that the Depy
Collector should not have his Cutch
-ery upstairs nor do I see any reason
why he should have a private room
in the building - I would have the
plan amended in these respects &
then sanction it

J P

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 7,209.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th November 1865.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nannagarum, near Tenkasy, 11th July 1865, No. 273:—

Received with the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th January 1865.

With reference to the Order of Government, 5th January 1865, No. 17, disapproving of the Plan and Estimate for the Public Offices proposed to be erected at Tuticorin, and requesting the Plan and Estimate to be revised so as to give two-thirds of the lower floor of the proposed building, which will suffice for the Deputy Collector and Sea Customs Offices, I have the honor to state that on consultation with Mr. Banbury, the late Acting Collector, and on a reference to the Superintending Engineer, a modification of the Plan and Estimate can scarcely be deemed advisable, and I would respectfully request the reconsideration of the various arguments used for the erection of a central and convenient building to supply the wants of so important a trading town as Tuticorin. Copies of letters from the Superintending Engineer and Deputy Collector are subjoined.

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From Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Eighth Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Coilputty, 18th January 1865, No. 20.

No. 79, 11th January 1865.

1. In forwarding the enclosed Order of Government, I have the honor to observe that the Government can scarcely be aware of the difficulty which exists as to procuring any site for building offices in Tuticorin.

2. The plan submitted by me was drawn to suit the only piece of ground, as I was informed, available, at present occupied in great measure by the small buildings allotted to the Customs, the Post Office, and the Master Attendant, and was submitted to the head of each Department concerned before it was fair copied.

3. The Deputy Collector, as you are doubtless aware, holds his Cutcherry in the upper part of a rented house, the lower storey of which is occupied by his Office; the Telegraph Office and residence are in a very miserable house, and when I saw it the signallers were working in the back verandah.

4. I would further remark that if the trade of Tuticorin continues to increase, as it has done of late years, the owners of the houses now occupied as Government Offices will probably demand a very large rent, and the cost of building new offices then will be considerably greater than it is even now.

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2. The present building occupied by the Deputy Collector and Magistrate has an upper storey. No inconvenience is felt by the public on this account; all parties have ready access to him. The only inconvenience is, that the Cutcherry is so far from the Custom house. Captains and merchants have complained of the heat experienced by them in walking from the Customs to my office, for information on any subject requiring a reference. To remove the building to any other site than the one proposed would considerably increase the inconvenience already felt. The site proposed is also the most central and convenient for both the Court and Cutcherry.

3. The present Sea Customs building is very deficient in accommodation for the considerable trade of this place. References are frequently required to be made to the Deputy Collector in charge. The piece of ground is insufficient to afford accommodation for the Customs Office and Deputy Collector's Cutcherry on the same floor. Even were there sufficient ground it would be almost impossible for the Deputy Magistrate to do his work on the ground floor. The buildings are quite close to the sea, almost daily three to four hundred coolies are passing through the Master Attendant's Office : the like number landing and having their baggage examined. The clatter and noise of all kinds, bringing things in, taking articles out, that it would be most inconvenient to have the Court on the same floor as the Customs Offices ; other sites might be got, but any other than the proposed site would not be so convenient to the public, or allow the Deputy Collector to have the constant supervision which is so absolutely necessary in such an important Department. The trade of Tuticorin has of late years considerably increased, about (400) four hundred per cent. in the last few years. The present rent paid for the Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Cutcherry is Rupees 40 per mensem. The same building could now be let out on godown rent fetching 70 to 75 Rupees a month. *Referring to the former letters on the subject from this office.

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7. The Board are induced by the above considerations to re-submit the original plan and estimate for the re-consideration of Government.

(True Copies and Extracts.)

J. H. Burkitt

Acting Secretary.

To W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with a Plan and Estimate.

Copy to A. Wedderburn, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

Pro. 5th January 1866 No. 18.

Rev — 1865. Department
Pro. of Govt for 1865

No. 3231.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Pro. of the Board of Rev
13 October 1866 No. 2480

Dated 8th November 1865.
12 XIe
3. 0 2 0 Ab

Pro. of the Board of
Rev 29 November 1865
No. 7,209.

No. 3777 & 3778

Submitting for re-consideration original plan and estimate for the erection of a new Cutcherry for the several Departments of the public service at Tuticorin, Tinnevelly district.

Rs 2857. 2 Draw
With an Order

Rs. 2857.

The Govt Examining Officer
that the Govt Office
should have the ground
floor — & that the extent of
accommodation provided for
him may be reduced by the
omission of the Judicial Court
& the Govt consider accordingly
the Plan & Estimate will be
revised accordingly.

The Bd with which their
letter the Govt order calling for
reports on the distribution of
the Govt in Tinnevelly &c.

22 Nov 1865

To the Board of Rev
Dec 2 Bd

Pro. 18 Mar 1865 R. 18