M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2378 Press ~~Mis.~~

139 - 140

Dated 6 - 9 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 139. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1866, No. 5,988.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd July 1866, No. 174:—

This morning, in company with Colonel Walker, Superintending Engineer, I inspected the new Talook Cutcherry under construction; and I confess I was much disappointed with the building. It will be close, and wanting in space and air, and to my mind (I may be utterly wrong in my opinion) a great mistake. Its towers for defence, I think a sham. If cholera or small-pox break out amongst the prisoners confined in it, the Cutcherry people will quit the building. It is useless to expect that it will be otherwise. As the Cusbah Talook collections are remitted daily to the Hoozoor Treasury, I beg to propose that the building now being constructed for the reception of money in the new Talook Cutcherry be dispensed with. It will be unnecessary, and the space thus set free will be an immense improvement to the whole structure. The cash and stamps kept in the building can be easily kept in a strong box under lock and seal, and deposited, if necessary, in the defence tower (which can be easily adapted to the purpose) off the Tahsildar's room, or better still, be kept in the open Cutcherry under the eye of the guard. Another point is—the well, now being made within the building. It will cost a good deal, as it has to be taken through rock, and when made, will be but little used, as the water promises to be brackish. The water in a well outside the building, about fifteen yards from where the new well has been commenced, is brackish. Under these circumstances, is it worthwhile going on with the well? I think not. Coimbatore must remain satisfied with its new Cutcherry; but I really think that the standard plan of Cutcherries should be revised, ere any more are commenced; for I feel satisfied that it is a mistake. In this opinion, I believe, the Superintending Engineer agrees.

1. The Board resolve to submit the above letter for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. They have recently suggested the substitution of a Treasure vault for the room provided in the standard plan for Talook Cutcherries, and this suggestion, if adopted, would obviate the objection made to the plan on this score; but under the circumstances stated by the Collector, no Treasury appears necessary in the Coimbatore Talook Cutcherry.

3. As to the other objections raised by the Collector, the Board recognise their force, but do not see how they can be obviated, unless the orders of Government for making Talook Cutcherries defensible, and for including in them accommodation for the Police and for the Subsidiary Jail for short-time prisoners are materially modified. A well is an essentially necessary feature of a place of strength, and the vicinity of the prisoners to the office establishment, while they are required to be accommodated in the same building, is inevitable if the cost of the building is to be kept within reasonable bounds.

4. The Board are not prepared to say that the towers are useless for purposes of defence, or that the idea of making Talook Cutcherries defensible is a mistake,

nor do they think that the risk of disease breaking out among short-time prisoners is considerable; but they are disposed to think that it is a mistake to include a Jail in the office building, and they would recommend that reports be called for from the Collectors and Superintending Engineers of all Districts in which Talook Cutcherries on the standard plan have been erected, as to the defects which in practice have been detected in them, with a ground-plan of the building referred to in each report. From these reports the Government might come to some conclusion as to the necessity for modifying their instructions on the subject. Meanwhile the building of the Treasury in the Coimbatore Cutcherry should be suspended.

5. It is to be regretted that the Collector did not sooner avail himself of the numerous opportunities he has had of bringing forward his objections.

No. 140. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1866, No. 2,378.

Miscellaneous.

1. Communicated to the Department Public Works.

2. The construction of the Treasure room should be stopped at once, as well as the digging of the well.

3. The Government wish to know immediately how far the construction of the Cutcherry has proceeded, and desire to be informed how it happens that Mr. Grant's objections were not earlier submitted.

4. The Board will call for the information specified in paragraph 4 of their Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2378.

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