M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1708 Press Mis

528-529

Dated 26-7-1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th July 1867.

No. 528. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th June 1867, No. 3,790.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 18th May 1867, No. 87 :—

1. With reference to the requisition contained in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings of the 22nd September 1866, No. 6,815, I have the honour to inform you that during my recent Jummahbundy tour in the district, I examined the Talook Cutcherry buildings at Uppinangadi and Udipi, which were built in 1862 on a standard plan then approved of, but which has, I believe, been since considerably altered.

2. The Cutcherry at Uppinangadi is situated on the western bank of the Kumardari river. It is very difficult of access, for the town is on the other side of the river which is unbridged, always very deep, and, in the rainy season, often impassable for days; the Cutcherry people all live in the town, and there is much complaint of the difficulty they experience in getting to and from Office.

3. The Cutcherry itself is remarkable for its stifling heat. There is no means of getting a current of air through it, and the Tahsildar told me that those who have to work for any length of time inside the building suffer very much from the close atmosphere; but if it is bad for them, it must be infinitely worse for the unfortunate individuals who are, from time to time, either sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or detained in custody, while cases in which they are concerned are being inquired into by the Talook Magistrate.

4. You will observe, on referring to the appended plan, that the room set aside for the confinement of male prisoners is only 15 feet by 12 and 11 feet high; it has one door and one window. The door is of solid plank without any opening for ventilation. The window is $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$; there are also underneath the reapers of the roof a few extremely small apertures through which a little air can pass inside, but the eaves outside come down so low, and project so far, that there can be no draft of air.

5. At the time I saw it there were no prisoners in the room, but the heat was insufferable, and I cannot conceive people being locked up there for any length of time without terrible suffering. The Talook Magistrate told me that he had known as many as nine adults confined in that room at night.

6. If the window opened so that a current of air could blow into the cell, there might not possibly be quite such serious objection to it as a place of confinement, but this is not so; the window looks out into a dark verandah with pillars immediately in front, and in order to moderate a little the glare and heat in the middle of the day, the Court yard has been covered in with plaited cocoanut leaves, which, however, there can be doubt make the air more close for those inside. The cell for female prisoners, 12 feet by 9, is fortunately very seldom occupied.

7. It seems an extraordinary omission not to have made the doors of these cells of iron bars, instead of planks, when the whole of the inner side of the treasury on the opposite side of the Cutcherry is so constructed.

8. Then, again, the proximity of these rooms to the place where the Tahsildar holds his Office is a very grave objection; prisoners confined there can both see and hear all that goes on in the Talook Magistrate's Office.

9. The so-called towers can be of no use whatever as places of defence. They are thatched, and therefore easily destroyed, and the only means of getting up into the one over the entrance gateway is by a ladder *outside* the building.

10. There are openings in the walls intended for loopholes, but of such width as to be only a source of danger to those who might at any time be obliged to make use of them. I observed that the best room in the Cutcherry is set aside as a Police-room and place of arms.

11. The same remarks apply, with equal force, to the Cutcherry at Udipi, as regards the accommodation for prisoners, the propinquity of the cells to the Tahsildar's seat in Cutcherry, &c.

12. The well in the Cutcherry building at Udipi is quite dry for at least three months in the year; but the building is very well situated on high ground, a short distance only from the town, and immediately adjoining the District Munsiff's Court and Travellers' Bungalow.

13. As Government have recently appointed a Commission to consider the whole question of the Talook and Subsidiary Jails, and report on the improvements that may be found necessary, I abstain from offering here any suggestions on that head.

Enclosure No. 1.—Map.

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1. Submitted to Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 6th June 1867, No. 3,470.

2. The buildings, judging from the plan, cannot but be oppressively close, and their construction could scarcely have been professionally supervised, or such mistakes as the towers alone present would not have occurred.

3. The whole buildings should eventually be appropriated for revenue purposes, for which they are by no means too large, and meanwhile such improvements in the way of increased ventilation as are practicable should be carried out. So far as the Jail rooms are concerned, the Magistrate has means provided in Government Order, dated 18th April 1867, No. 613, Judicial Department.

4. Mr. Whiteside will report what would be the cost of a bridge over the Kumardari.

No. 520. ORDER THEREON, 26th July 1867, No. 1,703.

Miscellaneous.

1. Orders will be issued in the Department Public Works for the immediate provision of effective ventilators in the outer wall, and the substitution of grated for panelled doors to the lock-up wards in the Uppinangadi and Udipi Talook Cutcherries.

2. The removal of the short time prisoners to some separate place of confinement will be considered in the Judicial Department with the Commissioner's report on these Cutcherries, when received.

3. The opinion of the Superintending Engineer should be taken on the question of bridging the Comardari river.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Department Public Works.
,, the Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 6,818.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd September 1866.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 6th September 1866, No. 2,278, Revenue Department.

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 Taluk 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 taluk 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 Taluk 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.

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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 Taluk 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 Taluk Cutcherry.

3. As to the other objections raised by the Collector, the Board recognize their force, but do not see how they can be obviated, unless the orders of Government for making Taluk 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 Taluk 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 Taluk 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 reports. 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.

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

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 Board of Revenue.

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1. Communicated to the Collector of Coimbatore, who will furnish at once the information required in paragraph 3 of the above Government Order.

2. Paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd August 1866, No. 5,988, will be communicated to all Collectors, with the request that they will submit, for the information of Government, reports on the defects (if any) which in practice may have been detected in the Taluk Cutcherries which have been erected in their Districts on the Standard plan, forwarding at the same time a ground plan of the building reported on.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. SCHARLIEB,
First Assistant.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

Copy to all Collectors,
with paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings,
dated 22nd August 1866, No. 5,988.

Ext. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

No. 1866. Department.

Dated 22nd September 1866.

Received

No. 6,815.

Requesting Collector of Coimbatore to report how far construction of Taluk Cutcherry has proceeded, and calling on Collectors to report on any defects that may have been detected in Taluk Cutcherries erected in their districts on the standard plan.

Revenue Department

No 1708.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 26th July 1867.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letter from Acting Collector of Coimbatore reporting on defects in cutcherry buildings at Oppiringapadi and Udipe which were built on standard plan approved of in 1862, and requesting Collector to report cost for construction of bridge over Nimandaru.

Here enter 19th June 1867 No 3715

1867

Orders will be issued on the Department Public Works for the immediate provision of Ventilators in the under-mentioned Courts, and the substitution of grated doors for closed doors in the

Lock upwards in the Upper [Panagoda] and Udipa Palat Cutcherries.

The removal of the short time prisoners to some separate place of confinement will be considered in the Judicial Department with the Commissioner's report on these Cutcherries when received.

The opinion of the Superintending Engineer should be taken on the question of bridging the Comandai river.

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Copy to Deptt. P. Works)

[illegible] Judicial Deptt.)

Revenue 1807 Depts
Pro of Court for July

N° 1708

Pro of the Admiralty Court
of 26th July 1807

Pro of Govr Public Hy
of 12th August 1807 Cr 216

C.O. 116-213-214
22/8/67
C.O. 137
28-6-67

N.S. 528-529