M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2436 Press ~~Mis.~~

299-300
Dated 21-9-1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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M.S.

No. 299. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th August 1868, No. 6,180 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of the Madras District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 5th May 1868, No. 130.

1. I have the honor to forward copies* of correspondence between the late Collector, the Superintending Engineer, and the Inspector General of Jails, regarding the removal of certain stones from the forts at Chingleput and Carunguly, and to request the Board's instructions in the matter.

* To be returned.

The facts are briefly as follow :—

2. In digging the foundation for a gallows in Chingleput fort, the convicts came upon a store of cut-stone which they removed. The Executive Engineer being in need of such stone, applied to the Superintendent of the Jail for it, offering to pay the cost of excavation ; the Superintendent of the Jail refused to let him have it unless he purchased it at auction ; subsequently, the Superintending Engineer laid the matter before the Collector and asked his permission to take stone from both Chingleput and Carunguly forts ; the Collector replied that there was no objection to the Executive Engineer taking stone from the walls of the Chingleput and Carunguly forts for Government purposes. There is no doubt, I believe, that forts no longer kept up as Military works are in the Collector's charge, and no stones, buildings, &c., can be removed from them without his sanction.

3. The stones excavated by the prisoners should, I imagine, properly speaking, have been held at the Collector's disposal for public purposes, subject to the cost of excavation. The Jail Superintendent had not, I conclude, any right to sell them, and credit the proceeds to the Jail.

4. Although the Collector is the proper custodian of the Government property in the fort, it appears to me doubtful how far he is justified in allowing the wholesale demolition of old fort walls without special authority for so doing.

5. I have not sufficient knowledge of the district to be able to judge if the fort at Chingleput is in any way worthy of preservation, whether as an antiquity or for any other cause.

6. I am also unable to state if any objection exists to the removal of stones from Carunguly fort for public purposes ; I believe, however, that the walls of the latter have been merely used in public works, without little remains of the fort now.

From the Executive Engineer, Fourth Range, Madras District, to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, dated Camp at Theerovancovil, Madurantakum Taluk, 22nd January 1868, No. 361.

1. I have the honor to lay the following circumstances before you, and request your early instructions.

2. The Superintendent of the Jail at Chingleput dug out of the ruined part of the Chingleput fort several cut-stones of sizes. I required most of them for the Sub-Jail buildings lately sanctioned, and applied to him for them, stating that I was willing to pay the cost of digging up. He tells me I cannot have them without I am prepared to buy them at auction which is to take place shortly ; I have, therefore, to inquire—

1.—Has he the power to sell those stones or not ?

2.—Is he at liberty to make excavation in any part of the fort under any pretext without reference to this department?

3.—Is the fort or any part of it under his charge, as he supposes, because the Jail happens to be situated within it?

3. The stones in question would be very useful for the cut-waters of the Palar bridge; it is too late now to use them in the Jail buildings as I intended.

From the Executive Engineer, Fourth Range, Madras District, to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, dated Chingleput, 27th January 1868, No. 372.

1. The Carunguly fort is faced with granite stone, and it has been the custom hitherto, when stone of that description is required for public works, to obtain it from there.

2. I shall require a large quantity of it immediately for the new irrigation work lately sanctioned, and shall feel obliged by your informing me if I may take the stone from there.

3. If the Collector's permission is required, I shall be glad if you will kindly apply to him at once so as to save delay.

From the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, to the Collector of Madras, dated Camp at Chittoor, 22nd February 1868, No. 5,315.

1. I have the honor to enclose copies of two letters from the Executive Engineer, No. 4 Range, Madras District, and to request that you will be good enough to inform me, whether there are any objections to this department taking the stones it may require from the old forts of Chingleput and Carunguly, for use at the Palar bridge.

1 Copy of letter, No. 361, dated 22nd January 1868.
1 Do. „ 372, „ 27th „ „

2. I am under the impression that forts no longer required for Military purposes are under the control of the Collector of the district.

3. I would thank you for an early reply.

From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Collector of Madras, dated 7th April 1868, No. 49.

1. Some time ago, when either Mr. Thompson, of the Civil Service, or Dr. Busteed, were in charge of the Chingleput Jail, a large number of dressed stones was exhumed and removed from the interior of one of the bastions, where a foundation was being dug for the gallows. A few months ago Mr. Leggett, of the Public Works Department, applied to the Superintendent of the Jail for permission to remove the stones in question for some public work, but as a considerable amount of convict labor had been expended when they were exhumed, the Superintendent declined to give them up without some payment, and a certain sum was finally agreed upon between these officers. Such being the state of matters, I now receive a letter from the Superintending Engineer, enclosing another from you, dated 6th ultimo, No. 66, in which you say you have no objection to the stones at the old forts of Chingleput and Carunguly being taken by Government, and he construes this into a claim on your part to the stones in question.

2. As the correspondence between you and Colonel Boileau which has been sent to me does not show how the question was put to you, I have related the true state of the case, and now request you will inform me whether you prefer a claim to the layers of dressed stone discovered and exhumed by the convicts under the direction of the Superintendent of the Jail. These stones, as I have said, were buried in the earth-work of the bastion for some purpose not now known, and formed not part of the walls. Colonel Boileau's letter (to be returned) is enclosed.

From the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, to the Inspector General of Jails, dated Madras, 18th March 1868, No. 5,659.

1 Letter, dated 3rd March 1868.
1 Copy of letter from Collector of Madras District.

1. As requested, I have the honor to return the enclosure of your letter, No. 1,935, dated 4th March 1868.

2. By the accompanying copy of a letter from the Collector of the Madras District, you will observe that Mr. Fane is evidently of opinion that the permission to remove the stones of the Chingleput fort rests with him.

From the Collector of Madras, to the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Division, dated on Circuit at Trivellur, 6th March 1868, No. 66.

Vide your office letter, No. 5,315, dated 22nd February 1868.

The Collector has no objection to the stones at the old forts of Chingleput and Carunguly being taken by *Government* for their work at the Palar bridge.

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1. The foregoing letter, together with the correspondence forwarded by Mr. Thornhill, will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. It appears to the Board that all abandoned forts, from which Military forces or employés are withdrawn, should be considered to be under the care of the Collector, as the general custodian of all Government property not in the charge of any particular department. From his position, and the establishment under his control in every town and village, he is the only person who can effectively take care of public property so placed.

3. The Board are clearly of opinion that no fort ought to be demolished, or its material appropriated, without the special sanction of Government. From the correspondence forwarded by the Acting Collector, the Board do not learn that any sanction was ever granted for demolishing the forts of Chingleput and Carunguly.

4. When the Government decide on the demolition of a fort, the proper course would be that the Collector should arrange for this being done by the Public Works Department, either gradually, as occasion arises for the use of the materials, or rapidly, on account of sanitary considerations, according to circumstances.

5. The materials should be held as available first for Government purposes, and then for Local Fund and Municipal works, the department obtaining the materials, paying merely the cost of extracting them, whether this be done by free or convict labor. Any surplus beyond the requirements of these departments might be sold to the best advantage by the Collector, and the proceeds applied, with the sanction of Government, to some purpose of local utility.

6. The Board recommend that should the Government approve of the views contained in previous paragraphs, they be communicated to the departments concerned.

7. The Board request the sanction of Government for pulling down the forts at Carunguly and Chingleput. The former is a small enclosure of earth, faced with stone, standing in the middle of an extensive paddy flat.

8. The interior space has been levelled and is held on puttah and cultivated with dry crop, and there can be no possible objection to allowing the cut-stone to be used in the extension of irrigation works which is being carried on in the neighbourhood.

9. The Chingleput fort is an extensive work, containing within its circuit, the Jail, (consisting of several detached buildings,) Court House, and Talook Cutcherry, together with a dwelling house occupied by the Officer in charge of the Jail, and a considerable extent of land cultivated by the convicts.

10. The unfailing supply of water in the moat admits of the cultivation of hay, which is a source of considerable income to the Jail.

11. The Board are of opinion that very extensive demolition might be carried out profitably as regards the Local Fund, advantageous with respect to the salubrity of the Jails and other public buildings within the fort, and generally useful in placing in the market an enormous amount of building material now useless, but which would become available for the proposed works of the Palar bridge only three miles distant, as well as for the approaching demarcation of the adjacent talooks and other works of public utility.

12. Should the Government decide that the maintenance of the fort is undesirable in a Military point of view, and should they concur in the advisability of its demolition on the grounds stated above, the Board suggest that the Collector should be called on to submit a scheme for the purpose.

13. As on one side the fort walls form a portion of the embankment of the large Chingleput tank, and as some of the Jail buildings depend for support on portions of the work, it will be necessary to obtain the concurrence of the Superintending Engineer and Inspector General of Jails on the proposed plans.

14. It might be desirable to form a Committee for the purpose, including the Judge, Sub-Collector, Zillah Surgeon, and Range Officer.

No. 300.

ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1868, No. 2,136.

Miscellaneous.

1. The above correspondence has reference to the removal of stone-work from the forts of Chingleput and Carunguly, and to the claims to the material, preferred by the Superintendent of the Jail and by the Executive Engineer.

2. The Board of Revenue submit to Government, on the general question of the demolition of old forts, and the assignment of the materials derived therefrom, the following recommendation :—

"All abandoned forts, from which Military forces or employés are withdrawn "should be considered to be under the care of the Collector, as the general custo- "dian of all Government property not in the charge of any particular department. "From his position, and the establishment under his control in every town and "village, he is the only person who can effectively take care of public property so "placed.

"The Board are clearly of opinion that no fort ought to be demolished, or its "material appropriated, without the special sanction of Government. From the "correspondence forwarded by the Acting Collector, the Board do not learn that "any sanction was ever granted for demolishing the forts of Chingleput and "Carunguly.

"When the Government decide on the demolition of a fort, the proper course "would be that the Collector should arrange for this being done by the Public "Works Department, either gradually, as occasion arises for the use of the materials, "or rapidly, on account of sanitary considerations, according to circumstances.

"The materials should be held as available, first for Government purposes, and "then for Local Fund and Municipal works, the department obtaining the materials,

"paying merely the cost of extracting them, whether this be done by free or convict "labor. Any surplus beyond the requirements of these departments might be sold "to the best advantage by the Collector, and the proceeds applied, with the sanction "of Government, to some purpose of local utility."

3. The Government concur in the opinion expressed by the Board, and direct that the course which the Board recommend be observed by all Collectors of districts, and by the Officers of the Public Works Department.

4. Before passing final orders for the demolition of the forts at Chingleput and Carunguly, these papers will be referred to the Military Department, with a view to the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief being obtained.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Military Department.
,, the Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Read 1868 Gen.
Revenue
Board Cont. for dep.
Rev. 1868. Department.

Transferred to the
Judicial Department
H. Lewis Secy
H. Revenue Dept.
1/9/68.

2874
No. 2874

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 28th August 1868.
Desp. to Govt.
Rec'd 5th
Ry 10
S. Agri. 36. 21 Sept.

No. 6180.

Submitting with remarks for orders of Government letter from Collector of Madras, forwarding correspondence on the subject of removal of certain stones from the Forts at Chingleput and Carunguly.

No. 299

Judicial Department.

No. 2436.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

21st Septr 1865.

Read the following ~~letter~~

Proc: of the Board of Revenue.
(Here enter 28 August 65. No. 1185)

Order thereon.

The above correspondence has reference to the removal of stone work from the Forts of Chingleput and Carangoly and to the claims to the material preferred by the Superintendent of the Rail and by the Executive Engineer.

2. The Board of Revenue submit to Government, the general question of the demolition of old Forts and the assignment of the materials derived therefrom, the following recommendation

"All abandoned Forts from
"which Military forces or Em-
"ployés are withdrawn should
"be considered to be under
"the care of the Collector, as
the

"the general Custodian of all
"Government property not in
"the charge of any particular
"department. From his position
"and the establishment
"under his control in every
"town and village, he is the
"only person who can efficiently
"take care of public property
"so placed."

"The Board are clearly of
"opinion that no fort ought
"to be demolished, or its
"material appropriated,
"without the special sanction
"of Govt. From the cor-
-respondence forwarded
"by the Ag. Collector, the
"Board do not learn that
"any sanction was ever
"granted for demolishing
"the Forts of Chingleput
"and Conjeeveram."

"When the Govt. decide
"on the demolition of a
"Fort, the proper course
"would be that the Collector
"should arrange for this
"being done by the P.W.
"Departt., either gradually
"as occasion arises for the
use

"use of the materials, or
"rapidly, on account of
"Sanitary considerations,
"according to circumstances."

"The materials should
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"for Local Fund & Municipal
"works, the department
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"this be done by free or con-
-victed labor. Any surplus
"beyond the requirements
"of these departments might
"be sold to the best advantage
"by the Collector, and the
"proceeds applied, with the
"sanction of Govt., to some
"purpose of local utility."

3. The Government
concur in the opinion ex-
-pressed by the Board, and
direct that the course
which the Board recom-
-mend be observed by all

Collectors

Collector of Districts, and ...
by the Officers of the Public
Works Department. ... ...

Before passing final
orders for the demolition
of the Forts at Chinglepute
and Cuddalore, these
papers will be referred to
the Military Department
with a view to the opinion
of the Commander-in-
Chief being obtained.—

Ind.
5 Revenue Department
14 Board of Revenue
21 Public Works Department
7 Military Department
2 Inspector General of Forts

1868 Revenue Department
Proceedings of Government

No. 2136

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 21 September 1868

From Secretary Dept. 23 September 68
No 1165

From the Board of Revenue
dated 18 July 1868 No. 584.

Rec. 299-300