M.S. ●. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2907 Press ~~Mis.~~

351-52
Dated 19-11- 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th November 1868.

No. 351. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Informing the Commissioners that their proposition to raise a loan should be deferred till the revision of the Act, and that the site selected for the new Municipal Office is unobjectionable. } (Here enter 6th November 1868, No. 1,381.)

No. 352. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1868, No. 2,907.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. SEWELL,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 1,381.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Govt. of Madras.

To

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November, 19th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 19th November 1868, No. 2,907.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 351-352.

Funds for Municipal improvements in Calicut.—Order directing that no loan should be raised until the revision of the Towns Improvement Act, communicated to Revenue Board.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 6th November 1868.

Read the following papers:—

No. 27. From the Magistrate and President of the Municipal Commission, Calicut, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 19th May 1868, No. 65.

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government that the new district Jail buildings here are progressing rapidly, and will probably be ready for occupation before the end of the calendar year.

I addressed Government on the subject of the old Jail site as noted.* It is most desirable the opportunity should not be lost of acquiring this site and its vicinity for the town of Calicut, and for the erection, on an approved scale and plan, of some much required imperial and municipal buildings.

* Letter, dated 9th March 1867, No. 27.

2. Calicut is singularly wanting in public buildings of any distinctive character.

The Courts, Cutcherries, Post and Telegraph Offices, Custom House, &c., are mostly private houses of the most ordinary description. There is nothing in their aspect of the character and importance which might fairly be expected in the Government and public buildings of an important and prosperous city.

3. To make some commencement towards improvement in this respect, and in connexion with the early vacation of the old Jail buildings, I advocate the following arrangements.

The scheme includes some purely Government building, but I have stated it in full to the Commissioners in order that they might have the whole before them when particularly considering the portions that more directly concern the municipality. It has the full concurrence of the Commissioners, and I trust may be approved by Government.

4. The site of the old Jail, though a good deal affected by the irregularity of the surrounding buildings and enclosures, is yet one of the best available, or likely to be available in Calicut. If the mass of the old Jail buildings are removed there will be a considerable open space available; and that under the conditions of the town, where open spaces are so rare, is no small advantage to begin with.

5. I would dismantle the whole old Jail buildings, except the two blocks of parallel wards that run about east and west.

These wards, with some alteration of their interior arrangement, and embellishment of their exterior, would make two very suitable and desirable lines of markets; at reasonable rates they would be eagerly rented by merchants and shopkeepers of the place.

6. Leaving a sufficient vacant space to the eastward, I propose that a new Town Sub-Magistrate's Office, facing west, should be built. The Subsidiary Jail, &c., would be immediately behind, and occupy the eastern portion of the present Jail enclosure.

7. With the outer Jail walls of the main parallelogram removed there will be a fair space round the market place.

On the north there is now further open space, but it may be necessary to extend it by taking up and clearing the adjoining compound which is Government property. This would give a good site for a handsome building, and I think one

might be conveniently planned so as to provide suitable accommodation for a Post Office, Telegraph Office, and a Municipal Office under one roof.

A building, something of the character of the new Bank, would probably be found the best. One side of the lower story might be devoted to the Post Office, and the other to the Telegraph Office; whilst the upper story would form a Municipal hall, office, and accommodation for a public Library, &c.

8. As above said the present Post and Telegraph Offices are simply ordinary private bungalows. They are about half a mile apart. Providing suitable Offices under the same roof, and in so central a situation as now proposed, would have many advantages.

I think it would be better not to have the employés under the same roof; but within a hundred yards of the site of the proposed building are several small houses, which could be made available for the clerks' residences.

The union of the offices, besides its convenience, will allow of a building of some architectural character being erected; the funds, of course, being contributed proportionately from Imperial and Municipal sources as may be agreed upon.

9. The whole buildings thus proposed to be erected on the old Jail site might then form a suite of which neither the Government nor the town need be ashamed, and would partly supply at that portion of the Municipality the want mentioned in paragraph 2.

10. I have made no estimate as to the probable cost to the Municipality, but it would only be really considerable if the sum is contrasted with the amount of one or two years' municipal revenue. But the Commissioners consider that they would be very wrong to look to their current revenues for the capital to provide permanent works of this nature.

A suitable Municipal Office, market places, police buildings, and the first construction and opening of several new lines of road or street, must be provided for at an early date; but funds for these works cannot and should not be taken solely from the current revenues, such charges should be extended over a long series of years, as they provide works which many succeeding generations will, it is hoped, derive benefit from, and to which they should accordingly contribute their quota. The Commissioners, therefore, desire to raise the capital for the construction of such works by loan under Section 77, &c., of the Towns' Improvement Act; and as soon as a fair estimate of the sum likely to be required can be determined, the consent of Government will be requested to admit of their raising funds accordingly.

11. The present Town Sub-Magistrate's Office is a very wretched place. The Subsidiary Jail accommodation is insufficient and bad. I propose that Subsidiary Jail accommodation should be provided at the Town Sub-Magistrate's Office, sufficient for all short-sentenced prisoners from the Calicut Taluq. This will obviate the necessity of providing Subsidiary Jail accommodation at the Taluq Cutcherry, some five miles off, which will otherwise be necessary. A new Town Sub-Magistrate's Office is imperatively required, and I beg that an estimate may be called for for one on the standard plan, with such small modification as may be required.

The proposed site is indicated in paragraph 6 of this letter, and on the enclosed plan.

12. The plan also shows the position of the buildings that exist, distinguishing those that it is proposed to retain and to clear away respectively, and of the proposed new building. The size of this will depend, of course, a good deal on the amount of accommodation required by the Post and Telegraph Offices. If Government approve of the scheme generally, I will, after communication with the departments concerned, submit details.

No. 28. From the Magistrate and President of the Municipal Commission, Calicut, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 26th August 1868, No. 119.

In continuation and amendment of my letter to Government, dated 19th May last, on which I have not yet received the orders of Government, I have the honor to observe that on farther consideration the Municipal Commissioners are of opinion that a better site for the proposed Municipal Office at Calicut than the one by the old Jail may be had on the side of the large tank. A sketch is enclosed.

Since the despatch of my letter above quoted several of the Native Commissioners have expressed objection to the site near the old Jail as not being in the most desirable part of the town, as being too confined, and as having a mass of houses and huts in too close proximity. There is no doubt that the site now proposed would have many advantages for the Municipal Office. It is open, close to the Cutcherry, which for the despatch of business, where the President is Collector and Magistrate, and constant communication on a variety of matters is necessary, is an immense advantage, close to the Bank, very central, and on the great high-way from Beypore and the south to Wynaad, Cannanore, and the north.

The tank is, perhaps, the most striking feature in Calicut, and if the Municipal Office is built as it should be its erection will be a decided improvement. The Bank, Cutcherry, and Provincial School are other public buildings on sides of the tank square. The Commissioners, therefore, trust that Government will permit the site to be occupied as proposed on the plan, and the slight deflexions of road, &c., to be made accordingly.

2. The old Jail site would be rather more convenient for the Post and Telegraph Offices than the one now desired for the Municipal Office. The union, therefore, before proposed of these, with the Municipal Office now intended, is not desirable.

3. The Commissioners are still most anxious that the other arrangments proposed in my letter above quoted should be carried out, viz., that the two blocks of the old Jail wards should be given up as a market place, and that the rest of the walls, &c., should be cleared away; and I would again urge that I be permitted to call for a plan and estimate of a Cutcherry and Subsidiary Jail for the Calicut Town Sub-Magistrate on the standard plan, to be erected as proposed in my letter just said, with which a ground plan of the site in question was sent.

I solicit early orders on these matters.

4. The Commissioners, as before intimated, are impressed with the absolute necessity of raising a loan. The current funds are fully required for gradual improvements of existing streets, roads, &c., and current repairs and expenses. The works for which provision must be made, if they are to be undertaken by loan at all,

(and it is most desirable they should be undertaken forthwith), are (1) expenses attendant on acquisition and improvement of a market site; (2) a Municipal Office; (3) Police buildings; (4) Permanent latrines; (5) providing permanent stone drains and iron lamp-posts for, and macadamizing with broken granite or slag throughout, the Big Bazaar; (6) opening with permanent bridges and tunnels two or three lines of main road in the Municipality.

It is clear that funds must be raised by loan for these works, or that they must be postponed indefinitely. They are much required, and are such that posterity will long derive as much advantage from them as their immediate constructors. They clearly are, therefore, fitting works to be constructed with borrowed money.

5. I am afraid there will be some difficulty in raising money under the present Act. I doubt if we shall be able to get it even at 7 or 8 per cent. At 9 per cent. I think we may, if a certain source of income is pledged as it would be, and Government give the farther pledge that that source of taxation will be sanctioned till the debt is extinguished.

I trust I shall be pardoned for plainly stating that a good deal of uncertainty seems to exist on the latter point, and more than one person with whom I have spoken on the subject has pointed to the late action of Government with regard to the Imperial and Municipal License taxes, and asked what security they have if a tax is hypothecated by the Commissioners; that sanction to the imposition of that tax in any future year may not be withheld by Government?

6. Believing that there may be some difficulty in raising funds by loan in other Municipalities where they may be as urgently required as they are here, I venture to ask whether it might not answer the purposes of Government to advance money direct as a loan to a Municipality? Calicut wants money, but cannot get it in the market under an exorbitant rate of interest, say under 9 or 10 per cent. If Government will lend the required sum at 6 or 7 per cent. it will be doing a real service to Calicut, with the pleasant condition of doing itself *protanto* a service at the same time, as it can of course get any amount of money at a much cheaper rate.

7. I would solicit then the early orders of Government as to whether—

I.—It is prepared to sanction the raising of a loan of, say, Rupees 25,000 by this Municipality for the works indicated, if plans and estimates are approved?

II.—If the money is not procurable in the market at, say, 8 per cent., Government will be pleased to lend it, and at what rate?

III.—If money can be obtained the site now proposed for a Municipal Office may be taken up therefor?

8. Detailed plans and estimates for works proposed will be forwarded forthwith if Government are pleased to entertain favorably the question of loan being raised.

No. 29. From the President of the Municipal Commission, Calicut, to the Under Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 20th October 1868, No. 146.

Adverting to your Official Memorandum, dated 13th October 1868, No. 367, I have the honor to forward copy of my letter, dated 19th May 1868, No. 65, and a rough plan which I have had prepared of the old Jail premises. I regret I have no copy of the original plan forwarded to Government.

2. Some alteration in the arrangements is proposed in my letter, dated 26th August 1868, No. 119, but only in so far as it is now proposed to build the Municipal Office elsewhere. The new Jail rapidly approaches completion.

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, 6th November 1868, No. 1381.

Resolved that the President of the Municipal Commission at Calicut be informed that the Government see no objection to the Municipal Commissioners raising a loan for carrying out the works described in his letters above recorded, but no action should be taken in the matter until the revision of the Towns' Improvement Act, which is under consideration at present in the Legislative Department, is completed, when the Commissioners will be able to judge with certainty which of the taxes under the revised Act can best be allotted as a security for the proposed loan.

2. The President will also be informed that the Government are not prepared to advance money on loan to Municipalities, except under very special and urgent circumstances.

3. The Collector is authorized to transfer to the Municipal Commissioners the old Jail site and buildings as soon as they are vacated.

4. The site proposed for the Municipal Office is unobjectionable, and may be taken up when funds are available.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Calicut,
with two sketches.
" Revenue Department.

Rxd. J. Tulloch.

Govt. of 1868 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE

MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,

Calicut.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 6th.

Recd. 16—a ——— *Encl.*

G. O., 6th November 1868, *No.* 1381.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 27—30.

Informing the Commissioners that their proposition to raise a loan should be deferred till the revision of the Act, and that the site selected for the new Municipal Office is unobjectionable.

Withorder

N° 2907 19 hom

N° 2907.

Comm^d to the

Revenue Board

19th Nov^r/68

6 Copies To the Bd Read and Ord No 1381 Despd 20