

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	278	Press
		~~Mis~~
<u>28-29</u>		
Dated 2 nd February 1918		

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 28. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th January 1869 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Gudiatum, 27th January 1869,
No. 19.

I have the honor to return the enclosed petition, received with the Board's endorsement, dated 20th instant.

2. The Board have already before them my report regarding the unforeseen difficulties, which have arisen out of the action taken by me on the Proceedings of the Board, dated 19th November last. At the time I renewed the engagement, which Mr. Wilkinson had been censured for entering into, I had not the remotest idea that there were any other interests involved than those of the parties to the petition which had raised the question of quarrying privileges in the neighbourhood of the Sholinghur Railway station.

3. When I visited these quarry fields in March last, the most absolute inactivity prevailed, and no reports, public or private, had reached me since my return, indicating that operations had been resumed during the interval of my absence upon the large and multifarious scale on which, to judge from these enclosures, they are now being prosecuted.

4. In admitting that I have acted hastily and unadvisedly in concluding on imperfect information, an engagement which is calculated to embarrass Government in dealing with the question, I can very conscientiously say, that my sole motive was to ward off the civil action which appeared likely to arise out of the cancelment of the engagement made with those parties by Mr. Wilkinson.

5. If the Board will be pleased to refer once more to my letter to Mr. Wilkinson, dated 19th January 1869, No. 15. copy of which accompanied my report, they will find that I have taken measures to provide against any further interruption of operations so far as they relate to stone lying ready cut at the Railway platform and quarries.

6. Anticipating that Government may decline to ratify an engagement, which has given rise to so many unforeseen complications, I have sent for the Contractors, who are parties to it for the purpose of informing them that in the event of Government declining (as seems probable) to sanction my arrangement, they will have to consider the matter of their petition as remaining in *statu quo*, and abstain from interfering with the operations of others until the Government can pass orders on the subject. At the same time, I propose to have the way to a compromise by explaining to them, that although it is almost certain that Government will not now, under all the circumstances which have transpired since their case was renewed, consent to ratify the engagement then entered into, they may yet be disposed to grant them for one or more years, the exclusive right in one or two of the quarry sites named in the lease they now hold under my signature for such proportion of their deposit as may be found reasonable. If these men accede to such an alternative arrangement, I will at once report results for the orders of Government. If such a compromise be effected, five of the quarry sites named in their bond will be set free, and the real difficulty in the present arrangement, its exclusive monopoly, be in a great measure removed.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd February 1869.*

7. In thus proposing to set free a proportion of these quarries, I would not for a moment be understood to recommend that the other remonstrant Contractors should be allowed to continue their operations on the present independent terms. I have no means of knowing, on what principles the demarcation officers concluded engagements with the men who are supplying them. But the question as to the price the ryots are to pay for stone, will, I believe, principally depend on this consideration, namely, have these contracts been made in the open market, or with a single Contractor or Company? Be this as it may, these operations are manifestly most profitable to all engaged in them, and it was this very feeling that a number of adventurers, in no way connected with the District, were helping themselves on their own terms to valuable Government property, which has influenced me throughout in taking more hasty action in the matter than I should otherwise have been disposed to adopt.

8. Expressing once more my extreme regret at having thus incautiously been instrumental in adding to the embarrassments of the case, I beg respectfully to await the early instructions of Government.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government, in continuation of the subject of Proceedings of 28th January 1869.

2. In his second letter the Collector sketches a scheme of compromise which would *pro-tanto* diminish the inconveniences apprehended, if the quarries so released are conveniently situated, and will furnish a sufficiency of stone without any material addition to the cost. The Board apprehend, however, that the lease derives its only value from the monopoly it gives, and that the Petitioners will be in a better position with general freedom to quarry, without payment, in unobjectionable places, than as lessees of a portion only of the quarries, and others competing against them.

3. The Collector has omitted to forward the contract called for.

No. 29.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1869, No. 278.

Miscellaneous.

The Collector should be directed at once to carry out the orders issued in the G. O., under date 1st February 1869, of the nature indicated by

No. 269. The case does not admit of a compromise of the nature indicated by Mr. Robinson.

(True Extract)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of 1869, Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February, 2nd.

Recd.

Ind.

G. O., 2nd February 1869, No. 278.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 28-29.

Stone Quarries in North Arcot District.—
Collector directed to carry out the orders issued in
respect to the cancellation of the Lease.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 2^d Feb^y 69.

Read the following letter
from the A. G. No. 13th
of Rev^d.
(H.E. 29th Jan^y 69 17th)

2^d Feb^y 69

The Col^d. should be
directed at once to cum-
mit the order issued in
the S.O. under date 1st Feb^y 69
no 269. The case does
not admit of a compo-
sure of the nature indi-
cated by Mr. Robinson

W. H.

M. A.

W. H.

In Reply to the Order of the 2^d Dec^r 1868