

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 890	Press ~~Nis.~~
<u>50-51</u>	
Dated 2 nd April 1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 50. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department:—

Directing the removal of the office of the Overseer,
and the Sandalwood at present kept in a portion
of the Talook Cutcherry at Denkenacottah,
Salem District, in view to the necessary altera-
tions required for the Subsidiary Jail being
completed.

(Here enter 22nd March 1869, No. 484.)

No. 51.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd April 1869, No. 890.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Acting Con-
servator of Forests, who will submit
proposals for providing other accom-

modation for his department at Denkenacottah.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Acting Conservator of Forests, with Proceedings Judicial Department, No. 484.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd March 1869.

No. 275. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 27th February 1869, No. 1176.

I have the honor to forward a letter* from the Acting Sub-Collector, Salem District, by which Government will perceive that our Department is called upon to vacate a portion of the Taluq Cutcherry at Denkenacottah that was handed over to us some years since. I also enclose a letter† from Lieutenant Walker, the Forest Officer of the Range, which explains the whole case, and request the orders of Government on the subject.

* No. 11, dated 24th February.

† No. 294 of the 10th February.

2. I forward, also, a plan of the building, which shows the portion occupied by the Forest Department; it was regularly handed over to our Department some years ago, and, at a considerable expense, was altered and converted into an office room, and three separate sandalwood godowns; and a timber shed and wood-yard were formed in connexion with it at a further outlay of Rupees 600; the godowns are filled with valuable sandalwood, and it will not be fair to turn us out without due notice, or without paying us compensation for the outlay incurred.

From the Acting Sub-Collector in charge of the Salem District, to the Conservator of Forests, Madras; dated Salem, 24th February 1869, No. 11.

With reference to the enclosed letter (to be returned) from the Superintending Engineer, No. 166, of the 16th instant, I have the honor to request that you will be so kind as to send instructions to the Deputy Conservator to vacate the portion of the Taluq Cutcherry building at Denkenacottah, which is at present occupied by him. Under the arrangements proposed by the Jail Committee, and sanctioned by Government, no room will be available for your department in the Cutcherry, and as the Government wish that the alterations ordered by them should be carried out before the end of the official year, I shall feel much obliged by your giving this letter your earliest attention.

From Lieutenant C. J. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Salem and South Arcot, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests; dated Gingee, 10th February 1869, No. 294.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter received from the Assistant Engineer, Oosoor Range, Salem District, regarding alterations in Denkenacottah Cutcherry.

2. I have informed that Officer that I have, of course, nothing to say in the matter, so long as the portion of the building belonging to this Department is not interfered with, which I can on no account allow without definite orders from yourself or Government, particularly as the sandalwood stored in the godowns is valuable, and we have no other place in which to secure it.

3. I have no official information, excepting the Assistant Engineer's letter, of any alterations proposed, but I have already reported to you, in a demi-official form, that it had come to my knowledge that it was proposed to make certain changes which involved the "Forest Department finding accommodation elsewhere," in which case you, as Head of the Department, have doubtless been consulted, and are in possession of full information on the subject.

4. I beg, however, to point out that Denkenacottah is the head-quarters of the 1st Class Overseer in charge of the Forest Range of the same name, which is the most important in the Salem District; that we have a large depôt for sandalwood there, and have lately also established a timber yard adjoining the same.

The town was, I believe, formerly the Cusbah of the Taluq, but has since been included in Oosoor, and there is now only a Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate (with two Goomastahs) stationed there.

REVENUE.

THE ACTING CONSERVATOR
OF FORESTS.

Dated April, 2nd.

Recd.

G. O., 2nd April 1869, No. 560.

From the Acting Secy to Govt.

Forwarded by 2nd April 1869, No. 1330.

APRIL

Nos. 50-51.

Building for Forest Department at Denkenacottah, in Salem District.—Conservator of Forests to submit proposals for its provision.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd March 1869.*

The Cutcherry is in the common old form of a quadrangle, with a courtyard in the centre, and is one of, if not *the* most commodious in the district.

Of the four sides, one is occupied by the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry, another by the Police, a third by the lock-up and Taluq Tappal Office, and the fourth was given over for the use of our Department (before my taking charge) by Mr. Brett, then the Collector of the District, and has since formed the Head Overseer's office, and sandalwood store.

5. In 1866, Mr. Bliss, Assistant Collector, who was temporarily in charge of the Forest Range, proposed that instead of building an entirely new office as was then proposed, the part of the Cutcherry given over to the Department might be enlarged and adapted, so as to furnish sufficient office accommodation and storage room.

This plan met the approval of the Collector (Mr. Arbuthnott) and myself, and orders were again issued by the Sub-Collector, Mr. Thomas, handing over the portion of the building, which is rather less than one-quarter, to our Department, with a view to the improvements being made, which was accordingly done by throwing out a veranda, doors, &c., on the outer side, closing up the inner, and forming an office room, and three separate sandalwood godowns, at considerable expense and trouble.

6. All the above has been done on the understanding that the Government will contribute towards the formation of a new market-place, as the office extension had trenched on the ground formerly used for that purpose, and have, as already stated, established a timber yard and wood-shed on adjacent ground, at a cost of some Rupees 600.

6. All the above has been done on the understanding that one-fourth of the Cutcherry building was *permanently* our's, as there is no ground available near the timber yard for the erection of a new office and stores, and it would be impossible to find, or suggest, a more eligible site and arrangement than the present, combining, as it does, perfect separation from, and yet easy communication with, the subordinates of the Magisterial, Land Revenue, and Police Departments, with whom the Overseer has often to transact business, and, at the same time, the advantage of having the Police guard in the same block of buildings as our valuable stock of sandalwood; with the timber yard, containing on an average some Rupees 5000 worth of Government timber directly opposite, and therefore comparatively safe and most conveniently situated for purchasers, who after purchasing timber deposit their money in the Deputy Tahsildar's Cutcherry, or Forest office, on the other side of the road.

The Acting Sub-Collector (Mr. Price) approves highly of the arrangements, and was about to give me another room, which the Deputy Tahsildar did not require, when the formation of the present Jail Committee prevented his doing so until their decision was arrived at with regard to the Subsidiary Jail.

I beg to inform you that not only do the Acting Sub-Collector and Range Officer, Department of Public Works, consider that there is no need of an extensive Subsidiary Jail at Denkenacottah, as most prisoners are sent to the Cusbah, Oossoor, which is only sixteen miles distant, but that ample accommodation, both for sentenced and under-trial prisoners, can be provided without any necessity of our moving.

I have also consulted the Collector on the subject, who, although he, in the first instance, when he was necessarily ignorant of the exact state of matters, had approved of the plan proposed by the Assistant Collector specially deputed by the Jail Committee, (Mr. P. B. Atkinson,) is now perfectly willing to support my view of the subject, and intended speaking to the Chief Secretary and President of the Jail Committee about it some months since, had that gentleman visited the Shevareys as he proposed.

7. I have had a plan roughly sketched showing how the necessary accommodation can be provided without disturbing our Department, which I shall have the honor of forwarding for your inspection, but you have yourself visited the place, and are acquainted with the arrangements made.

8. I have seen the Jail Report of Mr. J. B. Atkinson, who visited Denkenacottah for one day. That gentleman, if I remember correctly, states that the Forest Department have the *best* and *largest* portion of the building which they must vacate. This is a mistake ; we have, as already stated, barely one-quarter, and each of the other sides is capable of the same improvements as we

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd March 1869.*

have effected; our portion *looks* the best, having been opened out in front which admits light and air, and by having been recently completed.

have effected; our portion looks the best, having been repaired, and by having been recently completed.

Mr. Atkinson further states that there are often a number of prisoners "*generally connected with the Forest cases.*" Now, I have lived at Denkenacottah for several months during each of the last four years, and had office daily in the Cutcherry, and I have never seen *many* prisoners, and those there were apparently locked up only for a few hours, and then either released or sent to Oosoor. As to the prisoners being connected with Forests cases, Mr. Atkinson is evidently in error, for, first, we have *very* few Forest cases in the Range; and second, an individual charged with Forest theft, or mischief, is rarely locked up *before trial*, being merely summoned to appear, and still more *rarely* is he *imprisoned* on conviction, a small fine which is always paid by the employers of the actual delinquent being, as a rule, considered sufficient. So much is this the case that I have made it matter of reference to the District Magistrate.

He stated the exact facts in detail, I have the honor to request that you will lay down the law, and if necessary, whilst it would be highly desirable to have the Cutcherry

9. Having now stated the exact facts in detail, I have the honor to request that you will lay the matter before Government, pointing out that it is not *necessary*, whilst it would be highly inconvenient and unadvisable that our Department should vacate the portion of the Cutcherry transferred to and adapted by it, in which now the Collector, Sub-Collector, and Engineer Officer concur. Ample accommodation remaining to be made available for the Sub-Magistrate, Subsidiary Jail, and Police, in the remaining three sides of the building, and that, if it should be still thought advisable that we should vacate, at least a year's time should be given, and a sum not less than Rupees 2000 placed at disposal, and debited in the Subsidiary Jail account, with which sum we shall endeavour to provide elsewhere the accommodation required by the Department.

10. Meanwhile I would request that the following further steps, pending the decision of Government.

No. 276. ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1869. No 484

The Government are of opinion that it is necessary that the plan recommended by the Subsidiary Jail Committee, and sanctioned in the G. O., dated 23rd November 1867, should be maintained, and that the office of the Overseer, and the sandalwood at present kept in the portior of the Taluq Cutcherry, be at once removed, to enable the necessary alterations required for the Subsidiary Jail to be completed.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department, with plan.
" Magistrate of Salem.
" Subsidiary Jail Committee.

Exd. J. Wright

an. of Priests who will submit proposals for providing other accommodations for the ^{men} Forest Dept. at Sukanaottah.

Lith

Sept 1/69

Revenue Officer
18-1026.
Govt. of 118693 *Quinn*.

JUDICIAL.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated March, 22nd.

Recd. 22-2-1884.

End. 1884
Govt. of 118693
G. O., 22nd March 1884, No. 484.

MARCH.
Nos. 275-276.

Directing the removal of the office of the
Overseer, and the sandalwood at present kept in a
portion of the Talug Catchery at Denkenacottah,
Salem District, in view to the necessary altera-
tions required for the Subsidiary Jail being com-
pleted.

200890-22-1884

With Order