

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	447	Press ~~Mis.~~
42-43 Dated	5-4-1820	19 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1870.*

No. 42. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st January 1870, No. 413.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 16th August 1869, No. 235.

ON receipt of the Board's Proceedings,* and with particular reference to paragraph 10 of the Order thereon, Mr. Wilkinson, my then Head Assistant Col-

lector, was directed to report whether the establishment attached to the Annadana Choultry at Sholinghur might not be reduced and to suggest such further reforms in the administration of its Endowment Funds as might appear to him desirable. The results of the inspection and inquiries made by Mr. Wilkinson on that requi-

sition are embodied in the report,† of which I now enclose copy.

2. Before offering any remarks on the several reforms proposed by Mr. Wilkinson I should state, in explanation of the delay which has occurred in placing the matter before the Board, that I purposely let it lie over until I could visit the place in the course of my settlement tour of Fusly 1277 in the talook. The notes then made I never had time to put into shape, and soon after left the district on sick leave.

3. I now beg to review Mr. Wilkinson's propositions *seriatim* as they stand in his letter.

4. The desolate picture of the building drawn in the 3rd paragraph of Mr. Wilkinson's letter is probably not over-coloured. The Chuttrum has been somewhat improved internally since he visited it, but is still utterly unsuitable for its legitimate purposes.

5. Mr. Wilkinson's proposition regarding a different application of the Endowment Fund is contained in paragraph 6 of his letter. I strongly deprecate the diversion of this endowment to any other purpose, however much it may commend itself to European notions.

Re-appropriations of old native endowments have, it is true, been made, and

NOTE.—Since this was drafted I find from the records of the Office that there is an extract from general letter from Court of Directors, dated 30th October 1850, No. 10, paragraphs 20 and 21, discouraging such a proposition.

in this district there is a notable instance of the kind in the Lungerkhana endowments at Arcot and Vellore, but I doubt whether such precedents could any longer be safely followed.

In every case I have no hesitation in saying that any diversion, however partial, of the Sholinghur endowment, would be distasteful in the extreme to the native community.

6. And now as regards change of site recommended by Mr. Wilkinson, I am not in favour of this either.

It is true that the dilapidation of the present building raises the question of site, and that the pathway leading to the present Choultry is all that Mr. Wilkinson describes it to be.

But I do not agree with Mr. Wilkinson in thinking that the Choultry "stands in an out-of-the-way place."

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On the contrary it is admirably and picturesquely situated and in an amphitheatre of hills of which the two Pagoda hills, at whose foot it stands, form part.

It is thus a most convenient resting-place after a two miles' walk from the town, where the greater mass of pilgrims lodge, before making the toilsome ascent of the hill.

I know the new site well which Mr. Wilkinson recommends, and, though it is a good one, I do not think it has any counter-balancing advantages over the old site, which may not be secured for the latter at a moderate cost. The change of site would, I happen to know, not be agreeable to the people.

7. Admitting, therefore, that the present building must be put into habitable and comfortable order, and a good approach to it from the town provided, I now proceed to show how these two objects can be effected.

8. This Choultry was partially repaired in 1812-13 at a charge of Rupees 145 on the surplus Endowment Funds of the institution.

* *Vide Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 22nd February 1851, No. 181, communicated in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in the Department Public Works, dated 6th March 1851.*

It was again in 1851, on the recommendation* of the then Collector Mr. Bourdillon, put under repair on regular estimate, amounting to Rupees 801-6-8. Of this Rupees 619-4-8 only were expended.

9. In Mr. Bourdillon's report the surplus up to Fusly 1258 is given as Rupees 4,993-3-0. Of this surplus Rupees 2,632-3-2 belonged to the Choultry endowment, and the balance to the Byraghy Mutt, a separate institution.

If from this surplus proper of Rupees 2,632-3-2 be deducted, the cost of repairs executed to the Choultry in 1851, namely, Rupees 619-4-8, there will remain a surplus balance of Rupees 1,982-14-6. The subsequent net surplus up to the official year 1864-65, the year preceding that in which the Local Fund accounts were systematized, amounted to Rupees 1,033-3-9. Of this Rupees 110-6-10, the savings of the three years preceding 1865-66, were alone brought forward in the accounts of that year, and the balance, Rupees 922-12-11, and old surplus of Rupees 1,982-14-6 were allowed to merge in the general revenue. Government should therefore now be moved to authorize the aggregate of these two sums, Rupees 2,905-11-5, being debited against Imperial revenue and credited to the minor head of Endowment Fund under Local Fund.

10. Two estimates, herewith enclosed, have been prepared at my request by the Range Officer; one amounting to Rupees 1,900 for the repair of the present building, and the other to Rupees 3,000 for the formation of the new approach to the Choultry.

11. I beg that I may now be authorized to employ the whole of the above-shown surplus in carrying out these two indispensable works. In anticipation of my proposition being accepted I have provided in the revised Budget, despatched on the 6th instant, for a Grant-in-aid allotment from Local Funds towards the formation of the new approach, and trust that, with the explanations given above, these estimates may be passed on at an early date with the Board's support for the sanction of Government.

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12. I now come to that part of the proposition which treats of the reduction of existing establishments.

13. The establishment as now constituted costs Rupees 46-4-0 per mensem, or little short of a moiety of the monthly proportion of the endowment.

Mr. Wilkinson in fact shows (paragraph 4) that if perquisites and other privileges be taken into account the real annual charge on the endowment of Rupees 1,280 is some Rupees 700. This is obviously out of all proportion, and I agree with Mr. Wilkinson (concluding paragraph of letter) in thinking that the services of the Curm, and of one of the Cooks, and one of the Watermen, may at once be dispensed with.

The Ugarani or Peon cannot, I think, be conveniently removed from the list of establishment. The Choultry is at a distance from the town, and the Monigar must have some assistance of the sort in catering for supplies and providing for the safe custody of the brass vessels and other utensils kept for the convenience of those who put up at the Choultry. By the reduction of the Curm, a Waterman and a Cook, the present charge for establishment would be reduced from Rupees 46-4-0 to Rupees 30-8-0, being about 34 per cent. of the income available for the general purposes of the institution.

14. In paragraph 4 of his letter Mr. Wilkinson mentions that the Cooks, Watermen, and Pujari, are fed daily at the expense of the Chuttrum, and observes further on that these servants have their monthly pay, and I see no "reason why they should also be fed daily at the expense of the charity." Admitting this to some extent I yet think that, as it is a general practice among Brahmins to give this class of servants rations in addition to their wages, no restrictions that might be imposed would be likely to be practically observed. I would not, therefore, be disposed to interfere with these small perquisites.

15. On the other hand reform is much called for in respect to some of the other classes mentioned in Mr. Wilkinson's letters as being fed at the charges of the institution.

16. The only difficulty is in respect to the first of these three classes. Worshippers on the hill, described by Mr. Wilkinson as "wandering Brahmins, who, impelled by a vow or what not, come to do service in the temple." This is, I think, a somewhat exceptional case, and should be so treated.

I would require them to enter their names on arrival in a Register to be kept by the Monigar, and restrict the date of food to such votaries to ten days from the date of such entry.

17. In the case of the second class inhabitants of Sholinghur I would absolutely forbid all distribution of food either in a raw or cooked form. Indeed, such a rule is, or rather ought to be in force, and Mr. Wilkinson is quite right where he observes that the feeding of 77 Brahmins from the town twice a week must promote an amount of professional mendicancy, which, in a large town like Sholinghur, is most undesirable.

18. As regards the third class travellers the present rule is to distribute rations to them during the two or three days they may halt in the neighbourhood.

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I cannot suppose that this rule is closely observed. We must be content, therefore, that it is never so far transgressed as to induce the ordinary class of visitors and pilgrims to prolong their stay much beyond the ordinary time.

19. With the reductions in establishment now proposed, and the building repaired and approach formed, as provided for in the enclosed estimate, the charity might be administered in manner worthy of the name of its famous founder.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Ranipet, 16th April 1867, No. 115.

In reply to your letter, No. 65, dated 25th January, I have the honour to submit the following report on the Chuttrum at Sholinghur. The subject may most conveniently be divided as follows:—

- 1st., History.

1st., History; 2nd., Present condition of the building; 3rd., Establishment; 4th., People fed; 5th., Improvements suggested.

2. 1st., History. The Chuttrum was founded by Rayajee, the Dewan of the Nabob Wallajah, and endowed by him; but about the commencement of this century the management was assumed by the British Government, and a sum of Rupees 1,280 allotted for its annual maintenance.

3. 2nd., The present condition of the Chuttrum may be described in a few words. It is a tumble-down building, infested with bats and far from odouriferous. Part of the roof has collapsed, and the rest seems inclined to follow. The kitchens, of which there are two, are dark dens unlighted and unventilated. Water is procured from a fine tank situated close by, which is traditionally said to be as deep as the hill on which the temple stands is high. This tank, and the vicinity of the Chuttrum to the foot of the hill, seem to me the only recommendations for the present site.

4. 3rd., The Establishment consists of a Moniar in charge of the establishment of this century the management was assumed Government, and a sum of Rupees 1,280 allotted for its annual maintenance.

4. 3rd., The Establishment consists of a Monigar in the receipt of Rupees 14 per mensem.

	Rs.	As.	P.
1 Curnum	...	...	...
2 Cooks	...	...	...
2 Watermen	...	...	...
1 Pujari	...	...	...
1 Ugrahana man	...	...	...
1 Sweeper	...	...	...
Monigari is hereditary.	...	...	...
The duties are	...	...	...
The present	...	...	...

The post of Monigar is hereditary. The present incumbent, a great grandson of the founder, is a minor, and the duties are performed by an acting man. The accounts are well kept by the Curnum, who is an old talook servant, and has held his present post fourteen years. In addition to the monthly pay which the Cooks, Watermen, and Pujari receive, they are daily fed at the expense of the Chuttrum. The duty of the Pujari or Priest is to offer up mantrains and prayers to the names of the founder, whose images occupy a part of the building. The pay of the establishment absorbs from the total grant of Rupees 1,250 the large sum of Rupees 555. Adding to this amount Rupees 150, expended in feeding the Cooks, etc., makes in all Rupees 705 spent on establishment.

5. 4th., The people fed at the Choultry may, excepting the servants mentioned in the last paragraph, be divided into three classes, viz.:-

- (1).—Worshippers on the Hill
- (2).—Inhabitants of the village

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- (3).—Travellers.

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1st.—Worshippers on the hill are wandering Brahmins, who, impelled by a vow or what not, come to do service in the temple. Their stay varies from six months to six years. One of this class informed me he had been there forty years. The average number of these people fed per mensem is 73.

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2nd.—Inhabitants of Sholinghur, who, provided they are Brahmins, feel inclined for an extra and gratuitous meal twice a week, for food is only distributed to them on Sundays and Fridays. The average number of these fed per mensem is 77.

3rd.—Travellers. Brahmins on their way to the festivals at Terupathy or Conjeeveram make a point of paying a visit to this temple, and during their stay of three or four days are fed at the Chuttrum. The average number of this class is 340 per mensem. In April and December there are festivals at Sholinghur and then the number of visitors is very large and all Brahmins are fed at the Chuttrum during the prevalence of the feast.

6. 5th.—As to Improvements. It would, in my opinion, be best to do away with the Chuttrum altogether, and to appropriate the funds for the foundation of a School or Dispensary, both of which are much needed at Sholinghur. But I am aware that it may not be thought expedient to abolish at once so long standing a charity, and the following improvements in the present establishment suggest themselves as imperatively necessary :—

1st.—A new Chuttrum. The present building is in such a dilapidated state that repairs can hardly be contemplated. Add to this that it at present stands in an out-of-the-way place, which can only be reached by a road, compared with which many a jungle tract is a mere nothing. For the convenience of travellers the new Chuttrum might be built nearer to the high road on the back of another fine tank, situated about three-fourths of a mile from the present site.

2nd.—None but *bonâ fide* travellers should be fed. To encourage pretended service in the temple by offering them subsistence gratis must have a very demoralizing effect. The Cooks, etc., have their monthly pay, and I see no reason why they should also be fed daily at the expense of the charity. It should be a stringent rule that no resident of Sholinghur be allowed to obtain food at the Chuttrum. The feeding of 77 Brahmins from the town twice a week must promote an amount of professional mendicancy, which, in a large and thriving place like Sholinghur, is most undesirable.

3rd.—The establishment might very well be reduced. The Monigar should be obliged to keep the accounts and himself, give out the rice, etc., from the stores, and the services of the Curnum and the Ugrahana man might then be dispensed with. To keep two Cooks and two Watermen as a permanency is a luxury that might well be dispensed with. One of each should be struck off; and on festival days, or when the services of more than one were absolutely required, the Monigar might be authorized to hire one or more temporarily. This would effect a saving on this head of about Rupees 400 per annum, and this sum might advantageously be spent in the repair and improvement of the building itself.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 and 3.—Estimates.

From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 25th November 1869, No. 366.

IN reply to the Board's Official Memorandum, dated the 28th ultimo, No. 1,094, I have the honour to refer you to the particulars noted below, from which it will be seen that the surplus fund of the Annadana Choultry at Sholinghur, reported in paragraph 9 of my letter, No. 235, of the 16th August last, as being included in the amount, Rupees 4,993-3-0, mentioned in Mr. Bourdillon's report to the Board, is Rupees 2,639-3-2 and not Rupees 2,632-3-2. The net total sum for which the sanction of Government is now solicited will thus be Rupees 2,912-11-5 and not Rupees 2,905-11-5, as inadvertently given in my letter.

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	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Surplus remaining to the credit of the Choultry, as reported in Mr. Bourdillon's letter, No. 176, of 2nd November 1850, to the Board in Department of Public Works				4,993	3	0
Deduct money pertaining to Byraghy Mutt	.....	.....	.....	2,353	15	10
<i>Balance.</i>						
Government grant for Annadana Choultry from Fusly 1229 to 1258, at Rupees 1,280-9-5 per year...	38,417	10	6			
Deduct expenditure during those Fuslies	35,778	7	4	2,639	3	2
Repairs to the Choultry, as per Bill No. 14 of 1851, dated 4th July 1855	.....	.....	.....	619	4	8
<i>Balance...</i>				1,989	14	6
Government grant from Fusly 1259 to official year 1864-65, at Rupees 1,280-9-5 per year	20,469	6	8			
Expenditure during those years...	19,456	2	11			
<i>Deduct.</i>						
<i>Balance...</i>	1,013	3	11			
Surplus of 1862-63 brought to account of Endowment Fund	.....	.....	.....			
Do. of 1863-64	.....	.....	.....	17	3	6
Do. of 1864-65	.....	.....	.....	2	11	10
	.....	.....	.....	90	7	6
				110	6	10
				922	12	11
Net total now to be brought to the credit of Choultry...	.....	.....	.....	2,912	11	5

In their Order* on the Board's report on the management of Local Funds for 1861-65 Government remarked on the

* Government Order, 21st August 1866, No. 2,155. large proportion of the cost of establishment to the cost of feeding in (amongst others) the Chuttrum of Sholinghur.

† Board's Proceedings, dated 10th October 1866, No. 7,289. The Board† thereupon called on the Collector of North Arcot to report whether the establishment could not be reduced. His reply is contained in the papers recorded at the head of these Proceedings.

2. The Chuttrum of Sholinghur was founded and endowed in the time of Wallajah, and when the British Government took charge of it an annual allowance of Rupees 1,280-9-5 was allotted to it. It is now almost in ruins and the importance which attaches to it, as connected with the sacred hill and temple near which it stands, demands that the propriety of restoring it should be considered.

3. The Collector shows that out of the allowance assigned to Government Rupees 2,912-11-5 remained unspent, and was not transferred to the Endowment Fund when Local Funds were systematized. He considers that this sum may justly be considered available for the work which has now to be done. The Board concur, and resolve to recommend Government to place the sum at their disposal.

4. It is estimated that the building and the approach to it may be put in order at a cost of Rupees 4,900. If Rupees 2,900 is granted by Government as proposed above, the remaining Rupees 2,000 may, in the Board's opinion, be

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supplied from the District Road Fund, but it would be unjust to other parts of the district to take the whole sum from that source.

5. The Head Assistant Collector states that the establishment costs in wages Rupees 555 per annum and in rations Rupees 150, or altogether Rupees 705. It is obvious that this charge is unduly high, and the Board authorize the reduction proposed by the Collector. The establishment will then consist of:—

	Per Mensem.
	RS. A. P.
1 Monigar...	14 0 0
1 Cook ...	3 8 0
1 Waterman ...	3 8 0
1 Pujari ...	3 8 0
1 Ugrahana ...	2 8 0
1 Sweeper...	
Total...	30 8 0

Considering these rates of pay the Board agree with the Collector that the practice of allowing the Chuttrum servants rations should not be interfered with.

6. Mr. Wilkinson states that pilgrims to the temple are fed daily for periods varying from six months to six years; that Brahmins from the town are fed twice a week; and that casual visitors are fed for three or four days, or as long as they choose to remain.

7. The Collector's proposals, with regard to restricting the issue of food in these cases, are approved, and should be put in force at once.

8. Before any money is spent on the restoration of the building from Local Funds the decision of Government, with regard to paragraph 3 of these Proceedings, must be awaited.

No. 43. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1870, No. 447.

Local Funds, No. 1.
Accounts.

THESE Proceedings relate to the Chuttrum at Sholinghur in North Arcot District, which was founded and endowed in the time of the Nabob Wallajah,

and to which the British Government allotted an annual allowance of Rs. 1,280-9-5.

2. The Chuttrum is now almost in ruins, and it is proposed to put it and the approach to the building in order, at a cost respectively of Rupees 1,900 and 3,000.

3. To meet this expenditure in part, sanction is requested for the grant from Imperial Funds, of Rupees 2,912-11-5, being the unspent balance of the Government allowance for the Choultry, which was not transferred to the Endowment Fund when Local Funds were systematized.

4. The Government will be prepared to sanction the refund of the above-mentioned surplus which it is shown has been erroneously credited to the State,

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but they would wish the Board of Revenue, in the first instance, to obtain a plan or sketch of the locality, and determine whether the present building should be restored, or a new one erected in such a position as will render it unnecessary to expend Rupees 3,000 in making it accessible.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 25th November 1869, No. 366.

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Deduct money pertaining to Byraghy Mutt	...	...	...		2,353	15	10
Balance	...	...	...				
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Repairs to the Choultry, as per Bill No. 14 of 1854, dated 4th July 1855	...	...	...		2,639	3	2
Balance	...	...	...		649	4	8
Government grant from Fusly 1259 to official year 1864-65, at Rupees 1,280-9-5 per year	20,489	6	8		1,989	14	6
Expenditure during those years	19,456	2	11				
Deduct	...	...	...				
Balance	1,033	3	11				

Rs 17 Jan'y/57 to 34.
 22 July/57 - 1-2
 21 Aug/56 - 578-19
 30 Oct/56 - 65-36

Sub-Secretary

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with 2 Estimates.
 Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

42
 c9 March 70 R21

Revenue Office
 No. 303.

1870. Board of Revenue, MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST JANUARY 1870, No. 413.

Received 31 Jan'y 1870
 Encl. 2
 O.R.D.

10 Oct 1869 - 50 April 70

JANUARY.
 No. 413.

Annadana Choultry—at Sholinghur in North Arcot District.—Recommendation to Government to sanction appropriation of surplus funds of, amounting to Rupees 2,912-11-5, to repair of building and formation of a new approach to it.—Collector's proposals relative to reducing Choultry establishment, and restricting issue of food in certain cases, approved.

4. It is estimated that the building and the approach to it may be put in order at a cost of Rupees 4,900. If Rupees 2,900 is granted by Government, as proposed above, the remaining Rupees 2,000 may, in the Board's opinion, be supplied from the District Road Fund, but it would be unjust to other parts of the district to take the whole sum from that source.

5. The Head Assistant Collector states that the establishment costs in wages Rupees 555 per annum and in rations Rupees 150, or altogether Rupees 705. It is obvious that this charge is unduly high and the Board authorize the reduction proposed by the Collector. The establishment will then consist of—

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Considering these rates of pay the Board agree with the Collector that the practice of allowing the Chuttrum servants rations should not be interfered with.

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Fund	17 3 6		
Do. of 1863-64	2 11 10		
Do. of 1864-65	90 7 6	110 6 10	922 12 11
Net total now to be brought to the credit of Choultry...			2,912 11 5

In their order* on the Board's report on the management of Local Funds for 1864-65 Government remarked on the large proportion of the cost of the establishment to the cost of feeding in (amongst others) the Chuttrum of Sholinghur. The Board thereupon called on the Collector of North Arcot to report whether the establishment could not be reduced. His reply is contained in the papers recorded at the head of these Proceedings.

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2. The Chuttrum of Sholinghur was founded and endowed in the time of Wallajah, and when the British Government took charge of it an annual allowance of Rupees 1,280-9-5 was allotted to it. It is now almost in ruins and the importance which attaches to it, as connected with the sacred hill and temple near which it stands, demands that the propriety of restoring it should be considered.

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(2).—Inhabitants of Sholinghur.

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5th. Improvements suggested.

2. 1st.—History. The Chuttrum was founded by Rayajee, the Dewan of the Nabob Wallajah, and endowed by him; but about the commencement of this century the management was assumed by the British Government and a sum of Rupees 1,280 allotted for its annual maintenance.

3. 2nd.—The present condition of the Chuttrum may be described in a few words. It is a tumble-down building, infested with bats and far from odoriferous. Part of the roof has collapsed and the rest seems inclined to follow. The kitchens, of which there are two, are dark dens unlighted and unventilated. Water is procured from a fine tank situated close by, which is traditionally said to be as deep as the hill on which the temple stands is high. This tank, and the vicinity of the Chuttrum to the foot of the hill, seem to me the only recommendations for the present site.

4. 3rd.—The Establishment consists of a Monigar in the receipt of Rupees 14 per mensem

	RS.	A.	P.
1 Curnum...	8	12	0
2 Cooks ...	7	0	0
2 Watermen ...	7	0	0
1 Pujari ...	3	8	0
1 Ugrahana man ...	3	8	0
1 Sweeper ...	2	8	0

The post of Monigar is hereditary. The present incumbent, a great grand-son of the founder, is a minor, and the duties are performed by an acting man. The accounts are well kept by the Curnum, who is an old talook servant, and has held his present post fourteen years. In addition to the monthly pay which the Cooks, Watermen, and Pujari receive, they are daily fed at the expense of the Chuttrum. The duty of the Pujari or Priest is to offer up mantrams and prayers to the

16. The only difficulty is in respect to the first of these three classes. Worshippers on the hill, described by Mr. Wilkinson as "wandering Brahmins, who, impelled by a vow or what not, come to do service in the temple." This is, I think, a somewhat exceptional case, and should be so treated.

I would require them to enter their names on arrival in a Register to be kept by the Monigar, and restrict the date of food to such votaries to ten days from the date of such entry.

17. In the case of the second class inhabitants of Sholinghur I would absolutely forbid all distribution of food either in a raw or cooked form. Indeed such a rule is, or rather ought to be in force, and Mr. Wilkinson is quite right where he observes that the feeding of 77 Brahmins from the town twice a week must promote an amount of professional mendicancy, which, in a large town like Sholinghur, is most undesirable.

18. As regards the third class travellers the present rule is to distribute rations to them during the two or three days they may halt in the neighbourhood.

I cannot suppose that this rule is closely observed. We must be content, therefore, that it is never so far transgressed as to induce the ordinary class of visitors and pilgrims to prolong their stay much beyond the ordinary time.

19. With the reductions in establishment now proposed, and the building repaired and approach formed, as provided for in the enclosed estimate, the charity might be administered in manner worthy of the name of its famous founder.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. H. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Ranipett, 16th April 1867, No. 145.

In reply to your letter, No. 65, dated 25th January, I have the honour to submit the following report on the Chuttrum at Sholinghur. The subject may most conveniently be divided as follows:—

For the convenience of travellers the new Chuttrum might be built nearer to the high road on the back of another fine tank, situated about three-fourths of a mile from the present site.

2nd.—None but *bonâ fide* travellers should be fed. To encourage people to a lazy life of pretended service in the temple by offering them subsistence gratis must have a very demoralizing effect. The Cooks, etc., have their monthly pay, and I see no reason why they should also be fed daily at the expense of the charity. It should be a stringent rule that no resident of Sholinghur be allowed to obtain food at the Chuttrum. The feeding of 77 Brahmins from the town twice a week must promote an amount of professional mendicancy, which, in a large and thriving place like Sholinghur, is most undesirable.

3rd.—The establishment might very well be reduced. The Monigar should be obliged to keep the accounts and himself give out the rice, etc., from the stores, and the services of the Curnum and the Ugrahana man might then be dispensed with. To keep two Cooks and two Watermen as a permanency is a luxury that might well be dispensed with. One of each should be struck off; and on festival days, or when the services of more than one were absolutely required, the Monigar might be authorized to hire one or more temporarily. This would effect a saving on this head of about Rupees 400 per annum, and this sum might advantageously be spent in the repair and improvement of the building itself.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 and 3.—Estimates.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st January 1870.

Read the following letters:—

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 16th August 1869, No. 235:—

ON receipt of the Board's Proceedings,* and with particular reference to paragraph 10 of the order thereon, Mr. Wilkinson, my then Head Assistant Collector, was directed to report whether the establishment attached to the Annadana Choultry at Sholinghur might not be reduced, and to suggest such further reforms in the administration of its Endowment Funds as might appear to him desirable. The

* Dated 10th October 1866, No. 7,239.

results of the inspection and inquiries made by Mr. Wilkinson on that requisition are embodied in the report,† of which I now enclose copy.

† Dated 16th April 1867, No. 145.

2. Before offering any remarks on the several reforms proposed by Mr. Wilkinson I should state, in explanation of the delay which has occurred in placing the matter before the Board, that I purposely let it lie over until I could visit the place in the course of my settlement tour of Fusly 1277 in the talook. The notes then made I never had time to put into shape, and soon after left the district on sick leave.

3. I now beg to review Mr. Wilkinson's propositions *seriatim* as they stand in his letter.

4. The desolate picture of the building drawn in the 3rd paragraph of Mr. Wilkinson's letter is probably not over-coloured. The Chuttrum has been somewhat improved internally since he visited it, but is still utterly unsuitable for its legitimate purposes.

5. Mr. Wilkinson's proposition regarding a different application of the Endowment Fund is contained in paragraph 6 of his letter. I strongly deprecate the diversion of this endowment to any other purpose, however much it may commend itself to European notions.

NOTE.—Since this was drafted I find from the records of the office that there is an extract from general letter from Court of Directors, dated 30th October 1850, No. 10, paragraphs 20 and 21, discouraging such a proposition.

Re-appropriations of old native endowments have, it is true, been made, and in this district there is a notable instance of the kind in the Lūngerkhana endowments at Arcot and Vellore, but I doubt whether such precedents could any longer be safely followed.

In every case I have no hesitation in saying that any diversion, however partial, of the Sholinghur endowment, would be distasteful in the extreme to the native community.

6. And now as regards change of site recommended by Mr. Wilkinson, I am not in favour of this either.

It is true that the dilapidation of the present building raises the question of site, and that the path-way leading to the present Choultry is all that Mr. Wilkinson describes it to be.

But I do not agree with Mr. Wilkinson in thinking that the Choultry "stands in an out-of-the-way place."

On the contrary it is admirably and picturesquely situated and in an amphitheatre of hills of which the two Pagoda hills, at whose foot it stands, form part.

It is thus a most convenient resting-place after a two miles' walk from the town (where the greater mass of pilgrims lodge) before making the toilsome ascent of the hill.

I know the new site well which Mr. Wilkinson recommends, and though it is a good one I do not think it has any counter-balancing advantages over the old site, which may not be secured for the latter at a moderate cost. The change of site would, I happen to know, not be agreeable to the people.

7. Admitting, therefore, that the present building must be put into habitable and comfortable order, and a good approach to it from the town provided, I now proceed to show how these two objects can be effected.

8. This Choultry was partially repaired in 1842-43 at a charge of Rupees 145 on the surplus Endowment Funds of the institution.

* Vide Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 22nd February 1851, No. 181, communicated in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in the Department Public Works, dated 6th March 1851.

It was again in 1851, on the recommendation* of the then Collector Mr. Bourdillon, put under repair on regular estimate, amounting to Rupees 804-6-8. Of this Rupees 619-4-8 only were expended.

9. In Mr. Bourdillon's report the surplus up to Fusly 1258 is given as Rupees 4,993-3-0. Of this surplus Rupees 2,632-3-2 belonged to the Choultry endowment, and the balance to the Byraghy Mutt, a separate institution.

If from this surplus proper of Rupees 2,632-3-2 be deducted the cost of repairs executed to the Choultry in 1851, namely, Rupees 649-4-8, there will remain a surplus balance of Rupees 1,982-14-6. The subsequent net surplus up to the official year 1864-65, the year preceding that in which the Local Fund accounts were systematized, amounted to Rupees 1,033-3-9. Of this Rupees 110-6-10, the savings of the three years preceding 1865-66, were alone brought forward in the accounts of that year, and the balance, Rupees 922-12-11, and old surplus of Rupees 1,982-14-6, were allowed to merge in the general revenue. Government should, therefore, now be moved to authorize the aggregate of these two sums, Rupees 2,905-11-5, being debited against Imperial revenue and credited to the minor head of Endowment Fund, under Local Fund.

10. Two estimates, herewith enclosed, have been prepared at my request by the Range Officer; one amounting to Rupees 1,900 for the repair of the present building, and the other to Rupees 3,000 for the formation of the new approach to the Choultry.

11. I beg that I may now be authorized to employ the whole of the above-shown surplus in carrying out these two indispensable works. In anticipation of my proposition being accepted I have provided in the revised Budget, despatched on the 6th instant, for a Grant-in-aid allotment from Local Funds towards the formation of the new approach, and trust that, with the explanations given above, these estimates may be passed on at any early date with the Board's support for the sanction of Government.

12. I now come to that part of the proposition which treats of the reduction of existing establishments.

13. The establishment as now constituted costs Rupees 46-4-0 per mensem, or little short of a moiety of the monthly proportion of the endowment.

Mr. Wilkinson in fact shows (paragraph 4) that if perquisites and other privileges be taken into account the real annual charge on the endowment of Rupees 1,280 is some Rupees 700. This is obviously out of all proportion, and I agree with Mr. Wilkinson (concluding paragraph of letter) in thinking that the services of the Curnum, and of one of the Cooks, and one of the Watermen, may at once be dispensed with.

The Ugrani or Peon cannot, I think, be conveniently removed from the list of establishment. The Choultry is at a distance from the town and the Monigar must have some assistance of the sort in catering for supplies and providing for the safe custody of the brass vessels and other utensils kept for the convenience of those who put up at the Choultry. By the reduction of the Curnum, a Waterman, and a Cook, the present charge for establishment would be reduced from Rupees 46-4-0 to Rupees 30-8-0, being about 34 per cent. of the income available for the general purposes of the institution.

14. In paragraph 4 of his letter Mr. Wilkinson mentions that the Cooks, Watermen, and Pujari, are fed daily at the expense of the Chuttrum, and observes further on that these servants have their monthly pay, and I see no reason why they should also be fed daily at the expense of the charity. Admitting this to some extent I yet think that, as it is a general practice among Brahmins to give this class of servants rations in addition to their wages, no restrictions that might be imposed would be likely to be practically observed. I would not, therefore, be disposed to interfere with these small perquisites.

15. On the other hand reform is much called for in respect to some of the other classes mentioned in Mr. Wilkinson's letters as being fed at the charges of the institution.

accumulated between
1857 and 1864-65. In
1865-66 the Local funds
were systematized, but
the collector (Mr. J. B.
Robinson himself) only
brought forward to the
credit of the Choultry the
savings of the three years
previous to 1865-66 and
allowed the total sav-
ings from a period
not stated but which
must have been consi-
derably prior to 1850, to
merge in the general
balance. If a claim of
this length of standing be
admitted, an awkward
precedent may be esta-
blished -

Soon as funds are
available - but I
woud at the same
time desire them
to procure a plan
or sketch of the
locality in order to
determine whether
the present building
should be restored or
a new one erected
in such a position
as will render it
unnecessary to ex-
pend Rs 3000 in
making it a castle.
It seems absurd to
spend 1900 Rs in re-
pairing a building
which cannot be
reached in that a
few hundred feet of
Rs 3000.

I entirely agree with Mr
Sims view of the case.
B.

MA

1860
Lantern Ground
Commander Chas
My friend Asat
Dad -

When arriving

1860

X

7

161

88.447

5. off 170

These Proceedings
relate to the Chutrum
at Sholupher in North
West district which
was founded and
endowed in the time
of Malajah and to
which the British Govt
allotted an annual
allowance of Rs/280.9.5.
The Chutrum is

now

now almost in ruins
and it is proposed to
put it, and the ap-
proach to the building,
in order, at a cost
respectively, of Rs
1900 & 3000.

To meet this
expenditure in part
sanction is requested
for the grant from
Imperial Funds, of
Rs 2912.11.5 being the
unspent balance
of the Govt allowance
for the building, which
was not transferred
to the Endowment Fund
when Local Funds
were systematized.

The Govt will
be prepared to sanc-
tion the refund of
the

the above mentioned
surplus or savings,
which it is shown
has been erroneously
credited to the State,
as soon as funds
are available. At
the same time, they
would wish the Bd.
of Rev. to obtain a
plan or sketch of
the locality, and de-
termine, whether the
present building
should be restored,
or a new one created,
in such a position,
as will render it un-
necessary to expend
Rs 3000 in making
it accessible. It
seems undesirable
to spend Rs 1900 in
repairing a building
which cannot

14 For the Board of Directors
of the Accountant General

be reached within
a further expenditure
of Rs. 3000—

15

The first of these is the
 fact that the population
 of the world is increasing
 at a rapid rate. This is
 due to a number of factors,
 including improved medical
 care, increased food supply,
 and a general increase in
 living standards. The result
 is that the world is becoming
 more crowded, and this has
 led to a number of problems,
 including pollution, over-
 crowding, and a shortage of
 natural resources. These
 problems are likely to become
 even more serious in the
 future, unless we take steps
 to control population growth.
 One of the most effective
 ways to do this is through
 family planning. This involves
 using various methods to
 prevent pregnancy, such as
 condoms, birth control pills,
 and intrauterine devices.
 By using these methods, people
 can decide how many children
 they want to have, and when
 to have them. This can help
 to reduce the pressure on the
 environment, and improve the
 quality of life for everyone.
 In addition to family planning,
 there are other ways to control
 population growth. These include
 improving education, especially
 for women, and increasing the
 availability of family planning
 services. By taking these
 steps, we can help to ensure
 a better future for all of us.

197-316

Handwritten signature: *Wm. H. ...*

50.
 Chatterjee & Co
 Calcutta - 1877

1000

Go. no. 448	
Back no 44-45	
REVENUE	
dt 5.4.1870	
15	12
99	1557
	84
2	7
	2000
	99