

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	929	Press ~~Mis.~~
28-12		
Dated	23.6.1870-19	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd June 1870.*

No. 281. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th May 1870, No. 3,146:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 6th September 1869, No. 2,515, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Railway Chuttrums*.—Letter from Government of India, declining to increase the allotment of land for their maintenance, communicated to the Board of Revenue for their opinion on the suggestion for raising funds for keeping the Chuttrums in proper order.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 11th November 1869, No. 8,358.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated camp at Vellimalai, 6th April 1870, No. 117.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 11th November last, No. 8,358, to submit the letter from Govindu Chetty, which formed an enclosure to my Acting Head Assistant's letter, dated 2nd October 1869, No. 364, and to state that Mr. Wilkinson again reports that there is no land procurable in the neighbourhood for the endowment of the Choultry at Arconum. My own opinion is, that for the present it would be unwise to thrust the management of the establishment upon any private person until the new settlement at the Arconum station has taken firmer root than it has yet had time to do.

2. Thus far there is every indication of growing prosperity, and eventually the place must, from its position, become an important commercial centre. The wealthier villages are at some distance from Arconum, and I should distrust any arrangement which placed the management of this Choultry in other than a resident's hands.

3. I inspected the Choultry when at Arconum to receive His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and then arranged with the Tahsildar that a Sweeper on Rupees 4 (to be paid from Local Funds) should meanwhile be entertained. The Range Officer was at the same time directed to prepare an estimate for a verandah on the side of the building set apart for brahmins and facing the Railway road, and for two covered sewers. These estimates when received I shall submit with an explanatory letter for the orders of Government. With these additions the Choultry is all that a building of the dimensions can be, and is, from all accounts, the most largely and continuously-frequented establishment of the kind in the district.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Letter from Govindu Chetty.

In their Order of the 12th March 1869, No. 679, Government sanctioned an endowment of land, assessed at Rupees 60, for the Railway Chuttrums at Arconum and Erode. They afterwards applied to the Government of India for sanction to relax the Chuttrum Rules, and grant a larger endowment; but the Government of India refused, and suggested that funds might be obtained either from the Railway Company, or by levying fees, or that the Chuttrums might be leased to contractors.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd June 1870.*

2. The Board are of opinion that neither of these suggestions can well be adopted: the Railway Company are under no sort of obligation to support the Chuttrum: the collection of fees would be a hardship to travellers, and would necessitate the entertainment of a collector on a comparatively high salary. Neither this measure nor the proposed leasing of the Chuttrums could be carried out without preventing many people from resorting to them who would otherwise have done so.

3. The minimum cost of maintenance may be estimated at Rupees 13-8-0 a-month. In the case of Erode the endowment of Rupees 5 a-month can be supplemented by a transfer of the endowment of a disused Chuttrum, amounting to Rupees 9 a-month, as proposed in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, 7th January 1869, No. 48. The sanction of Government to this arrangement is accordingly requested.

4. In the case of Arconum there is a new difficulty, because no waste land can be found for the endowment. The Collector recommends that the sum of Rupees 60 be paid out of the general revenues of the village. The case is an exceptional one, and the Board think that this recommendation should be adopted. As regards the remainder of the required sum the Board see no source from which it can be provided except the District Road Fund.

5. A proposal has been laid before the Board for giving up the Chuttrum to a private individual, on the condition that he shall enlarge and maintain it; but the Collector is opposed to it, and the Board agree with him in thinking it should not be accepted.

No. 282.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1870, No. 929.

Miscellaneous.

THE recommendation of the Board of Revenue to supplement the endowment of the Erode Chuttrum by the transfer to it of the monthly allowance of Rupees 9, paid from the Chuttrum Funds on account of a building no longer used, is sanctioned.

2. In the case of the Arconum Chuttrum the Collector states that no waste land is available in the neighbourhood for the endowment, and it is suggested that the value thereof, namely, Rupees 60, be paid out of the general revenue of the village, but this arrangement is inadmissible. The grant may be given from the waste lands of some other village as near the Chuttrum as possible. The Board's proposal to give the remainder of the sum, or Rupees 8½ per mensem, required for the Chuttrum from the District Road Fund is approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

R. S. ELLIS,

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Accountant-General.

.. the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Railway Chuttrum at Arconum.—Passing
orders with reference to its endowment.

JUNE.
Nos. 231-232.

G. O., 23rd June 1870, No. 929.

Dated June, 23rd.
Recd.

Ac, Ac, Ac.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

To

REVENUE.

Govt. of 1870

No. 8,358.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th November 1869.

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 27th October 1869, No. 331:—

ADVERTING to the Order of Government, dated 5th July last, No. 1,916, Revenue Department, I have the honour to submit transcript of the correspondence noted in the margin, which has taken place between my Head Assistant and myself regarding the endowment and future management of the Government choultry at Arconum. I do not concur in much of what the late Acting Head Assistant urges in disfavour of the building. So far as it goes, the distribution of accommodation is good; and if a verandah were only added to the southern compartment, that set apart for Brahmins,

the building would afford as comfortable lodging as could possibly be expected in a choultry of its dimension and cost. The choultry is admirably situated both as respects accessibility to the Railway platform and the new pettah of which it forms a conspicuous feature; and if Government were to surrender their proprietorship, the square around it, which is now kept clear and has been planted with ornamented trees, would soon be crowded with cooking sheds and other unsightly out-houses, to the prejudice of ventilation and good conservancy.

2. When last at Arconum in September last I observed that a new private choultry was in progress of erection at the far end of the main street, and the applicant to whom Mr. Lee Warner recommends that the Government building be surrendered has besides applied for a grant of land for like purpose at another corner of the pettah. When these two buildings are finished they will afford that additional accommodation which is required on the occasions of the Tirutani, Tirupathi, and Kalastry festivals.

3. I do not, therefore, advocate the transfer of the Government choultry to private management, and think that, with the case of the private choultry at the Renagunta (Tirupathi) Station before our eyes which has been so fruitful a theme of unfavourable comment, it would be unwise to surrender the Government lien on the building. As, however, it has been found impossible to procure land for its endowment, I would beg to propose that the amount of Rupees 180, which it is proposed to allot for its maintenance, should be debited against the general revenues of the village, amounting to Rupees

4. If this proposition be accepted, I would then submit for the Board's order a scheme for a Managing Committee and Establishment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Head Assistant Collector, dated 24th July 1869, No. 726.

FORWARDS spare copy of the Order of Government, dated 5th instant, No. 1,916, Revenue Department, regarding the chuttrum at the Arconum Railway Station, and requests that the Acting Head Assistant Collector will again make inquiry as to the probability of expropriating land in that neighbourhood of the value of the proposed endowment. Requests also that he will report how existing arrangements fulfil their purposes.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. LEE WARNER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Sholinghur, 19th August 1869, No. 308.

With reference to your docket, No. 726, I have the honour to state that it will be as impossible to find in the vicinity of Arconum suitable waste lands bearing a yearly assessment of 180 rupees as it will be to "expropriate" puttah lands and alienate them as a permanent endowment for the chuttrum. In both cases the ryots are asking the most exorbitant terms; indeed, such that it would be far preferable for the Government to make an annual allotment of the sum required out of the collections of the village of Arconum, such sum to be kept in deposit in the talook and paid over quarterly to the person managing the choultry. It will be necessary to adopt this course as long as the chuttrum is kept in the hands of the Government, because the manager we shall appoint will be most likely some official connected with the railway, or one of the higher masters of the school and not a mere ryot, for I should think it almost a certainty that, with the present unwillingness manifested by the ryots against undertaking the management of the chuttrum, we should never find one of them to whom we could safely confide the supervision of its establishment.

2. At present there is no establishment of any kind. A Soodra woman has been appointed by the Tahsildar, and she appears to come daily to sweep out the place without any payment at all. The Brahmin wing of the building is entirely tenanted by a Brahmin Station Master of great respectability, who thus secures good accommodation entirely rent-free, and the Mussulman side gives shelter to the families of some other Railway employes of that caste.

3. There have been no complaints that these residing families keep strangers out, and it might, therefore, be assumed that no harm is done by their presence so long as they keep the place clean and are not the subject of complaint. But the chuttrum is not a success. It has been built entirely on new principles totally opposed to the inviolable prejudices which attend the process of cooking in Hindoo families. I am told that it was most observable how empty the choultry wings were during the whole time of the Conjeveram, and later of the Tirutani feasts. Many families of Brahmins quartered themselves all over the compound of the choultry; but did not enter it, cooking their food separate near their bandies and remaining there. Most native chuttrums are built with a number of distinct rooms, which will accommodate separate families; and, the greater number of separate rooms there are, the more people can be accommodated. This choultry has been built on the principle that "all Brahmins are of the same caste, and one wing will do for them, while the other side of the building can be used for Mussulmen." This I believe to be quite wrong, Brahmins being quite as distant in their internal and domestic relations towards one another as they are in their public capacity distinguished from Soodras or other caste people. At the same time the verandah and the large open hall of the choultry seem to be favourite places of resort for sleeping, though the cooking is done elsewhere.

4. There are two suggestions made. The first is, that the choultry and the compound should be handed over to some Madras person on the condition of his preserving the present building intact and seeing that the sanitary arrangements are properly carried out. As long as he fulfils these terms he will have the whole charge of the chuttrum and its establishment, and its endowment will be entirely his own; but he will not be prevented from adding to the present building such a series of open verandahs, or forming around it such separate blocks of buildings, as will be available for the cooking purposes of separate families. The second suggestion is, that the new school of Arconum should be allowed one-half of the building, at all events for the present. This will prevent the great expense of building new premises for that institution, and I am sure, with a few slight alterations, one of the wings of the building, would make an admirable room answering all the purposes required, and saving the Committee the 2,000 rupees they propose to subscribe. Such arrangements would then be made for keeping the front verandah and the big open room purely for the use of travellers as are necessary, and the room now tenanted exclusively by the Brahmin Station Master could be altered, or left as it is, though I think that any person occupying it more than three days should have to pay some slight charge for the privilege.

5. It is obviously necessary to turn this institution to as much practical use as is possible, considering the enormous sum of money that has been thrown into its construction; but there is certainly a difficulty to be met with in its present unpopularity, which has brought about the two results—

- (1.) Of no person being found willing to give it an endowment and undertake its management.
- (2.) Of its not having attracted the expected numbers of people to keep it constantly filled.

6. I would recommend that the Government be not put to the unnecessary expense of a large establishment until all the preliminary arrangements are thoroughly made, the unpopularity of the cooking rooms successfully combated, and the institution itself *qua* choultry (and not a lodging-house) put into good order: meantime the Soodra woman may pursue her charitable course of sweeping out the verandahs, and the residents will keep the rooms clean.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Head Assistant Collector, dated Catpady, 8th September 1869, No. 879.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to paragraph 2 of your letter of the 19th ultimo, No. 308, to observe that the state of things therein disclosed cannot be allowed to continue. Both sections of the building must be kept clear for the accommodation of *bona fide* travellers.

2. With reference to the third paragraph of your letter I must observe that I do not understand why the chuttrum at Arconum should not be a success. If the main distinctions of caste are provided for, we have done all that can be done in so small a building. The various sects must conform as they best can to the exigencies of the place.

3. The suggestions made in paragraph 4 are worthy of consideration, but on the sole condition of additional and supplementary buildings should be under the absolute control of the authorities and subject to their approval or prohibition. The whole compound might otherwise become the location of numberless objectionable out-houses and sheds, to the prejudice of health, comfort, and appearance.

4. The second proposition contained in the same paragraph is utterly untenable.

5. Adverting to the remark made by you in the fifth paragraph that an "enormous sum of money" has been thrown into the construction of the Arconum choultry, I must observe that only Rupees 6,000 odd have been spent on the choultry. The private chuttrum at Renagunta Station cost, it is said, nearly as much, and the fine chuttrum at Tirutani was probably not built for much under Rupees 35,000.

6. In the same paragraph you speak of the unpopularity of the Arconum chuttrum. I cannot understand why it should be unpopular, and scarcely think that this has much to say to the difficulties in getting up an endowment and committee of management.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Head Assistant Collector, dated Chittoor, 20th September 1869, No. 912.

HAVING, in my letter of the 8th instant, No. 879, and in personal conference with you at Arconum, settled the minor points noticed in your's of the 19th ultimo, No. 308, there yet remains, I find undisposed of the all-important question of endowment. Upon this no inquiries were made during our recent visit, and the matter is, in fact, one which requires a much fuller discussion than

would then have been possible. I would, therefore, suggest that you take an early opportunity of making a halt of some days at Arconum, in view to effect some definitive arrangement of one kind or other. An endowment in land if procurable would no doubt be the proposition most acceptable to Government; but, failing that, it is desirable we should have the alternative arrangement you propose in the first part of your letter in all its detail of names, conditions, etc. I, therefore, beg you will give this matter your earliest consideration, as it is hopeless to expect, in the present irresponsible happy-go-lucky form of management, that the institution can be satisfactorily fulfilling its purposes.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From J. LEE WARNER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of North Arcot,
dated Ranipett, 2nd October 1869, No. 364:—

With reference to your letters, Nos. 879 and 912, I have the honour to forward you the enclosed letter from Govindu Chetty, resident of Madras:

2. I am unreservedly in favour of what you call the "alternative proposed;" and, while the accompanying enclosure points out to you, as clearly as I have endeavoured to do in my letter, No. 308, the unsuitability of the present building, it also provides the escape, and, if accepted, saves the Government a large further necessary outlay. In spite of your seeming inclined to dispute the assertions of mine negating the possibility of the success of the building in its present arrangement of rooms, I am prepared to state that I have now halted on two occasions for some two or three days together in the immediate vicinity of the chuttrum, and that I have witnessed the inconveniences of it. These were ordinary days, and yet the chuttrum was always crammed full at night. Govindu Chetty offers to enlarge the building and to accommodate travellers of all sorts and castes on the terms of being granted "every right of proprietorship." I have been over the building with Govindu Chetty himself, and I believe he is actuated, as he says in his letter, by pure motives of charity in the matter. He is a man of respectability and great wealth in Madras. He has no connexions in this part of the country; but, like all rich Hindoos, he is anxious to found some charitable institution during his life-time, and, if you look at the last paragraph of his letter, you will know his determination in the matter from his asking once more for the plot of ground previously allotted to him.

3. In your letter, No. 912, I cannot understand there still being an idea in your mind that land is procurable for an endowment in the vicinity of Arconum, or, if procurable, that it is cultivable. I stated in the plainest of terms that there was no land available, and that no respectable ryot in Arconum or near it wished to have anything to do with the management of the choultry. I said that the only course for Government was to make an assignment of the sum intended to be allotted, on the revenues of the village, to prevent any confusion in the accounts, such sum to be annually deducted in the form of a remission at jummahbundy and handed over to the care of the Tahsildar for the maintenance of the establishment through the year. This was my other proposal, and I never hinted even at the possibility of finding land.

4. The matter stands thus:—a chuttrum has been built at the Government expense at Arconum, and no arrangements have yet been made for its endowment maintenance. As we can find no person willing to part with his lands in the vicinity of Arconum and to undertake the management of the establishment, the building is left on our hands. It is obviously undesirable that the Government should undertake the management of such an institution when it can be left to private hands. Govindu Chetty offers to do the needful, and improve the building and keep up an establishment at his own expense if the choultry be made over to him with "every right of ownership." He is obliged to demand every right of ownership, as he might otherwise find himself held fast in every scheme of improvement and totally prevented from moving without perpetual

references to the authorities. Consequently, we are now to decide whether to charge the Government revenues with the yearly sum of 180 Rupees, or to make the building over to the applicant absolutely and without restriction, *so long as* he and his family keep it up as a chuttrum. Whatever is done, I hope you may be able to decide quickly, as the building is, in the present system of things, rapidly becoming unpopular.

5. I may add, in conclusion, that it required some pressing on my part to induce Govindu Chetty to make this proposal about taking over the Government chuttrum, and at first he seemed only bent on receiving the vacant plot of ground already promised on the Tirutani road and building after his own plan, but the site of the present choultry is so well chosen that I would infinitely prefer to see this extended and made generally useful.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Collector.

The Collector is requested to submit the letter from Govindu Chetty which formed an enclosure to his Acting Head Assistant's letter of the 2nd October 1869, No. 364, and to report whether land assessed at the reduced amount of Rupees 60 per annum, which is all that is allowed by the Supreme Government, can be assigned to the choultry.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.

Edw. A. S. Rodgers.

① Memo: for Orders: on N^o 1519.

Letter 272nd August 1889

N^o 2808-

S. Q. 70th September 1869

No. 25252

Board of Measures,
1869.

1869.

MADRAS.

$$\frac{1519}{2} = 759.5$$

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH NOVEMBER 1899 No. 2,358.

Encl

Received

NOVEMBER
No. 8,358.

No. 8,358

Government Choultry.—at Arcanum in North Arcot District.—Collector requested to submit letter from Govindu Chetty of Madras offering to take over, and to report whether land assessed at Rupees 60 per annum, can be assigned to Choultry.

adopted. The Railway Company are under no obligation to support the Chuttrams, and the collection of fees, besides being a hardship to travellers, would necessitate the employment of a collector on a comparatively high salary. The collector and the Board ^{also} object to making over the Chuttrams to contractors.

2. The minimum cost of the maintenance of these Chuttrams is fixed at Rs 13-8- each a month. The Board propose in the case of the building at Errode that the endowment of Rs 5 a month shall be supplemented

Yes. J.D.S.
N. M.A.

supplemented by a transfer of the sum of Rs 9 a month allowed to a Chuttram now disused, and request sanction for the arrangement. This expenditure will be debited to the Chuttram funds and may ^{it is submitted} be approved.

3. But in the case of the Arcot Chuttram the Board report that no waste land can be found for the endowment, and support the collector's recommendation that, as an exceptional case, the sum of Rs 60 be paid out of the general revenue of the village. This is an arrangement that the Govt of India will no doubt object to. The collector

states

states that there is no land
procurable in the neighbourhood
for the endowment. The
grant may, however, be given from the
waste lands of some other
village as near to the locality
as possible. The Board propose
to give the remainder of the sum
required viz Rs 8 1/2 per annum
from the District Road Fund.
The legality of such an
appropriation is doubtful.
The Collector has, as a tempo-
rary arrangement, employed
a sweeper on 4 Rs to be
paid from Local Funds
alluding apparently to the
District Road Fund.

Orders are requested.

Yes. J. D. S.

A. A.

Yes. J. D. S.

A. A. N.

The Dist Fund has other
works besides the collections
under the Road Act,
hence it has been usual
to make grants for public
improvements from it

M. S.

1/6/70.

So. Wall

Ch.

Revenue Department

No. 229.

85

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 23rd June 1870.

Read the following. Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue.

Requesting to sanction pay-
ment of Rs. 60 per annum out of
general revenues of village, as sub-
-ment of Railway Chattram at
Arconam in N. Arcot, to permit
endowment of Rs 5 monthly for
Grade Chattram, to be suppl-
-mented by a transfer of endow-
-ment of a Graded Chattram
amounting to Rs 9 per annum.

H.E. 10th May 1870 N. 3146

The recommendation
of the Board of Revenue to
supplement the endowment
of the Grade Chattram
by the transfer to it of
the monthly allowance of
Rs. 9 paid from the Chattram
funds

funds on account of a building no longer used, is sanctioned.

2. In the case of the Aronum Chuttrum the Collector states that no waste land is available in the neighbourhood for the endowment, and it is suggested that the value thereof viz: Rs 60 be paid out of the general revenue of the village, but this arrangement is inadvisable. The grant may be given from the waste lands of some other village, as near the Chuttrum

Chuttrum as possible. The Board's proposal to give the remainder of the sum at Rs. 8 1/2 per mensem required for the Chuttrum from the District Road Fund, is approved.

Gift from Govt.

14 Board of Revenue. with an Encl. Dec 27/24
6 Accountant General. do
21 — — — — —

65/4

Ed. H. Bell

~~Y. H.~~
Endowment of
Carter's Railway
Chatterbox in R
the 1st Dec.

Colles