

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st August 1871.*

Read again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th April 1871, No. 1,740, recorded in G. O., 11th May 1871, No. 830, Revenue Department.

Read also the following papers :—

No. 234. From the Secretary of the Local Museum, Rajahmundry, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Coonoor, 5th June 1871.

It has just come to my knowledge that the Government have called upon the Sub-Collector of the Godavery District to furnish a report regarding the Museum at Rajahmundry, in order that they may determine on the advisability of converting the building into an office. As I am at present absent from Rajahmundry, and am therefore unable to refer to the Museum records to enable me to present a remonstrance on the subject on behalf of the Committee, I have the honour to request that the Government will be good enough not to come to a final decision until my return to Rajahmundry, so that I may consult the Committee as to the course we should pursue. To the best of my knowledge *the building does not belong to Government*, and cannot be converted to any other than its present use. Having resided at Rajahmundry for some years, I know that the Museum is much appreciated by all classes of the community, and on their account I should heartily regret its abolition. I hope to return at the commencement of next month.

No. 235. From the Secretary of the Local Museum, Rajahmundry, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Coonoor, 19th June 1871.

A FEW days ago I had the honour to address you on the subject of the Museum at Rajahmundry being converted into an office for the Sub-Collector, and I shall be much obliged by your kindly sending me a copy of any correspondence that may have taken place on the subject, in order that I may lay it before the Museum Committee immediately on my return. I propose to leave this on the 30th instant.

From the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department to the Secretary of the Local Museum, Rajahmundry, Coonoor, dated 26th June 1871.

In acknowledging your letter of 19th June, regarding the Museum at Rajahmundry, I have the honour to inform you that the Government are awaiting further information about the building. When it arrives your letters will be considered along with it.

No. 236. From the Secretary to the Local Museum, Rajahmundry, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, dated Rajahmundry, 15th July 1871, No. 9.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Committee of the Rajahmundry Local Museum have unanimously requested that I will forward to Government a brief but strong remonstrance against the present Acting Sub-Collector's proposal to convert the Museum premises into an office for himself.

2. The Committee would respectfully submit that the building does not belong to Government, because a grant-in-aid has been afforded to the institution,

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any more than a private school-house would become their property on a grant-in-aid being given for the support of the school. The Museum building was chiefly built, and has since been entirely repaired, by private subscriptions; and the Committee consider that the proprietary right to the building is vested in them on behalf of the community of Rajahmundry, so long as it is kept up as a Museum, for which it was originally intended.

3. The Committee are ready, if required, to give a detailed report on this institution in answer to the Acting Sub-Collector's statement. They consider that it has not failed, although, of course, it might be considerably improved if the revenue-officials of the district took an interest in it. They understand that the Acting Sub-Collector has estimated the contents of the Museum at Rs. 200. The furniture is worth that, and the articles exhibited are worth a very much larger sum. The statement showing the number of the visitors during the last five years will prove the great popularity of the Museum, and the surrounding garden as a place of public resort.

4. I append a round-robin from the residents of Rajahmundry in favour of the preservation of this institution, which was spontaneously presented to the Committee at their meeting on Wednesday last.

No. 237. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th July 1871,
No. 3,098.

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 7th June 1871, No. 200.

WITH reference to the Government Order dated 11th ultimo, No. 830, Revenue Department, communicated with the Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 1,569 of the 16th idem, I have the honour to forward copies of Mr. Gribble's letters dated 31st May and 5th June, Nos. 101 and 111, respectively, giving full information regarding the Museum at Rajahmundry, accompanied by a list (in original) of articles contained therein, and two lists showing the number of visitors from May 1866 to May 1871.

2. I have, on the several occasions when I have visited Rajahmundry, never seen above six or eight visitors in the hall and surrounding garden. I am surprised to see the number of visitors entered in the list, seeing how little there really is to see, and that there is no one in charge able to explain anything to any one. The number of donations of any value or interest from residents in the district itself is very small.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry,
31st May 1871, No. 101.

WITH reference to your letter No. 79, dated 23rd instant, enclosing copy of Government Order Nos. 142-143, dated 11th idem, I have the honour to make the following report.

2. The Museum appears to have been started in 1854-55; a Central Committee was formed, and several objects were collected, after correspondence with the Madras Government, through

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Dr. Balfour, the then Curator of the Madras Museum. The Government grant towards the Museum was then Rs. 50, and this was afterwards increased to Rs. 55 per mensem. At first the objects were placed in a temporary shed, but in August 1859, subscriptions, amounting to Rs. 2,000 having been collected from residents of the town and the district, Government sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs. 2,000, which sum I find from the Museum accounts was duly drawn and expended. The present building was then erected out of an old bungalow formerly the property of the Collector Mr. Prendergast, and purchased at auction by the Museum Committee for that purpose.

3. The objects for which the Museum was started appear to have been an improvement of the people by a display of curious and rare productions of nature and science and by lectures on these subjects to bring home to them the usefulness of inventions and manufactures. With this in view the Museum was especially started in Rajahmundry, because there is here a first class Provincial School, the pupils of which it was hoped would greatly benefit from the Museum. As far as these objects are concerned, the Museum has, I am of opinion, entirely failed; no lectures on scientific subjects are given there, and the visitors to it are not very many as will be seen by the subjoined list. The articles of interest are very far from numerous or indeed of any great interest; I may mention, amongst others, two or three models of machinery which are greatly out of order, a box containing patterns of cloth sold at the Central Jail, specimens of flour, etc., sold elsewhere in the district, some wooden dolls representing the late Sub-Collector Mr. Webster sitting in Cutcherry, and two old fashioned models of ships. Annexed is a complete list of the contents of the Museum. It is true that there are several cases of mineral and other natural productions, but I do not think that they are of such value that Government should incur a monthly expenditure of Rs. 55 in maintaining them. The natives of the district appear to have little or no interest in adding to the collection, and, as far as I can ascertain, its contents are but slightly added to every year. There is an old photographic machine and a magic lantern, but I am not aware that they are ever publicly exhibited.

4. Some months ago the building was in disrepair and a sum of Rs. 1,667-8-0 was raised by local subscription, to which was added Rs. 750 subscribed by Government on account of repairs in 1868; the total amount spent upon the repairs being Rs. 2,294. It therefore appears that the public have subscribed about Rs. 3,700 towards the cost of the building, and that Government has contributed Rs. 2,750 plus sixteen or seventeen years' maintenance. I do not think that the present Committee would willingly give the building up, and as it has been partly built and entirely repaired by local subscription, I do not think that Government could fairly order the transfer of the building to the Sub-Collector unless the amount raised by private subscription were returned to the subscribers. A great many of the subscriptions from the natives consist of small sums of one Rupee, etc. The money was chiefly raised amongst the European officials and the wealthy Zemindars. Thus the late Collector, Mr. Purvis, subscribed Rs. 500. Several of the Zemindars Rs. 200 and 100 each. A list of the original subscribers exists, and the amounts given by each could without difficulty be returned to them. I doubt whether the Committee could be compelled to give up the building, though they would doubtless be obliged to do so if the Government refused to sanction the further disbursement of a maintenance grant.

5. In 1862, when the Provincial School-house was burnt down, the then Committee refused to give up the Museum to be converted into a school, but allowed it to be occupied by the school as a temporary measure for some fifteen months. Should the Government not deem it desirable to do away entirely with the Museum, I would strongly recommend that this plan be again adopted, and that the building be occupied by the Sub-Collector until a regular Cutcherry can be built. The Government grant to the Museum might then be allowed to accumulate, and when the Sub-Collector is called upon to vacate the Museum, there would be a considerable sum in hand for the purchase of new objects.

6. As regards the suitability of the building for an office, it is most admirably adapted for one. It consists of one large room with two rows of columns; at one end are two small rooms

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which could be used for records. The large room is more than sufficient for the requirement of the Sub-Collector's Office, and a portion should be partitioned off for the use of the Sheristadar and one or two Clerks. This, however, would cost but little, as the partition need only be a wooden one. The remaining Clerks could be seated round the room, and would, whilst at work, be under the eye of the Sub-Collector. The house is a terraced one, and should the Government see fit at any future time to enlarge it, this could be easily done at a comparatively trifling expense. The house is admirably situated in a central position opposite the Sub-Collector's house, and almost adjoining the Civil Court and the residences and offices of the Judge and the Superintendent of Police. It is just outside the native town, and is in reality the best site possible; should Government consider it necessary to build a Cutcherry, the only other available site is nearly two miles from the European houses beyond the other end of the town. I would venture to point out that if a new Cutcherry is built, it would cost at least Rs. 10,000; whereas, and if Government could obtain the Museum, it would, including the necessary alterations, cost little more than Rs. 4,000 if so much.

7. As far as concerns the transferring of the contents of the Museum to the building now occupied by my office, I beg to say that this might be done should the Committee deem fit to rent the building from the owner; but I would remark that this building is so dilapidated that it is no better suited for a Museum than an office. I am inclined to think that the contents of the Museum should be sold or sent to the Madras institution, though I doubt whether they would fetch more than Rs. 200 at an auction, or whether the cost of their transit to Madras would not exceed their value.

8. I would again respectfully urge the necessity of providing me with some building soon. I am writing this letter in a tent in the middle of the hot weather and hot winds, and at present there is every prospect that I shall have to continue to work under canvass throughout the monsoon which is now at hand. Not only is this far from pleasant, but is, I would also urge, of considerable risk to my health, since weather in camp or in head-quarters I have to work in tents which you are aware means a far greater exposure to the sun than is met with in a building. It is true that I have been to some expense in erecting a thatched roof to protect my tent, but I would also bring to your notice that not only have I to undergo the inconvenience and risk of an exposure to the sun and rain in tents, but also that I have not even the satisfaction of drawing the extra tentage which I should be entitled to were I to have tents a few miles off, and go through my work under the same circumstances, since you have assented to pass my tentage bill for the period during which I am in Rajahmundry, pending the orders of the Board. I would again remark that hitherto the Revenue-officer in Rajahmundry has been unmarried, and held Court in his own house. The house is a small one, and consists merely of four rooms, in any one of which it is absolutely impossible that I can hold my Court.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Catalogue of articles contained in the Government Local Museum at Rajahmundry.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—List of things newly received.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—Extracts from visitors' book for May 1871.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From the Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 5th June 1871, No. 111.

As requested in your letter of the 1st instant, No. 87, I have the honour to forward herewith a statement showing the number of visitors to the Local Museum at Rajahmundry during the last five official years.

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2. I am informed that none of the visitors entered in the above statement came for the sake of the reading room, but to look at the contents of the large hall. It appears a fixed number of men, not exceeding seven or eight, consisting chiefly of those employed in the public offices at this place, now and then attend the reading room, where newspapers are left. I believe that I am not wrong in attributing part of the visitors to applicants coming to the Municipal meetings which meet outside the building, and who are in the habit of inspecting the Museum until their petitions are heard.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

ABSTRACT.—Statement showing the number of visitors to the Museum during the last five official years.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Government Order, 11th May 1871, No. 830.

2. The Museum was partly built, and has been entirely repaired by public subscription, and the Committee have all along refused to part with it.

3. Mr. Gribble now proposes to borrow it, and the Board understand he does so without the consent of the Committee.

4. It is clear no countenance can be given to this proposal. The number of visitors, 1,000 a-month, shows that the institution is fairly popular if not very instructive.

5. The only practicable course is to sanction permanent extra tentage until a new office can be provided.

6. Extra tentage has been allowed by Government pending the receipt of this report in Government Order, 26th May 1871, No. 934.

No. 238. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1871, No. 1,439.

Miscellaneous.

From the papers now recorded it is evident that the Rajahmundry Museum building does not belong to Government, and cannot be assigned by them for the Sub-Collector's Office. A good deal of unnecessary correspondence and trouble might have been saved had the Collector or Mr. Gribble taken the trouble to ascertain the facts accurately in the first instance.

2. In face of the representation made by the Committee, it is evidently useless to propose either to purchase or to rent the building; and unless some other suitable building can be purchased or rented for the Sub-Collector's Office, there is no alternative but to sanction his drawing extra tentage until an office is built for him; he meanwhile, providing all the necessary accommodation at his own cost. This course is sanctioned.

3. It is observed that Mr. Chisholm was requested to prepare and submit a plan for an office for the Sub-Collector at Rajahmundry on the date marginally noted. His attention will be called to Public Works Department, 1st June 1869, No. 1,789.

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the subject, and funds will be provided for the work among "Civil Buildings" in
the Provincial Budget for the coming year.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DE C. SCOTT, Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secy., P.W.D.,
for Secy. to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue.
the Accountant-General.
the Public Works Department.
the Secretary of the Local Museum, Rajahmundry

Recd. the following paper
No. 234 for 4E
To the Chief Secretary to
Government.
Commiss. June 5th 1871

Sir,

It has just come to
my knowledge that the Gov-
ernment have called
upon the Subcollector of
the Godavery District to
furnish a Report regarding
the Museum at Rajah-
mundry in order that
they may determine on
the advisability of conser-

ing the building into
an office. As I am at
present absent from
Rajahmundry, and am
therefore unable to refer
to the Museum records to
enable me to present a
reconstruction on the
subject on behalf of the
Committee, I have the
honour to request that the
Government will be good
enough not to come
to a final decision
until my return to

Rajahmundry, so that I may
consult the Committee as
the course we should
pursue. To the best of
my knowledge, the build-
ing does not belong to
Government, and cannot
be converted to any other
than its present use.
Having resided at Rajah-
mundry for some years,
I know that the Museum
is much appreciated
by all classes of the
community, and on

their account, I should
heartily regret its abolition.
I hope to return at the
commencement of next
month.

I have the honor to be,
Your most obedient servant.

Henry Morris,
Secretary of the Local
Museum, Rajahmundry.

9. June 11.

Chennai

P. D. S. S.

Revenue 1871 Sept

A 1832

From

M. H. Morris

Secy of the Colonial

Rajahmundry

dated 5th

July 7th 1871

S. O. 1429. 21 Aug 1871

Addressing post

with reference to the

Museum premises

at Rajahmundry

being converted into

an office for the

Sub Coll: of Geology

To be done by the

No 234

C. H. 1871 A. 21st

Mr. J. H. Morris 36E

To the Chief Secretary, Govt.

Papamona. June 12th 1871

Sir,

A few days ago I had
the honor to address you
on the subject of the Museum
at Rajahmundry being con-
verted into an office for
the Sub Collector, & I shall
be much obliged by your
kindly sending me a

copy of any correspondence
that may have taken
place on the subject, in
order that I may lay it
before the Museum Com-
mittee immediately on my
return. I propose to
leave this in the 30th inst.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Henry Morris.

To H. Morris - Secy.

Cornwall

My dear Sir

In acknowledgment

of letter of 15th June

regarding the Museum

at Rajahmundry, I have the

honour to inform you that the

Govt are awaiting further

information about the

Building - when it

arrives, the letters will

be considered along with

it.

Yours

D. S. J.

26 June 71.

By Secy Govt

Depd 26.

No 235

contd 21 @ 215

Revenue 1871 Sept

No 1992.

From

M. H. Morris

Dated 19th June 71
Recd 23rd June 71

DO No 1439 21 August 1871

Requesting to be
furnished with a
copy of any corre-
spondence that may
have taken place
in the subject of con-
verting the Museum at
Rajahmundry into an
Office for the Sub-M...

No 1439

21 Aug 71

Read again Secy of the Govt

Dec 26 Dec 1871 Dec 17 1871 Dec 17 1871

Dec 11 1871 Dec 1871 Dec 20 Dec 1871

Read again Secy of the Govt

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W. for the letters to the
I ascertain the facts
accurately in the first
instance.

In fact, the representative
of the committee is
evidently unclear, I propose
to him to purchase or to build
the building, and unless
since the suitable building
can be purchased or built
for the Sub. Off. office. There
is no alternative but to
sustain his drawing & to
tentative until an office is
built for him. He is unable
providing with the necessary
accommodation at his own
cost. His course is
sustained.

It is shown that
W. Chisholm has
requested to prepare
submitted a plan for
an office for the Sub. Off.
at Kynabimedy on
the date marginally
shown. His attention

J.W.D.
1. June 29.
No. 1789.

like to call to the
subject. and funds
like to provide for the
work among civil
buildings in the
Provincial Budget for
the coming year.
J.R.

- 114. To the Board of Directors, 29 Aug
- 6. The Accountant General
- 21. The Public Works Dept.
- 1. The Secretary of the Local Museum, Opatimandy

No 234-288

Group of Pap.
mostly published in
the last part
of the year

C. 12. Aug 777 R. 25. Aug.

D

Govt. of 1871 31/10/75.

To
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

dc., dc., dc.

Dated August 21st.

Recd.

G. O., 21st August 1871, No. 1,439.

AUGUST.

Nos. 234-238.

Office for Sub-Collector, Godavery District.
Observing that the Rajahmundry Museum cannot be assigned for this purpose; permitting the Sub-Collector to draw extra tenage until an office is built for him; and calling Mr. Chisholm's attention to a former requisition for a plan for an office for the Sub-Collector.

File 125792/1871 from 12/2/75.