

No. 280. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1871, No. 3,754 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th June 1871, No. 167.

I HAVE the honour, before leaving the Cuddapah District, to submit a brief report, with reference to paragraph 15 of Government Order dated 12th September 1870, No. 1,438.

2. I have deferred doing so beyond the period fixed by Government, for I have really felt considerable difficulty in knowing what points to remark upon.

3. As far as I can judge the officials here are much the same as in the other districts which I have seen. Some two or three of the Tahsildars are first rate men, in whom full confidence can be placed. On the other hand, there are one or two who are, I think, decidedly bad. I have recently recommended the degradation of one, and the suspension of another of these officers. It is easy to form an opinion about a man on general grounds, but not always so to bring such conviction home to the mind of others, even when specific allegations may be adduced. I have heard in the case of some of the other Tahsildars unfavourable reports, but nothing has been brought to notice which could well be taken hold of.

4. In filling up vacancies I have found considerable difficulty in selecting men whose previous conduct and character gave hopes of their escaping the corrupting influences which are, I fear, constantly at work throughout the district. For the Proddatur Talook, which, owing to the wealth of its Comaties, is the strong-hold of perjury and bribery, I have long been looking for a fit Tahsildar, and only recently have I been able to nominate a man from Kurnool, who, I hope, will succeed, though, until he has been at work some time, it will be difficult to form an opinion.

5. There is hardly one Talook Sheristadar fit to be promoted. The generality of Clerks in the Talook Cutcheries are, as I have learnt from personal observation, as well as from the statements of divisional officers, lamentably deficient. Very few are passed candidates, and they can never hope for promotion. It is hardly to be wondered at that they are wanting in energy or zeal.

6. I have seen no reason to make any transfers of officials, high or low. I think that the arrangements made by my predecessor were as good as could be devised, and I have much more confidence in his judgment of native character than in my own.

7. The district is still without a Sheristadar. I have already explained to the Board how this has happened in my letters of the 14th March and the 17th June 1871, Nos. 52 and 20; the latter communication is still under their consideration.

8. There is a great unwillingness to take up service in this district, owing, I believe, to the character for unhealthiness which it bears. Certain parts, the head-quarters especially, are seldom free from fever or cholera, or from intense heat; and even ordinary volunteers to act as copyists in English are not procur-

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21st September 1871.*

able in Cuddapah to the extent required, while in some of the talooks they are not to be had at all.

9. If I have done less than I ought in the way of reorganization, I must beg to point out that it is extremely difficult to get rid of even inefficient people, unless something more than ordinarily bad comes to light regarding them. Doubtless men of a higher stamp are required; if the difficulties in the way of getting them could be overcome, and this must be a work of time, then the prospects of administration in Cuddapah would be brighter.

In their Order of the 12th September 1870, No. 1,438, Government directed Mr. C. G. Master to report, at the close of the official year, on the state of the district of Cuddapah and its native establishments. Mr. Master has now complied with these instructions.

2. He states that, so far as he can judge, the officials are much the same in Cuddapah as in other districts. Two or three of the Tahsildars are exceptionally good, and one or two exceptionally bad.

3. There seems, however, to be an unusual scarcity of men fit to be promoted. The Talook Sheristadars are almost all unfit, and the Clerks in Talook Cutcherries are very deficient. Few of them have passed the service examinations, and they lose their energy and zeal with the hope of promotion.

4. Mr. Master has not undertaken any "reorganization." He thinks the arrangements made by Mr. VansAgnew as good as could be devised, and has much more confidence in that gentleman's judgment of native character than in his own.

5. Persons from other districts are very unwilling to take service in Cuddapah, because of its unhealthiness. The late Sheristadar was removed in October 1870, and no one has yet taken his place. Last March Mr. Master nominated the Head Clerk of the Kistna Huzoor, but he was taken ill on the way, and then declined the appointment. In June Mr. Master nominated the Tahsildar of Pulampett, but as he left the district immediately afterwards, the Board thought it best to refer the nomination to the present Acting Collector.

6. An important point in Mr. Master's letter is contained in the following passage:—"Certain parts, the head-quarters especially, are seldom free from fever, or cholera, or from intense heat, and even ordinary volunteers to act as Copyists in English are not procurable in Cuddapah to the extent required."

7. This suggests the expediency of removing the Collector's head-quarters from their present situation. Cuddapah, always noted as one of the hottest stations in the Presidency, and one of the most exposed to cholera, has of late years become the centre of a very persistent and at times fatal type of fever, attacking both Europeans and Natives. It is not confined to Cuddapah, but it is worse there than elsewhere. The records of the Revenue, Judicial, Revenue Survey, Revenue Settlement, and Police will, the Board are sure, afford ample evidence that this account of the peculiar unhealthiness of Cuddapah is not exaggerated.

8. Cuddapah is no doubt the most important town in the district, and it is centrally situated, but these advantages do not compensate for a state of things which prevents the public offices from being properly manned.

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9. On the other hand, the public buildings are in bad condition, and will have to be renewed if the station remains where it is. The Cutcherry is wretchedly small and incommodious. The Jail is insecure, and has been condemned. The Court-house is better but not good.

10. If Government are prepared to entertain the question at all it will be desirable to ascertain the probable cost of the removal of the public offices, and to obtain a report from Mr. Horsley, in communication with the Sanitary Commissioner, as to whether the removal should be to some healthier locality in the neighbourhood or to some other town.

11. The Board are aware that this subject has often been discussed before. In 1868 Mr. Molony pointed out the unhealthiness of the climate (to which he afterwards fell a victim) in a letter Board's Procs., 16th July 1868, No. 5,216.

Board's Procs., 2nd October 1868, No. 6,973. to the Subsidiary Jail Committee. The Board inquired what place he would propose to remove to, but he replied that after full consideration he had failed to find a better place for the head-quarters than Cuddapah. In October 1869 Mr. Govt. Order, 29th November 1869, No. 1,883.

VansAgnew stated a decided opinion that the maintenance of head-quarters at Cuddapah was eminently prejudicial to the good administration of the district. Government, however, were "not prepared to consider the question of removing the Hazoor station from Cuddapah."

12. This was in a time of considerable financial pressure, such as does not now exist.

No. 281. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1871, No. 1,647.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government do not doubt that Mr. Master did as much in the way of reforming the district establishments as time would allow, considering that he was new to the district.

2. Mr. Horsley, the present Acting Collector, is well acquainted with it, and the Government look to him to carry on the work of reformation gradually and judiciously but firmly. He may rely on the support of Government, when necessary, to enable him to rid the district of unworthy public servants.

3. The difficulty in the way of inducing good men from elsewhere to take employment in the district, resulting from its notorious unhealthiness, and specially that of the head-quarters, is fully appreciated by Government; and although the impossibility of providing funds at present for new buildings elsewhere must preclude any immediate change, the Government desire that Mr. Horsley will give his attention to the subject of transferring the head-quarter offices or station to a more healthy situation, and in due course report where, in his opinion, this may best be found, what would be the approximate cost of raising new office buildings,

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and what might be expected to be realised from public sale of the Government buildings now in Cuddapah. It is observed that they are said to be much out of repair, and will need renewal if the station is not changed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Location of the District, & do
not see any way - as one can
have all to suggest a better
position, all things considered,
the capital of a District
can hardly be of course
where we can afford to build
a Cathedral the location to be
near the capital will be de-
sirable. It is now known that
the place has the same diffi-
culty in getting good water - &

No. 2948

1847

Rev. Dept.

515

REVENUE DEPARTMENT 315

FOR ORDERS

No. 2948

From No. Board of Revenue, No. 3754
Dated 31st August 1871.

FOR ORDERS.

land, in view of the construction of
buildings and also other small
plots to be built later in the
buildings belong to govt. and
addupah. He seems to take
interest in the question and
inquiring cannot be any harm.

I must make the evening. but
cannot of the land granted to
the District. I am not sure.
Addupah will be the only
to the District.
By A.

The Master has probably done as
much as could be done in the
short space of time by an Officer
new to the District. The Survey
shows the land well - and he
should be allowed for the extra
part of his in getting rid of bad
land.

No 2948

Rev. Sept.

51

1847

21 Sept/41

Pro. Board of Revenue

Dated 31 Sept 1871 No 3454

43

Some of the papers are in the
 of a District which is
 in the hands of the
 best position for the administration
 of the District. The District
 is in the hands of the District
 and the District is in the hands of the District.

Handwritten signature/initials

I am afraid in consequence of present business
 under the present of revenue the District
 for the District. I would have
 told Mr. Horeby - report where in
 his opinion it might properly be

N

J.P.

Handwritten signature/initials

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the way of inducing good
men from elsewhere
like employment in the
District. Resulting from
its actions in last times
especially that of the A. G.
is fully appreciated by
Gov. - and all the
difficulties of providing
funds at present for
new buildings & repairs
must preclude any
immediate changes
the Gov. desires that
the A. G. will give
his attention to the
subject of transferring
the A. G. office - or
station to a more
healthy situation.

10
and in discussion
about them in his
opinion the money should
be found. But
Gov. is the appropriate
cost of raising new
office building. &
that might be
deducted from the balance
from public sale of
the Gov. buildings
now on Cuddapah.
It is observed that
they are said to be
much out of repair
& the cost of repairs
of the station is
not changed.

L. D.

11. To the O. G. (Dec. 29. 1871)

16280-287

Gobt. of {1871} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 21st.

Recd.

Encl

G. O., 21st September 1871, No. 1,647

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 280-281.

Native administration of Cuddipah District.—Board's Proceedings relating to the— and the reorganization of the establishments, with orders thereon. The present Collector to give his attention to the subject of transferring the head-quarter offices or station to a more healthy situation.



22-1-1871