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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th September 1872.*

Read the following letters :—

No. 137. From the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 3rd July 1872, No. 1,400 :—

ADVERTING to paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of Government, No. 244, dated 29th May 1872, I have the honour to report that the Acting Collector of North Arcot considers that the construction of Taluq Catcherries and Sub-Jails at Cooppum, Venkatagerry Cotah, and Arcot should have preference over the other buildings provided in the Budget.

2. In the statement appended to my letter No. 1,134, dated 12th June 1872, I pointed out a net saving of Rupees 7,089 in the grants for the buildings provided in the current year's Budget. To this may be added a further sum of Rupees 10,000 to be taken from the allotment to the Catcherry at Gooriattum, thus raising the available amount to Rupees 17,089, which may be distributed to the three buildings named by the Collector in the following proportions :—

	RS.
Taluq Catcherry and Sub-Jail at Cooppum	4,000
Do. do. at Venkatagerry Cotah	4,000
Do. do. at Arcot	9,089
	17,089

No. 138. From the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Palmanair, 13th August 1872, No. 36.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum of the 2nd instant, and to inform you in reply that I am perfectly aware of the existence of the order to which you allude regarding incomplete works; but the Superintending Engineer having under instructions from Government, as contained in their Order in the Public Works Department, dated 29th May 1872, No. 244, requested my opinion as to whether I would propose any, and what, changes in regard to the buildings entered in the Budget, with a view to providing funds for the execution of those more urgently required, I informed that officer in my letter of the 20th June last, No. 156, that I was of opinion that the Cooppum, Venkatagerry Cotah, and Arcot Catcherries and Subsidiary Jails demanded a priority of construction over the other new public buildings proposed to be constructed in this district.

2. The Collector has never been consulted prior to the preparation and submission of the Imperial Budget of this district by the Superintending Engineer of the division as to what buildings were more urgently required. Had this been done the three buildings above referred to would not only have long ago found place in the Budget but would now be in a fair way towards completion.

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3. On the last occasion that I inspected the Sub-Magistrate's Office at Cooppan, I found that the accommodation afforded by the building was of the most disgraceful description. The office accommodation of the Sub-Magistrate consisted of an old verandah fast tumbling down with a pandal or thatched shed in front. There is only one long narrow room for the confinement of convicted and under trial prisoners, which is always occupied by male prisoners. I was informed on inquiry that any female prisoners, whether under trial or convicted, have to sleep outside with the constables, composing the guard, and I have received information that instances have occurred in which constables, taking advantage of the opportunity so afforded them, have behaved improperly toward the females thus placed in their custody. This information of course may be incorrect, but it is nevertheless quite possible, and by no means improbable, that female prisoners at the Cooppan Sub-Magistrate Jail have been insulted while at the mercy of their guards; and I, therefore, consider it most advisable that this Catcherry and Sub-Magistrate Jail should be put in hand forthwith, and pushed on to completion as rapidly as possible.

4. The present building at Vankatcherry Cutch is anything but a suitable one for a Sub-Magistrate's Office. It is small and affords but little accommodation, and taking into consideration the insalubrity of the climate of that part of the district, it is very desirable that some better office accommodation should be provided both for the Sub-Magistrate and for the parties attending his Court; and I may here observe that Mr. Rhinow, Inspecting Post Master, has, in his letter No. 1,273, dated 5th August 1872, brought prominently to my notice the extreme inadequacy of the accommodation now provided for the Post Office in the hotel that is dignified by the name Sub-Magistrate's Catcherry. The Deputy Post Master has to do his work sitting on a bench, and crowded by the parties attending the Sub-Magistrate's Office in Magistrate's Revenue cases. It is very necessary that in the new building a small additional room should be provided for the Deputy Post Master's Office.

5. The third building to the construction of which I would give preference is the Arcot Taluk Catcherry. The present building is the oldest and of its kind in the district. It is a small old-fashioned mud building, quite unsuited to the requirements of the present time. It is fast falling to decay, and is not worth repairing. The taluk is next to Wallajah, the largest and the most important in the whole district, and there is always a large concourse of people attending the office. I am strongly of opinion that its reconstruction should not be delayed. I say and that the Sub-Magistrate at Calcutty has now a tolerably good Catcherry, while the same official at Narainavaram is extremely well accommodated in the old Taluk Catcherry at that station. He is to be transferred to Poothoor when the new Catcherry is built, but there need be no hurry in the matter; and as the sites for the new buildings have not yet been made over to the Public Works Department or the walls commenced, there will not be I hope much actual loss by letting the construction of the two Catcheries stand over for some time longer.

6. The Superintending Engineer's letter No. 1,400, dated 3rd July 1872, which accompanied your memorandum under reply is herewith returned.

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No. 139. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1872, No. 2,149.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 11.

The sums necessary to complete the under-mentioned Catcheries and Sub-Magistrate Jails in North Arcot District are, namely:—

have in previous orders been allotted for

	Estimate.	Previous Expenditure.	Balance to complete.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Calcutty	10,810	6,216	4,594
2. Wandiwash	7,020	3,701	3,319
3. Poothoor	10,810	4,937	5,873
4. Tripaty	7,100	5,580	1,605
5. Chittoor	8,120	4,037	4,083

2. In addition to which appropriations towards the completion of two other similar buildings have been made to the following extent, namely:—

	Estimate.	Previous Expenditure.	Allotment.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
6. Poloor	27,000	18,880	7,080
7. Geoniatum	28,140	10,943	17,197

3. The Collector and Superintending Engineer now advocate allotments for three other Catcheries and Jails as follows, namely:—

	Estimate.	Previous Expenditure.	Allotment.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
8. Cooppan	11,500	377	4,000
9. Vankatcherry Cutch	11,230	570	4,000
10. Arcot	24,900	6,656	9,000

4. But while the latter recommends a transfer of funds for Nos. 8 and 9 from No. 6, the former would stop work with Nos. 1 and 3 on the ground that tolerable accommodation is already available, and that the sites for the new buildings have not yet been made over to the Public Works Department, or the walls commenced. Considering the expenditure already charged against the buildings, the Government presume there must be some mistake in this statement, and request the Superintending Engineer to explain how matters really stand.

5. Meanwhile a transfer of Rupees 9,000 from No. 7 to No. 10 is sanctioned, and Rupees 4,000 each allotted for Nos. 8 and 9, whereof Rupees 2,000 is available

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from the Reserve under Civil Buildings, and provision of the remaining Rupees 5,000
will be taken into consideration in the Financial Department.

(True Extract.)


Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division,
Revenue Department.
Controller of Public Works Accounts,
Financial Department.
Judicial Department.
Collector of North Arcot.

