Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th September 1873.

No. 151. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st August 1873, No. 1,464 :—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pereakulam, 27th June 1873, No. 198 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit copy of a letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, dated 11th June, No. 165, recommending that Kodaikanel be selected as the station of the Pulney Hill Magistrate and Deputy Tahsildar, and that huts be erected there for the accommodation of him and his establishment at a cost of 1,000 Rupees.

2. The Upper and Lower Pulneys must be under one Deputy Tahsildar, and Kodaikanel is the most central and convenient station for him. I am under the impression that when Poombarai was selected as the station, it was intended to have a separate officer for the Lower Hills, but this idea has been given up. The Sub-Magistrate's office has always been held at Vilputti, some miles from Kodaikanel, and the whole hills being regarded as one charge. Poombarai is in a corner; I therefore support the Sub-Collector's recommendation.

3. I also support the proposal that Government should build houses, none being available and the circumstances being exceptional. It is very difficult to get a Magistrate for the Pulney Hills, and one of the chief discomforts complained of is the impossibility of getting a suitable place to live in.

4. As soon as the site is decided on I shall see that the building of the Sub-Magistrate's cutcherry is pushed on as rapidly as circumstances permit.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Pereakulam, 11th June 1873, No. 165.

THE building used at present by the Hill Deputy Tahsildar and Magistrate for his office at Vilputti is a village Chavadi belonging in common to the villagers, and the ryots who came to Kodaikanel on the 28th instant for the distribution of the puttas of Vilputti Village complained of its occupation by him to the exclusion of the merchants and others frequenting the hills, for whose use they built it. I have the honour, therefore, in continuation of my letter, No. 103, dated 8th April last, to request that you will be so good as to adopt measures for the early construction of the cutcherry building therein referred to.

2. I take this opportunity to point out that, after a considerable experience of the Pulney Hills, I should regard it as a mistake if the Sub-Magistrate's cutcherry be built at Poombarai. Even when there were two Sub-Magistrates, one for the Upper and the other for the Lower Hills, it would have been a mistake, in my opinion, because Poombarai is not by any means the most central village on the Upper Hills. As it is, it is not only non-central for the Upper Hills but is very inconveniently situated for access to the Lower Hills, the revenue charge of which is with the Sub-Magistrate, who has, therefore, occasionally to go there. The proper place for the Sub-Magistrate to be stationed is, in my opinion, Kodaikanel. A good road has already been completed from thence to Poombarai, and others partially made, and likely before very long to be completed, from the same place to Vilputti and Mannavanur. Access, therefore, from all the villages to Kodaikanel will in a short time be perfectly easy, while it will be years before roads are thought of from Poombarai to Mannavanur and Vilputti, if they are ever thought of at all. Another good reason for stationing the Sub-Magistrate at Kodaikanel is that it is the place where

the only Post Office on the Hills is and that the Local Fund Board have just completed arrangements for stationing a Dresser there. It will, therefore, no doubt be more resorted to in future than now by the hill people, who are fully alive to the benefits the presence of the Dresser will confer upon them.

3. I am of opinion, therefore, that, for the convenience of the native inhabitants of the hills, Kodaikanel is a better place for the Sub-Magistrate to be stationed at than Poombarai, and it certainly is much the best place that could be selected for the convenience of European residents and of the Sub-Magistrate himself and his establishment, who have to procure all their supplies from Periakulam, which is some ten miles nearer to Kodaikanel than to Poombarai. I request, therefore, that the change of station I advocate may be recommended to Government for sanction.

4. At the same time I desire to point out the expediency of the erection, at whatever may be determined on as the most suitable station for the Sub-Magistrate, of houses for himself and his establishment as the Local Fund Board have determined to do for their Dresser. Houses are not to be hired at any hill village, nor can they be bought, if it be considered fair to expect persons in the position of a Sub-Magistrate and his goomastahs and peons to buy houses. They are lowly paid and cannot afford to build for themselves, and the place is expensive and cold, so that substantial houses are necessary for the preservation of health. Rupees 1,000 would house the whole establishment, and the imposition of a moderate rent would provide for repairs; and I think it only right and fair in this peculiar case that this should be done, and recommend that the sanction of Government be sought accordingly.

(True Copy)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE, Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board strongly support the Collector's proposal that Kodaikanel instead of Poombarai should be made the head-quarters of the Sub-Magistrate of the Pulney Hills, and that Rupees 1,000 should be spent in erecting huts there for the officer and his establishment.

3. Kodaikanel is the principal and most convenient station on the hills. The expenditure on huts is clearly necessary and may be recouped by charging small rents.

No. 152.

ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1873, No. 1,008.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve of the head-quarters of the Sub-Magistrate being placed at Kodaikanel, and sanction the expenditure of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in providing him and his establishment with house-accommodation.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Dept.

Memo. for Orders on No. 2395.

Pro: Board of Revenue

Proposal of Coll: of Madura that Kodaikanal should be fixed on as Hd Quarters of Sub Magte of Pulney Hills. } 1 August 1873, No. 1464

In 1865 Govt sanction-
-ed all the villages on the
Pulney Hills (upper & lower)
being attached to the Peria-
-kulam taluk and being
placed under one Sub Magis-
-trate to be stationed at
Kodaikanal the European
Settlement. This was
on the recommendation of the
then Collector (Mr Levinge)
supported by Mr Pelly -
The Sub Magistrate was at
the time apparently located
at Vilpettay. (Upper Hills)

2. Subsequently

a

+ G.O. 2184. d. 12 Sept/65.

I would accept
the Hd Qrs proposed

S.D.S.

a somewhat warm correspond-
-ence arose between the Sub
Collector (Mr. Vans Agnew)
and the Collector, the former
questioning all the latter's pro-
-posed arrangements. The
former objected to Kodaikanal
being the Sub Magistrate's
station because it was high
and cold and contained
no "caste" houses so that the
hill people would not willingly
come or stop there. He preferred
Vilputtu, where they would
always find their own caste
people. Mr. Lovings still
thought Kodaikanal the best
place. He remarked that
it was central; that at
Poombarai the Sub magistrate
would be inaccessible to the

Lower

Lower Hill villagers; that Vilpettay was less accessible than Kodaikanal to Mannavanoor and Poombarai, and that he knew the Hill people did not want the Sub Magistrate in any of their villages because they said, they might be trouble to furnish supplies and would be obliged to be hospitable to those who came to his office.

† In the upper hills.

Mr. Petty referred the question to the Board who on Mr. Clarke's advice recommended and Govt. sanctioned two Sub Magistrates - one at Tandigoody for the lower, and one at Poombarai for the upper hills.

× Gov: Order. 2840. d. 19th Oct. /66.

3. In 1867 the new Collector (Hon: D. Arbuthnott) reported that he had been unable

© Vide his letter in G.O. 3,006. d. 17th Dec. 67.

Lower

unable to get two Sub Magis-
-trates; that he thought one
enough to be stationed at
present at Vilputty but ulti-
-mately at Kodaikanal.

The Board could
not "support the Collectors
recommendation" as to Ko-
-daikanal. They pointed
out its purely European
character and said it was
7 miles "from the greater part
of the upper hill villages".
They adhered to their former
plan or failing that would
have no officer on the hills.

The Govt made no remarks
either way.

4. In 1869 the Offg:
Collector reported that the
plan of having no Sub Magis-
-trate had succeeded well.
On this the Board said their

vice

unable to get two Sub Magis-

views had been modified and they thought now there should be a Sub Magistrate and that they still thought Poombarai the best place for the head-quarters of such an officer on the upper range - The

© G.O. 986. d. 10th April/89. © Govt agreed and sanctioned an inexpensive office and building at Poombarai -

5. The present Sub Collector (Mr. Bliss) now again recommends Kodaikanal and is supported by the Collector (Mr. McDuhas) and the Board. It seems that all this time the Sub Magistrate has remained at Vilputty having revenue charge of both the upper and Lower Hills but magisterial charge only of the former.

6. It seems then that there is a remarkable

Consensus

consensus of European
opinion in favor of Kodai-
-kanal. In fact it would
appear that only Mr. Clarke
and Mr. Vans Agnew have
been opposed to it and
that each of them recom-
-mended a different place.

7. Lastly the District
officers and the Board
recommend that a
thousand rupees should
be sanctioned for pro-
-viding the Sub Magis-
-trate and his office
with house accommoda-
-tion. No details are
given as to the number

of

of houses required and
some sort of estimate would
seem desirable

Sd

Memos for Orders

Change of Hd. Quarters of the Sub-magistrate of Pulney Hills, Madura Dt.

Cos

C. 12 Sept 73 R. 18 Sep

Revenue Department.

No 1008

6F

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
dy 20 Sept 73

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting proposal of Collr: of Madura that Kodaikanal instead of Poombarai should be fixed on as head-quarters station of Sub-magistrate of Pulney Hills — B. of R. 1st August 73 No 1464

The Govt approve of the head-quarters of the Sub-magistrate being placed at Kodaikanal and sanction the expenditure of a sum not exceeding Rs 1000 in providing him and his establishment with house accommodation

14. B. of Rev: Dep. 25
6 Jy Acct Genl. Dto. do.
18 Sept
Ack Sept
Ltr from Secy

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 20th.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 20th September 1873, No. 1,008.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 151-152.

Head-quarters of the Sub-Magistrate of Pulney Hills.—Approving of the — being placed at Kodaikanel, and sanctioning the expenditure of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in providing him and his establishment with house-accommodation.