No. 170. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th October 1873, No. 2,079 :—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Guntoor, 10th September 1873, No. 1,375 :—

In reply to G. O., No. 389, dated 4th April 1873, Revenue Department, I have the honour to inform the Government that the District Engineer has sent me an approximate estimate (enclosed) for a cutcherry at Guntoor. It amounts to Rupees 58,200.

2. I remember that there was some question since I joined the district, whether the telegraph line between Masulipatam and Bezwara was to be repaired or not. I have not official intimation how it was settled; but, should the line be given up, it will, no doubt, occur to Government that I should have no Telegraph office within 48 miles of my cutcherry if it remains at Bander.

3. The buildings at Masulipatam will require an expenditure of about Rupees 6,000 to put them in fit repair for the Sub-Collector's office.

4. A new Post Office will be necessary at Guntoor, as the old one must be pulled down to make room for the cutcherry. This could be most conveniently attached to the cutcherry building, and the extra expense would be small; but, at any rate, if a separate building be provided, its cost would not exceed Rupees 5,000.

5. It may also be necessary for me to ask Government for a grant of land to be given to the cutcherry servants for building purposes, as the whole of the site of the town is now occupied. This would not, however, cost any large sum of money.

Enclosure No. 1.—Estimate.

This letter and estimate will be submitted to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 4th April 1873, No. 389, Revenue Department.

2. The Acting Collector now submits an approximate estimate for converting the present Sub-Collector's cutcherry at Guntoor into an office for the Collector, which amounts to Rupees 58,200; and to this must be added Rupees 5,000 for a Post Office, and about Rupees 6,000 for adapting the present cutcherry at Masulipatam for use by the Sub-Collector. The estimate for the additions to this building, already submitted, was Rupees 34,180; so that the whole cost of the transfer may be stated at Rupees 35,000, or, allowing for other expenses, at most Rupees 40,000.

3. The considerations in favour of the transfer of head-quarters to Guntoor may be summed up as follows:—The position of Masulipatam is not central; it is believed to be of less importance as a town than it was a few years since, and as a shipping port is partially deserted for Cocanada; it is not the station of the District Court, and will probably soon cease to be that of the District Engineer; the jail is said to be ruinous and to be about to be abandoned; and owing to its distance from the south-western taluqs in the charge of the Deputy-Collector,

that officer is practically uncontrolled. On the other hand, it has still a considerable trade, and would be the natural terminus on the coast of a railway from Hyderabad; its climate is perhaps better than that of Guntoor; it has better water-supply, and there is ample accommodation for Europeans and for native servants of the cutcherry.

4. All parts of the district are, however, readily accessible from Guntoor; it has, the Board believe, a larger European community than Masulipatam, and is the centre of the cotton-trade of the district, which is now important; and it is the site of the District Court. The strongest argument in favour of it, as the site of head-quarters, is, in the Board's opinion, its position with reference to the Deputy-Collector's division. Against it are the want of accommodation for Europeans and for natives in the crowded town, and especially the deficiency in the water-supply. Water is very scarce at times; when the tanks are empty most of the wells run dry, even those, the Board believe, which are sunk to 70 feet in depth. The difference of level prevents the Kistna water from being brought near the town. The hot season is severe and protracted, but some persons prefer the climate to that of Masulipatam.

5. There is no third choice. The expense of establishing head-quarters at any other place would be much greater than is involved in a mere exchange between the Collector and Sub-Collector's present stations. There is no space for building at Bezwara, and the black cotton-soil there is unfavourable. Bapatla has good climate and water-supply, but is not central.

6. The Board are unable to make any strong recommendation in favour of the proposed transfer, but, with the above remarks, leave the question for the decision of Government. Two extracts from a Native diglott newspaper, published at Masulipatam, which have been sent to the Board, are also submitted to Government.

No. 171. ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1873, No. 1,314.

Miscellaneous.

THE Governor in Council is of opinion that no change is called for. The deficiency of water at Guntoor and its greater insalubrity form two very serious objections.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

For the Information of the Government of Madras

(3)

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras
Madras

The humble Representation of
the Merchants of Masulipatam

Some happy News to Masula.——Good Rumours are afloat that the Honorable Board of Revenue have brought into their sound consideration the various arguments that appeared in the different issues of our "Purusharthaprathaini" in favor of Masula, and strongly recommended to Government the policy of ever making Masulipatam the Capital of the Collectorate, and the site of the highest Tribunal as well. How wise are the Board! How suited is Masula to have the proposals readily carried into effect! A new House may be built or another good Building may be bought for the amount of Rs. 35,000 already sanctioned on account of the Collector's Kacherry. The large Building now occupied by the Collector's Establishment and formerly by the Provincial Court, may be put in the service of the District Court without any further expense whatever on its own account specially. The subject being long unsettled, the scope of its disposal was rather dark before us since we were unable to form any good idea as to the views of the Authorities on the matter. Now, a ray of hope penetrates our bosom. Our arguments in favor of Masulipatam and the well-considered views of the Board of Revenue are we believe very reasonable. We trust therefore that the Government will be good enough to shape their policy in accordanec thereof, and dispose of the matter soon. Our People, thanking the Honorable Board of Revenue for their recommendation, anxiously expect the Government "Order Thereon" will realize their hopes by authorizing to carry out our proposals recommended by the Board of Revenue. May it be done so. We hope also that the Government will not lose sight of the importance of ordering the repairs of our celebrated commercial Sea Port.

Extracted from the Purusharthaprathaini
Journal for October 1873.

Masulipatam
11th Novr. 1873

Rev: Department.

(4)

Read the following Rev: of the Bd: of Rev: dated 11th Oct 73 No 2079. submitting letter from Coll: of Vizagapatam regarding Estimate for conversion of Sub-Coll's Cutcherry at Gunture into an office for the Collectors.

In sending on a plan of a cutcherry at Mandapalam the Board of Revenue report as their remarks & the Collector's record "the Board think that the time has come for revising the arrangement made in 1864*, and if Govt will entertain the proposal for a change* the Board will ascertain in detail the necessary arrangements and the cost".

This detail the Govt direct them to submit and they now

* deciding that Mandapalam should remain as Hd Qrs of the District.

* to Guntoor

ceed in an approximate estimate
of Rs 58,200 for a Cutcherry at
Guntoor. - Setting off other estimates
the Board would put down the
whole cost of the change of Head-
quarters at Rs 40,000.

The objections against Masulipatam
are (1) want central (2) of diminish-
ing importance (3) want Communication
and D. Engineer Garrick (4) jail
is ruinous (5) Deputy Collector distant
and practically uncontrolled

The advantages of Guntoor are
(1) its central position and proximity
to Deputy Collector (2) it is D. Court
Station (3) trade is increasing (4)
European community is large.
on the other hand house accom-
modation both for Europeans
and natives is bad, and the water
supply is very deficient†. (5)

The Board are unable to
make any strong recommendation
in favour of the transfer but
leave it for the decision of Govt.

H

I really cannot
see that any case
has been made out
for the change. The
want of water & hous-
in the locality of Guntoor
are very serious objections.

I. D. L

†Of the Municipal re-
ports for 72-73 be
taken as a criterion there
is little to choose be-
tween Masulipatam
and Guntoor. - Any thing
shewing the Conservancy
is worse, and the habits
of the people more
filthy than in any other
town in the Presidency.

H

Order No 3114

The G. in C. is of opinion that no change is called for - The deficiency in water at Guntoor & its greater insalubrity for [illegible] very serious objections

28 Nov '73. D.M. 20/11

Min. of Rev. Dep. I Dec 73