M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 4

(2) Date of repair 7-10-68

(3) Initials of the Referencer [illegible]

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2368 ~~Press~~
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 8-11-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2366/1

Cumbum—Headquarters.

Read the following papers:—

No. 77. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1875, No. 2503.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 31st July 1875, No. 970, Public Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Cumbum.*—Orders passed on certain reports respecting the extreme unhealthiness of this station, and the desirability of selecting a new site for the headquarters of the Head Assistant and taluq.

WITH reference to paragraph 4 of the foregoing order, the Board have carefully considered the question whether it is possible so to re-arrange districts or divisions as to dispense with the presence of the Head Assistant Collector of Kurnool in the Cumbum Taluq.

2. As to districts, the Board observe that the question was discussed as recently as 1871, and the Board do not see reason to dissent from the conclusion then arrived at, *viz.*, that the taluqs of Cumbum and Markapur must remain attached to the Kurnool District. They were originally transferred from Cuddapah; they could only be made over either to that district, Kistna, or Nellore, which are large enough without them, and they would be, if not quite so inaccessible, as distant from the headquarters and almost as far from the nearest Divisional Officer of those districts as they now are from Kurnool; their transfer from Kurnool would leave it too small a charge for a Collector and full staff.

G.O., dated 4th April 1871, No. 625.

3. The Board, therefore, cannot recommend any change in the district limits; and, as long as the two taluqs remain attached to Kurnool, they must from their geographical situation form a separate division. Something might be done, however, to diminish their isolation by improving the passes across the hills. The Nandicanama Pass has received a good deal of attention, but not so the more northern and very important pass called the Mantralacanama, which leads into Markapur. The Board request the Collector to furnish them with a special report as to the present condition of this line of communication.

4. It is not possible to dispense with the presence of a Divisional Officer, whether Head Assistant or Deputy Collector, in these taluqs. The inquiry which has been ordered by Government will perhaps clear up the causes of the sickness at Cumbum, and will lead to the selection of the healthiest attainable sites for the stations of the Divisional Officer and Tahsildar of the Cumbum Taluq. It must be borne in mind as regards the station of the latter officer that Cumbum is the only town and place of any importance in the taluq, and is the headquarters of the wet cultivation under the great tank. The people cannot leave it, and the indispensable Revenue, Magisterial, and Police Officers, must be located within a reasonable distance of it.

5. It is only of quite recent years that Cumbum has acquired such an evil reputation, and it is possible that the more active causes of sickness may be removed by measures of sanitation. With this view the Board recommend that a

Medical Officer of experience be attached to the division, at least for a time, with instructions to report in communication with the Divisional Officer as to any special sanitary measures that may be desirable, and that a special grant of funds may be made for carrying out such as may be finally approved with as little delay as possible.

6. The Board also suggest to Government that it would be well to rule that a Divisional Officer, and also the Tahsildar and Officers of the Taluq Establishments, should be entitled to claim to be relieved after two years' residence at Cumbum. This indulgence would do much to render service there less distasteful. The Board especially bring to notice the case of Mr. Farmer, the present Head Assistant, who has been Acting Head Assistant for two years and four months, through the worst of the sickness, and whose health has much suffered from residence in Cumbum.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 525.

Referred to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, for his remarks from a professional point of view on paragraphs 5 and 6.

OOTACAMUND,
2nd October 1875.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

No. 78. From Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 6th October 1875, No. 512.

Memorandum, No. 525, of the 2nd instant, requested my opinion from a professional point of view on the suggestions in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2503, of 7th ultimo.

2. In their paragraph 5, the Revenue Board observe that it is only of quite recent years that Cumbum has acquired such an evil reputation, and that it is possible the more active causes of sickness may be removed by measures of sanitation, and, in this view, the Board recommend that a Medical Officer of experience be attached to the division, at least for a time, with instructions to report in communication with the Divisional Officer as to any special sanitary measures that may be desirable. In paragraph 6, further recommend that a two years' residence in Cumbum should entitle a Divisional Officer, the Tahsildar, and the Taluq Establishments to be relieved.

3. I have the honor to report to the Honorable the Governor in Council that, in my opinion, both the recommendations of the Board of Revenue merit the approval of Government.

4. It is very probable that the sickliness of Cumbum will not continue; but at present the retention of a resident Medical Officer there would be of importance

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
28th October 1875.

to the community and the district, and I recommend that Cumbum be temporarily declared a Civil Station of the second class, and a Medical Officer posted to it.

5. The proposal of the Board that a two years' residence in Cumbum be regarded as a tour of duty is also advisable. The mortality amongst the establishment has been considerable. Surgeon Ross fell sick while there, and Mr. Farmer's health has been considerably lowered since he was posted there.

No. 79. ORDER THEREON, 28th October 1875, No. 1304.

Before deciding on Cumbum being made a Civil Station of the second class, the Governor in Council desires that the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, be required to expedite the submission of the report called for in paragraph 4 of G.O., dated the 31st July 1875, No. 970. He will also be required to submit detailed proposals, with estimate of additional cost, for creating a Civil Surgeoncy at Cumbum.

2. The Collector will report through the Board of Revenue whether suitable residence is procurable at the station.

3. The suggestion that the Divisional and Taluq Officers and servants should be relieved every two years will be considered when the medical report is received.

(True Extract.)

Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Revenue 1875 Depts
№ 4313

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 28th.

Issued Nov 8

Recd. —a—4.

Encl.

G.O., 28th October 1875, No. 1304.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 77—79.

Cumbum Headquarters—Before deciding on Cumbum being made a Civil Station of the second class, the Surgeon-General and the Collector of the District required to furnish certain information.

№ 2368

8 Nov 75