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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1713 Press

B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 18th November 1876

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 309. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1876, No. 2,468 :—

Read again G.Os., dated 26th March 1874, No. 388, and 2nd February 1875, No. 172.

Read also the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. CALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmaner, 4th August 1876, No. 365.

With reference to G.O., dated 2nd February 1875, No. 172, I have the honor to forward, herewith, a rough map* prepared by the Head Classifier of the Revenue Settlement Department deputed for the purpose, showing the public streets, chuttrums, detached houses and gardens belonging to private individuals on the Upper Tripatti Hill, adjoining and around the pagoda there, referred to in paragraph 2 of my letter embodied in the Government Order above quoted.

* To be returned when no longer required.

I also enclose a memorandum† giving, in detail, the result of the measurements taken by the Classifier, showing the total extent of 50 yards on each side of the roads and around the waterfalls.

† Sent separately.

2. As recommended in the said paragraph of my letter above referred to, I now beg to request that the orders of Government may be obtained to mark out and assign the circular tract of two miles in extent, having the temple in the centre and a radius of 1,404 yards, as directed by Government in favor of the Mahunt, in their Order, No. 388, dated 26th March 1874, *after deducting* the area occupied by the public streets and chuttrums, private houses and gardens, as shown in the accompanying map.

3. As regards the request of the Mahunt that the total area of the 50 yards on each side of the roads and around the waterfalls shall be set apart for him in one plot or block, so that it may, as far as possible, include the several Tothams or topes, I beg to state that, when I recommended such a grant, I had no idea of the great extent of forest land that would thus have to be allotted. But I see now from the enclosed memorandum of calculations, that, in this way, no less than two square miles of valuable forest would have to be granted to the Mahunt in one block in lieu of the 50 yards on each side of the roads, the chief portion of which, as I have already reported, contains no forest at all.

4. If, under the two heads referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, some 4 square miles are made over to the Mahunt on the hills, we shall have lost almost the entire extent of fine forest land on the top of the Tripatti Hill; I therefore now withdraw my former recommendation with regard to the second proposition of the Mahunt, and would further strongly deprecate the measure. In this respect, I think that the original order of Government should be carried into effect in its exact terms, viz., that 50 yards on each side of the roads and around the waterfalls may be marked out and set apart on behalf of the Tripatti Pagoda, and no more.

5. When the final orders of Government on this long-pending question are obtained, I request that I may be favored with instructions as to whether Government or the Mahunt should bear the cost of demarcating the land, and erecting

boundary pillars or stones. I consider that the Mahunt should undergo the necessary expenses connected with this work, exactly as the ryots bear the cost of the boundary stones erected on their lands by the Revenue Settlement Department.

6. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mr. Sheffield, suggested to me lately that, instead of assigning the 50 yards of land on each side of the roads and around the waterfalls (in which case there may occur frequent disputes and complications between the Forest Department and the Mahunt as to whether a certain quantity of wood or fuel was removed from within or without the aforesaid 50 yards) an arrangement might, with advantage, be settled with the Mahunt that a quantity of timber or fire wood shall be allowed to be felled and removed by him at stated intervals from the Government forests on the Hills for bona fide use in the Pagoda. This idea appeared to me to be very reasonable and with the view of ascertaining the Mahunt's wishes on this proposition I recently had an interview with the Mahunt's Peishcar, who, at once, expressed his dissent to the arrangement, and repeated his former request.

7. Under these circumstances, I request that the Government will be pleased to pass such orders in the case as to them may seem just and proper. I request that the Board will be good enough to file the Classifier's figures carefully scrutinized in Madras, for I have no means of testing their accuracy in my office.

Enclosure No. 1.

Memorandum shewing the Extent of Forest Land to be made over to the Mahunt of Tripati Hill, in accordance with G. Os., Nos. 68 and 172, dated 26th March 1874, and 2nd February 1875, respectively.

1. "A circular tract, two square miles in extent having the temple in the centre, and a radius of 1,404 yards." This extent to be exclusive of "the public streets and chattrums" and "detached houses and gardens belonging to private individuals" marked Nos. from 1 to 45 in the accompanying map prepared by the Head Clerk of the Revenue Settlement Department, measuring a total extent of acres 1772·91 cents.

2. "The roads leading to Lower Tripatti, Chandraghiri, Balapalli and the waterfalls; with the land for 50 yards on each side of the roads and around the waterfalls."

Particulars of the above :—

(1.) The road leading to Lower Tripatti; in length 9,387 yards or 5 miles, 2 furlongs, 97 yards.

(2.) The road leading to Chandraghiri; 3,920 yards or 2 miles, 1 furlong, 180 yards.

(3.) Do. to Balapalli; 14,745 yards or 8 miles, 3 furlongs, 5 yards.

(4.) Of the roads leading to the fourteen waterfalls or "Tirthams," according to the map filed by the Mahunt as well as to that prepared by the Head Surveyor, leaving out the two "Tirthams," Nos. 1 "Peshkaram" and 11 "Alwar Tirtham," which are included within the area of 1772 acres, 91 cents of streets, chattrums, &c., above referred to, there are twelve waterfalls or "Tirthams" and roads leading thereto as follows :—

(a.) No. 2.—"Chuckra Tirtham;" in extent 4 acres 1·98, and the road leading to it in length 836 yards.

(b.) No. 3.—"Jabali Tirtham;" 38 cents, and the road leading to it 1,980 yards.

(c.) No. 4.—"Akasaganga Tirtham;" acres 1·25, and the road leading to it 2,835 yards.

(d.) No. 5.—"Papanasanam;" cents 57, and the road leading to it 1,561 yards.

(e.) No. 6.—"Ramakristna Tirtham;" acres 1·08, and the road leading to it 2,749 yards.

(*f*) No. 7.—"Sanakasanandana Tirtham;" 16 cents. (The road to this is common to Tirtham No. 6).

(*g*) No. 8.—"Pasupu Tirtham;" 69 cents, and the road leading to it 1,861 yards.

(*h*) No. 9.—"Komarathara;" cents 48, and the road leading to it 1,200 yards.

(*i*) No. 10.—"Tumburukona;" acres 2·69, and the road leading to it 4,261 yards.

(*j*) No. 12.—"Sesha Tirtham;" 32 cents, and the road leading to it 4,390 yards.

(*k*) No. 13.—"Gogurbham Tirtham;" 6 cents, and the road leading to it 420 yards.

(*l*) No. 14.—"Vykunta Tirtham;" 23 cents, and the road leading to it 2,304 yards.

3. The extents of 50 yards on each side of the above roads and around the waterfalls or Tirthams, proposed to be given as a present or lease, are as follows :—

(1.) Road to Lower Tripatti; in length 9,387 yards $9,387 \times 50 \times 2 = 938,700$ square yards = 192 acres, 3,420 square yards.

(2.) Road to Chandraghiri; yards $3,920 \times 50 \times 2 = 392,000$ square yards = 80 acres, 4,800 square yards.

(3.) Road to Balapalli; yards $14,745 \times 50 \times 2 = 14,74,500$ square yards = 304 acres, 3,140 square yards.

(4.) (*a*) 50 yards around No. 2.—"Chuckra Tirtham" square yards 25,991 = 5 acres, 1,791 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $895 \times 50 \times 2 = 83,500$ square yards or 17 acres, 1,220 yards.

(*b*) 50 yards around No. 3.—"Jabali Tirtham," square yards 18,681 = 3 acres, 4,161 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham;

Yards $1,966 \times 50 \times 2 = 196,600$ square yards or 40 acres, 3,000 yards.

(*c*) 50 yards around No. 4.—"Akasaganga Tirtham," square yards 20,251 = 4 acres, 871 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $2,685 \times 50 \times 2 = 268,500$ square yards or 55 acres, 1,500 square yards.

(*d*) 50 yards around No. 5.—"Papanasanam," square yards 15,536 = 3 acres, 1,016 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $1,561 \times 50 \times 2 = 156,100$ square yards or 32 acres, 1,220 square yards.

(*e*) 50 yards around No. 6.—"Ramakristna Tirtham," square yards 22,069 = 4 acres, 4,309 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $2,740 \times 50 \times 2 = 274,000$ square yards or 56 acres, 2,960 square yards.

(*f*) 50 yards around No. 7.—"Sanakasanandana Tirtham," square yards 12,720 = 2 acres, 3,049 square yards. (The road to this is common to No. 6, Ramakristna Tirtham).

(*g*) 50 yards around No. 8.—"Pasupu Tirtham," square yards 17,320 = 3 acres, 2,710 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $1,061 \times 50 \times 2 = 106,100$ square yards or 40 acres, 3,500 square yards.

(*h*) 50 yards around No. 9.—"Komarathara," square yards 13,685 = 2 acres, 4,303 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $1,200 \times 50 \times 2 = 120,000$ square yards or 24 acres, 3,840 square yards.

(*i*) 50 yards around No. 10.—"Tumburukona," square yards 105,270 = 1 acres, 8,630 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $4,261 \times 50 \times 2 = 426,100$ square yards or 88 acres, 180 square yards.

(*j*) 50 yards around No. 12.—"Sesha Tirtham," square yards 26,479 = 5 acres, 2,279 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $4,390 \times 50 \times 2 = 439,000$ square yards or 90 acres, 3,400 square yards.

(*k*) 50 yards around No. 13.—"Gogurbham Tirtham," square yards, 10,406 = 2 acres, 726 yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $430 \times 50 \times 2 = 43,000$ or 8 acres, 4,280 square yards.

(*l*) 50 yards around No. 14.—"Vykunta Tirtham," square yards 10,747 = 2 acres, 1,061 square yards; 50 yards on each side of the road leading to the above Tirtham, yards $2,304 \times 50 \times 2 = 230,400$ square yards or 47 acres, 2,920 square yards.

The total area of the extent of 50 yards on each side of the above roads and around the waterfalls or "Tirtham" is 5,534,457 square yards = 1,143 acres, 2,837 square yards, which is 1 7/10 or 1¾ or nearly 2 square miles.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.—Map.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In the first of the foregoing orders Government approved the Board's proposal that the Tripatti Mahunt should not be interfered with so far as regards a circular tract, two square miles in extent, having the temple in the centre and a radius of 1,404 yards; and also as regards the roads leading to Lower Tripatti, Chendragiri, Dalapalli and the waterfalls, with the land for 50 yards on each side of the roads and all round the waterfalls. It has subsequently represented that there are scarcely any trees in the space within 1,404 yards of the temple, and it was urged by the Mahunt that a large grant was made to secure a fair supply of fuel and timber to the temple, the extent of two square miles should be exclusive of the area occupied by buildings, streets and gardens, and by certain low scrub-jungle in the vicinity of the town. The Mahunt also requested that instead of a grant of 50 yards on each side of the roads and around the waterfalls, as proposed, which would practically be of no benefit to him, inasmuch as a supply of fuel could not owing to the nature of the ground be obtained from the land skirting the roads and waterfalls, the total area of the several plots might be granted in one block, but so as to include, as far as possible, the several waterfalls. Mr. Whiteside supported both these requests in preparing a further communication, after ascertaining, by actual measurement, the exact total extent of the several plots of 50 yards and preparing a plan to show the effect of the proposals.

3. In forwarding the above proposal for the orders of Government, the Board pointed out that as regards the Mahunt's first request the supply of the temple with timber and fuel was only one of the purposes of the grant of two square miles of land, the other object being to ensure the privacy of the temple precincts which the reservation of a circular tract with a radius of 1,404 yards appears to secure. They accordingly suggested the grant of a block one square mile in extent, after deducting the area occupied by buildings, streets and unprofitable scrub. As regards the other request, the Board pointed out that the grant of land 50 yards on each side of the roads and round the waterfalls was intended to ensure privacy, not a supply of fuel for the temple, and they accordingly refused their support to the proposal. The Government, however, in the second of the orders read above, stated that they saw no objection to compliance with both requests, and directed that the details in each case should be reported for final orders.

4. Mr. Whiteside now submits a rough map of the locality prepared by the Head Classifier of the Revenue Settlement Department, with a memorandum showing the result of the measurements taken. It appears that the trees occupied by choultries, streets, houses and gardens, to be excluded from the circular tract of two square miles, is 179 acres 1 cent, and the total aggregate area of the several plots on each side of the roads and round the waterfalls is nearly equivalent to two square miles; so that under the arrangement formerly advocated by Mr. Whiteside, and approved by Government, the Mahunt will obtain a tract of nearly 4¼ square miles. The Collector now recedes from his recommendation, however, as regards the assignment of one block in lieu of the several parcels of 50 yards, as originally proposed, on the ground that at the time he supported the Mahunt's request he was not aware of the effect of compliance therewith, which he now ascertains to be the alienation of almost the entire extent of fine forest land on the top of the Tripatti Hill. The Board are of opinion that the terms originally proposed and approved in G.O., dated 26th March 1874, No. 326, are sufficiently liberal, and should be strictly adhered to. A tract of two square miles irrespective of the area occupied by streets, buildings, &c., will doubtless afford all the timber and fuel that is required for the temple, whilst the grant of a margin of 50 yards on each side of the roads and round the waterfalls was intended to give private access to the Tirthams. Compliance with the Mahunt's request would involve the sacrifice of much valuable forest, which was clearly not anticipated when the Government Order was passed.

5. With regard to Mr. Whiteside's recommendation that the Mahunt should be required to bear the expenses of demarcating the land and erecting boundary pillars, the Board observe that it has already been definitely decided that the cost should be borne by the Forest Department. Mr. Whiteside himself seems to have been formerly of this opinion from paragraph 6 of the letter recorded in the last of those marginally quoted.

G.O., 26th January 1875, No. 141.
" 14th May " " 229.
" 18th June " " 320.

6. In accordance with the request in the concluding paragraph of the Collector's letter, the Classifier's figures have been scrutinized in the Board's Office; but the Board do not see why this could not have been accomplished in the Collector's office, as arithmetical check is all that is possible without a verification of the survey and measurements.

(True Copies and Extracts.)

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

No. 516. Order passed by the Government, 16th November 1876, No. 1,711.

Miscellaneous.

G.O., 21st February 1875, No. 172.

2. It is evident from Captain Campbell Walker's report that the forest on the Tripatti plateau is not valuable, as stated by the Collector. But even were it otherwise, the Government would regard it as very undesirable to have the Forest subordinates so near the temple. Moreover, it is to be remembered that the

Government approached the temple solely on police and magisterial grounds. Looking also to the antiquity and sanctity of the shrine, they consider that the case should be liberally dealt with, and that there is no objection to grant the whole area, 1¼ square miles, though it has turned out to be greater than was originally estimated.

3. The demarcation, as already ordered, will be at the expense of Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
The Commissioner of Revenue.

