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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

Revenue

G.O. No. 2353	Press
B.P. No.	Mis.

Dated 10 ~~2~~ 10 1876 196 .

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Headquarters, Cuddapah District.

No. 59. *Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st January* 1876, *No.* 172:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th December 1875, No. 248:—

I must bring to the notice of the Board the condition of the public buildings at Cuddapah.

2. I have been hitherto under the impression that the buildings containing my office and the offices of the Head and Assistant Collectors were strong and trustworthy, and that the Court-house was one of the most substantial buildings in the district. Possibly, owing to the unusually heavy rains last year, these buildings have this year shown unmistakeable signs of weakness. The wood in the terraced roofed veranda round my office is perfectly rotten. Some of the pillars which support the veranda are now aided by wooden props. The Assistant Collector's room leaks vigorously on the least provocation, and an ominous crack has appeared in the wall of the room beneath a large beam near which the roof leaks. I am informed by the Department of Public Works Range Officer that the Court-house requires reroofing. The roofs of the Huzur Sheristadar's Office and of the English and Vernacular Record-rooms leak very much, and the Treasury and the Deputy Collector's Office are in an equally unsatisfactory condition. With the exception of the Court-house and my office all these buildings have repeatedly been in the hands of the Department of Public Works Officers, but to no purpose. They are evidently beyond repairing. The roof of the Jail Hospital has been pronounced by the Deputy Surgeon-General as unsafe.

3. The estimates for the work required to make the above buildings safe and weather-tight are being prepared, and I am informed that an expenditure of at least Rupees 30,000 will be necessary.

4. It remains to be considered whether it is worth while to spend so much money to patch up buildings which are so thoroughly old and worn out. The question as to whether Cuddapah is to continue to be the headquarters of the district is still under consideration, but even if it were settled suitable office accommodation must be provided while new public offices are being erected. It appears to me as the most economical plan that thatched sheds should be made for the offices, and that money should be spent only on the Record-rooms and Treasury, which must be kept for the present where they are, as it would not be safe to place their contents in a temporary shed. Private buildings in Cuddapah might be rented for public offices, but this could not be done without rendering Government officers houseless. Moreover private houses in Cuddapah are, if anything more, in need of repairs than are the public buildings. I can think of no other plan than that I have suggested, viz., building thatched sheds with mud or sun-burnt brick walls.

—

Submitted for the orders of Government with reference to G.O., dated 24th June 1875, No. 1404, Judicial Department.

2. Until the question whether Cuddapah is to be retained as the headquarter station of the district is finally disposed of, no expenditure on the public offices

beyond what is absolutely necessary should be incurred. The erection of sheds, as proposed by the Collector, appears to be the best course to adopt, and the Board accordingly support his recommendation.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 60. *Read also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated* 13*th September* 1876, *No.* 2330:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1876, No. 212:—

I have the honor to request that the Board will urge upon Government the necessity for passing final orders regarding the removal of the headquarters of this district.

2. As the Board know, the question was discussed in 1873, and, after many places had been suggested and various opinions offered, the Government in G.O., Judicial Department, No. 1974, 11th December 1873, determined to allow the existing arrangements to remain undisturbed for the present.

G.O., 19th December 1873, No. 125, Revenue Department, communicated with Board's Miscellaneous No. 234, dated 14th January 1874.

3. Afterwards in 1875 the question was resuscitated, when attention was called to the ruinous condition of the public buildings, and the Board in their Proceedings, No. 172, dated 21st January 1876, referred the matter to Government remarking that no expenditure on the public offices beyond what is absolutely necessary should be incurred until the principal question had been decided by Government. Upon this Government have passed no order, and I therefore would urge an immediate and final decision one way or the other.

4. The present uncertainty has a most disastrous effect upon the place. All buildings, both public and private, are falling down, and no one is willing to incur any expenditure while this doubt exists.

5. The diversity of opinion regarding a new site seems to me the strongest possible argument in favor of leaving the headquarters at Cuddapah. The enormous expense of the removal, the total disorganization of the district for an indefinite number of years, and partial disorganization for ever, are certain evils, and the good of the change is problematical. Unless some place with marked and undoubted advantages can be found so great a disturbance as a change of headquarters should not be permitted. The correspondence shows beyond a doubt that no such place can be found, and I would therefore urge upon Government to remove the doubts and uncertainty now prevailing by a final order to let Cuddapah continue the headquarters of the district.

Submitted for the early orders of Government.

2. In G.O., dated 24th June 1875, No. 1404, Judicial Department, the Consulting Engineer for Railways was directed to report upon the suitability of

the building-sites in the neighbourhood of Camalapore and Rajampett, but the result has not been communicated to the Board. The Proceedings of the Board, dated 21st January 1876, were simply recorded in G.O., dated 1st February 1876, No. 264.

3. It is very desirable that some decision should be arrived at without delay as the public buildings are reported unsafe.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 10th Octobber 1876, No. 2094.

His Grace the Governor in Council having carefully reconsidered the facts of this case resolves to decide definitively that the idea of changing the headquarters of the district from Cuddapah shall be abandoned.

2. Estimates should be forthwith prepared and submitted for the necessary repairs to the public buildings with due regard to economy as well as efficiency.

3. From personal inspection, His Grace the Governor sees reason to think that the necessary cost of rendering the buildings sound and thoroughly effective will not be nearly so large as has been assumed.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.
" Collector of Cuddapah.

Exd. J. Wright.

Returns 1870 Despatch
No 4196

Govt of India

JUDICIAL.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.,

Dated October, 1870.

Transmit,

Recd.

Ans.

G. G., 10th October 1870, No. 2004.

OCTOBER,
Nos. 59—61.

Headquarters, (Cuttack) District.—The [illegible]
of Pooree, the headquarters of the Cuttack
District from Cuttack to be abandoned,
estimates for the necessary repairs to the
buildings called for.

No 2353
Lowndes
for Dy Secretary
to Govt

Dated 196 .

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