

(1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair 15.7.80
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1926	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5.4.77	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1926
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

17th March 1877, No. 939.

~~Cumbum~~ Sanitary.

Read the following paper:—

No. 187. *From H. R. FARMER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Kristemsettypally, 9th February 1877, No. 24.*

With reference to your foot-note, No. 216, dated 2nd instant, appended to G.O., No. 224, dated 23rd ultimo (Financial Department,) I have the honor to report, as directed in G.O., No. 1685, of the 18th September 1876, on the suggested temporary shift of the headquarters from Cumbum.

2. I have watched the effects of certain improvements in the sanitary condition of the town; but the time has been too short, and the circumstances too unfavorable, to admit of any marked improvement resulting in the general health of the town. Almost all our attention has had to be devoted to the famine, and though there was some reason to believe that the breaching of the Seekrail Anicut caused a considerable improvement as regards fever, yet it was impossible to draw any satisfactory conclusion on the subject before the Hon. D. Arbuthnott ordered the breach to be closed again at the beginning of the year. Government are probably aware that this was ordered by Mr. Arbuthnott to improve the means of irrigation at a time when every acre of land which can possibly be cultivated ought to be cultivated. It is moreover quite possible that the improvement as regards fever cases, noticed before the breach was stopped, may have been owing to the unusually dry season; and it is hardly possible to say that the subsequent increase of fever (for fever has increased since) may not be owing to causes other than the closing of the breach.

3. Since the end of October I have been in Cumbum for a few days only, and I hear from Surgeon Pedroza that sanitary arrangements have not been so carefully attended to as they might have been. At the same time there does not appear to have been any gross negligence, as I was at first led to suppose from reports received from the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Johnston.

4. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that, as far as improved sanitation goes, we are not yet in a position to judge from experience whether altered circumstances may, or may not, warrant the retention of Cumbum as the headquarters of the division.

5. The size of Cumbum, nearly twice that of any village in the division, may be considered by some a ground for retaining it as the headquarters. It may also be supposed that there are valuable Government buildings at Cumbum which Government cannot afford to abandon. Lastly, the position may be considered central and accessible for the rest of the division. I do not think the size of Cumbum, as compared with other villages in the division, affords of itself any sufficient cause for its retention as the headquarters. Only an infinitesimal part of the work of the public offices

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at Cumbum is connected with Cumbum itself. Many people living elsewhere prefer to suffer wrongs rather than go to Cumbum to attempt to get them set right.

As regards public buildings there is hardly one which is fit to be retained. A new Tahsildar's Cutcherry was commenced, and then the work was condemned. The Head Assistant Collector's Office is in such a dilapidated state that money is thrown away in trying to patch it up. The District Munsif has sent me a plan of his Court (which was I hear formerly an old public bungalow) showing that it is quite unsuited for a Court house. I doubt if any public building in Cumbum would fetch 1,000 Rupees at public auction. As regards accessibility, the famine roads will, if continued, soon make Turinilla as accessible as Cumbum.

6. In conclusion, I beg to submit that Government will never be well and energetically served by servants stationed at Cumbum. The climate is fatal to sustained exertion, and the prospect of improvement is, in my opinion, too remote and uncertain to be counted upon in deciding the matter. The difficulty of coping with the present famine has been enormously increased owing to the influence which the reputation of Cumbum exerts in preventing good men from serving here, and to the physical deterioration which almost invariably follows residence in the place.

7. Under the above circumstances, it is my opinion that Cumbum should be abandoned as a headquarters at once. I have ascertained the views on the subject under reference of all Government servants stationed at Cumbum. I beg to enclose a *procès* of what they have written, and also a statement showing, in case the public offices or some of them are removed, what offices should, if possible, be at the same station.

No. 195.

Submitted with enclosures to Government, with reference to G.O., dated 18th September 1876, No. 1685, Financial Department.

KURNOOL,
28th February 1877.

(Signed) C. D. BIRD, Addl. Sub-Collr.,
for Acting Collector.

No. 188.

ORDER THEREON, 17th March 1877, No. 939.

Under the circumstances of the present season the Government consider that the question of the transfer of the Head Assistant's headquarters must be allowed to lie over.

2. The District Engineer will report on the question of the possibility of providing for the irrigation without creating again the old swamp nuisance.

(True Extract.)

Sturrock

Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Collector of Kurnool.
" Public Works Department.
" Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.

Ed. J. Wright.

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Mail

1926
9-12-87
11-9-88

Rev: Deft
Mar 1913

Govt. of 1877 J. J. Adams.

FINANCIAL.

To THE COLLECTOR OF KURNOOL.

cc., cc., cc.

1st March, 1913.

1st

28 March

1st

G.O. 17A March 1877, No. 939.

MARCH.

Nos. 187-188.

Circular—Sanitary.—The question of the health of the headquarters of the Head Assistant Collector, Kurnool, to be over, and the District Engineer to report as to the possibility of providing for irrigation without requiring the old drainage.

March
Recorded

5/14/1913