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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

2nd November 1877, No. 1463.

Governor's Tour.

Read the following paper:—

No. 14. MINUTE by HIS GRACE the GOVERNOR, dated 10th October 1877.

The Governor left Madras on the evening of Friday 5th in B. I. S. S. *Asia*, and arriving off Negapatam the following morning landed at half-past 9. The Bar it being half-tide was very shallow, and the boat grounded at the entrance of the creek, and also close to the landing-slip. The Governor was received at the landing-place by the officers of the town, the Collector, Acting District Engineer, and Officers of the Division, [illegible] the Chaplain. The Governor was driven through the town to the house of the Sub-Collector.

2. Several large square tanks, dependent on rainfall and sub-soil water, were quite dry, although the river-fed tanks contained a fair supply.

3. No sign of emaciation or distress was observable in the condition of the large number of people gathered at the landing-place, or met together in the town.

4. Enquiries from and discussion with the Collector and District Engineer showed that the present state of the district was not favorable to the carrying out of large works such as the principal river-embankment repairs, and tank repairs. For recent rains having filled tanks, and river-beds, it is impossible to obtain earth or do any work on the water side; while the present state of cultivation, with the crops growing close to the outer edge of and even upon the slope of the bunds, renders it equally impossible even to obtain earth from the outside, or carry out work generally, without not only just claims for compensation, but the destruction of valuable crop. This difficulty, however, appeared to be of less importance, as the nature and extent of relief required were investigated.

5. From the statements and explanations furnished by the Collector, although he was unable to supply the Governor with the details, such as proportion of men, women, and children, proportion of old and young, and proportion of persons on relief belonging to other districts, it was evident that no very extensive relief could be needed in Tanjore District for Tanjore people. The Collector was accordingly instructed to return, in communication with the officers of their respective districts, all those able to work, and travel, and to limit the relief given otherwise strictly in accordance with the Government Orders in force, and further to impress upon the authorities in border villages of Tanjore District, the importance of doing all in their power to discourage immigration, and of communicating immediately to Divisional Officers any influx of wandering families which may take place, in order that they may be returned if able to the care of their own officers, or otherwise cared for with the least inconvenience to themselves, and the least expense to the State.

6. These instructions were communicated to the Collector, and District Engineer, of Trichinopoly, who also met the Governor in the evening. They considered that they would have no difficulty in providing work for Trichinopoly people, now in Tanjore.

7. The question of the proposed tank for the supply of Tanjore town was also considered. Irrespective of any points of engineering detail, in construction which may arise, the plan appeared well devised for a storage Reservoir for general purposes,

but the nature of the catchment area partly occupied by villages and cultivation renders it as a whole unsuited for the supply of unfiltered water for the town; this difficulty may however probably be overcome if on examination of the catchment area it be found practicable to store the water of selected portions, in smaller reservoirs, for the express purpose of town supply; such areas should in that case be strictly conserved, and their cultivation or other injurious use prohibited. In the event of renewed pressure in Tanjore, the formation of the bund of the proposed main tank would be a very useful employment for relief labor, and the settlement of all plans and other arrangements connected therewith should be expedited.

8. In the afternoon the Governor inspected the Town Hospital and the Railway Station and workshops. The hospital compound urgently needs an enclosure wall, or fence; the other alterations suggested by the Municipality in connection with the hospital do not appear essential to its present efficiency, although many of them would be desirable improvements, if there were available funds. The Governor has made notes on these points on the papers connected with the hospital, which he has directed to be re-circulated.

9. The Governor, in consequence of the number of Engine Drivers falling sick, discussed with the Agent, Locomotive Superintendent and Consulting Engineer, the policy of improving the cab-cover of the engines. The cover in use is a single one, the height above foot-plate, only six feet one inch, so that a driver of ordinary height is exposed with only a thin cover, at a distance of two or three inches from his head. The symptoms ordinarily complained of appear to be headache and sickness. The Governor after consultation directed the immediate construction and trial of an upper roofing at a distance of six inches above the present. The workshops of the Railway appear roomy and well suited for a large amount of work; the distribution of the machinery well arranged; but in the event of more wheel-lathes being necessary, it would probably be desirable that they should be of reduced size, suited to the diameter of the wheels.

10. On Sunday morning early the Governor proceeded to inspect the relief-camp, about three miles from the town. The hospital and sheds were well constructed and airy, but apparently not required. The people in the camp numbered only 145, principally wanderers. One shed contained three, a one-legged mendicant, a leper, and a blindman: there were also in another shed some old women and children, and twenty-one cases in hospital. Enquiry elicited that several of the women and girls had walked from Ramnad and other places in Madura. It appeared that the leper and the blindman were eligible for relief in certain chuttrums; that the people from the Madura District had wandered without defined object from one chuttrum to another; that some belonged to persons in ordinary work, in parts of Tanjore. After discussion, the Collector and the Tahsildar concurred in opinion that the camp might safely be closed the inmates being removed to chuttrums, or other suitable places, and those few whom it was desirable to retain in camps, to the camp at Tanjore: thus the expense of the camp establishment will be saved. The camp itself may be left standing for a time.

11. The Collector on returning drove the party to the Akari-Colem Tank, and pointed out the site of the Senyassee's grave. The tank had been partly filled, it was stated, from the river-channel the day before, but the water was very filthy, large numbers of people bathing and washing themselves and their clothes, and the site of the grave quite beyond any possible injury to the tank, had the water even been capable of spoiling. Moreover, the grave was within the roots of a very large old Pepul tree. Hathaway's Park was also passed, as filthy a spot and as little like a park as could be conceived. There must probably have been some local feeling giving rise to the interference with the burial last year.

12. Leaving Negapatam at 8-30 the Governor proceeded to Tranquebar. The river at Negapatam with a little care and hand dredging might probably be made accessible to boats at all times of tide. The Governor was informed that it was so attended to some years since. A southern opening from the river, about a mile south, formerly existed; it has been closed, partly by nature, and partly artificially. The

...ds, in ... tiers right across the shallow river probably tends iminish scour, and accumulate silt: should such be the case, the fficiently large basin, in which to moor the boats free of the expedient, and not costly. These particulars should be carefully that the accommodation of the port may be maintained to the

"TRANQUEBAR."

Negapatam at 8-30, the Governor landed at "Tranquebar" beach is flat, and the landing in a Masulah boat easy. The ived on landing by the Divisional Officers, and was accompanied e Superintendent of Police, and the Zillah Surgeon of Negapatam.

exed address was presented by the inhabitants, to which the nerally that the points brought forward should receive consider-.

was first visited. The fort in which the jail is placed is a large d by a solid brick rampart, casemates or other buildings along form wards, cells, hospital wards, &c. The east side facing the lding, the basement used as wards; the next story approached by adrangle through a gateway consists of a wide terrace, in the strongly constructed rooms, used for the Apothecary's quarters, used as Munsifs' Courts, &c. Above these, at the south end, there formerly serving for a light. These buildings appear generally tantial character, unshaken, and in fair preservation, requiring but t in perfect order. On the south side of the fort, an external onstructed leading up to the terrace of the rampart, without a nly by one police sentry. The wards were clean not very hot, e; the floors, and a foot in height of the walls in all the wards, should be forthwith tarred, and the process repeated until a fair This has never been ordered in this prison, it was stated, because the ndoned.

desires to have all the papers connected with the proposed aban- easons, as it appears to be a perfectly substantial and suitable ot arranged in accordance with the plan adopted in modern prisons. g in the deficiency of ventilation which cannot easily be provided son labor, and some supervision. Considering the nature of the at the jail deserve credit for its condition.

ourt-house on the opposite side of the square was next inspected. he residence of the Danish Governor. The house was a large and n formerly used as a Court is a finely proportioned room of great with side rooms around, and ample space for records, or any other nexed offices, the walls are upright, the ornamental stucco sound, settlement, or failure. It was stated that one or more of the roof at the ends, but if so, there was as yet no visible sign of failure, eranda, where water has been allowed to run through and decay together the building appears to be a far finer Court-house than larger and more important towns.

ter of the private houses appears the same, substantially built, ranged. The house formerly occupied by the Judge, now occu- fficer, faces the sea, is a fine roomy and well-built house, large desirable residence.

eason, which I could not learn, the Court-house has remained in ead of under the Range Officer, who therefore did not consider r damaged doors, windows and other dilapidations.

large substantial looking brick and tile godown for goods near the outh of the fort.

20. The town appeared exceedingly well kept. One or more of the townspeople have sold rice during the pressure, at prime wholesale cost, in quantities not exceeding one rupee's worth. No appearance of distress was visible among the people.

21. A Casuarina plantation has been formed immediately in front of the fort, between the rampart and the sea, which is valuable as a protection to the shore, but the trees must not be allowed to grow beyond their present height, or they will impede the circulation of the sea-breeze around the fort and front of town.

22. The dispensary was not visited being some little distance from the town along a sandy road. The Governor embarked about 12-30.

23. In passing Karical several vessels were at anchor, and it was stated that there has recently been a great number of emigrants embarked there for Burmah, both ships and emigrants having gone to Karical in consequence of their thus evading it was said some of the protective regulations of British India. The Governor failed however in ascertaining particular facts, but the question seems to need investigation. The Consular Agent at Karikal, and Master Attendant at Negapatam and the Collector might have their attention directed to it, with instructions to report present state and recent course of this trade.

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Petition from J. T. PRUDHOMME and Co., and forty-four other inhabitants of Tranquebar, to His Grace the DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, Governor of Fort St. George, dated 7th October 1877.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—With feelings of loyal respect and gratitude we most heartily welcome your Grace to this good old town, and beg of your Grace to accept our best thanks for having kindly condescended to honor this spot with your personal visit, which we look upon as fraught with important results and auspicious to this ill-fated town. We also thank your Grace for the paternal care and solicitude displayed by your Grace's Government at this crisis for the protection of the millions of distressed people in the Presidency.

It was in 1621, about two and a half centuries ago, that the pious Danes set their foot on this shore, and opened a new page in the annals of the Coromandel Coast. And about 170 years ago the first Messengers of the Gospel arrived here, and opened a new era for all India.

After the transfer of this Settlement to the British, several public offices, such as the Assistant Collector's Cutcherry, Treasury Office, North Tanjore District Court, Small Cause Court and others, were from time to time located here, and the town was in a flourishing condition. But in consequence of the removal of these offices and fall of trade, this fort and town have of late sunk into an almost impoverished and depopulated condition. And we have reason to fear that this town, if left to take care of itself, will, before long, be reduced to piles of ruins. And we therefore earnestly pray that your Grace will be pleased to do something to this place that may enable it to revive its ancient splendour, or at least maintain its existence.

We beg to submit that Tranquebar has long been admitted to be the sanitarium of the district, and has a favorable situation on the coast, well adapted for landing purposes. And we respectfully beg to observe that the export and import trade of Negapatam by sea is too much and too heavy for that place, involves much cost besides, and causes much delay in the transport of grain and other articles inland. We therefore beg that Tranquebar may be made a landing-port so that traffic may be conveniently and advantageously divided between this place and Negapatam; and pray that this port may be put in railway communication with Mayaveram or Sheally on the Carnatic line, which, in our humble opinion, will materially improve our condition, and give an additional stimulus to trade in these parts.

We further beg leave to bring to your Grace's notice the fine large public buildings in the fort which speak of their ancient grandeur, but are not made any use of.

We humbly pray that your Grace will kindly suggest any way of utilizing these buildings, and order the location of some public offices here, such as the Subordinate Judge at Negapatam, Head Assistant Collector's Cutcherry, &c., as this is the most central of four important taluqs.

Being sure that, with this auspicious event of your Grace's coming here as the Representative of Our Gracious Empress, a new and glorious era will dawn upon this old town, we again heartily welcome your Grace, and beg to apply ourselves to your Grace for relief.

With feelings of profound respect, we beg to subscribe ourselves, &c.

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, 2nd November 1877, No. 1463.

The foregoing Minute by His Grace the Governor on his recent visit to the Southern Districts will be printed and brought on the Proceedings of Government, and copies furnished to the Revenue and Public Works Departments.

2. Clauses 7, 9, and 12 will be considered, and the necessary orders issued by the Public Works Department.

3. Clauses 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 20, and 21 will be communicated to the Collector of Tanjore, who will report on the suggestion for enclosing the compound of the Tanjore Civil Dispensary by a wall or fence. He will also report through the Board of Revenue on the petition presented to His Grace the Governor by the residents at Tranquebar, and note the remarks in clause 21, on the overgrowth of the Casuarina plantation.

4. The District Judge of ~~North~~ Tanjore will be requested to report why the Courthouse at Tranquebar has not yet been handed over to the Public Works

5. Clause 15 will be communicated to the Inspector-General of Jails. The papers regarding the proposed abandonment of the Jail at Tranquebar will be forwarded to His Grace the Governor.

6. Clause 23 will be referred to the Collector of Tanjore, the Consular Agent at Karikal, and the Master Attendant, Negapatam, for joint report.

7. Clause 12 will also be communicated to the Master Attendant, Madras.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Collector of Tanjore.
" District Judge of ~~North~~ Tanjore.
" Inspector-General of Jails.
" Consular Agent, Karikal.
" Master Attendant, Negapatam.
" " " Madras.

Ed. J. Wright.

No 6299.

Communicated to the Board
of Revenue

8: Inv

To Bd of Revenue 9-11-99

Inland Revenue Office
No 4052
Chief Office, Dublin.
PURVIS, &c.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c.

Dated November, 2nd,
Inside
Rec.d

C.O., 2nd November, 1877, No. 1463.

NOVEMBER
Nos. 14-15.

Rec.d 8-11-Nov.r 1899

Governor's Tour.—Proceeding copies of a Minute by His Excellency the Governor on his recent visit to the Southern Districts.

Clerk Crown