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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	3012	Press. / Mis.
Dated	9-12-1878	197 :

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GP

3012
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

22nd November 1878, No. 2076.

Gingee Fort.

Read the following paper:—

No. 118. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd November* 1878, *No.* 2937.

Read the following letters:—

From A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Villupuram, 5th October 1878, No. 407.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 10th ultimo, No. 9343 (Miscellaneous), I have the honor to forward, herewith, copies of two letters, dated the 25th August and the 3rd September 1878, respectively, from the Sub-Collector, and to state that I inspected the fort on the mornings of the 24th and the 25th September last.

2. The Board, in their Proceedings of the 2nd August, No. 2139, say that the permanent establishment has probably done no work. I do not know on what they base this supposition, but I can assure them that work must have been done, for if not it would have been simply impossible to move about the place. Hitherto it has been customary to do work from the beginning of March till the end of October, that is during eight months of the year. This period of the year is not, I think, the best that might have been chosen for this reason that vegetation has the benefit of the north-east monsoon and is left to grow rampant till March, when the work of clearing again commences. It seems to me that a period more favorable to the keeping down of vegetation would be from the beginning of May or June to the end of December or January. As to whether it would be preferable to employ gangs of coolies from time to time when required instead of a *quasi*-permanent establishment, I think the proposal might be given a trial, though I am by no means sure that it will be found better than the practice now in force. I believe it has been mooted once before by the Head Assistant Collector Mr. Thomson when Gingee was in his division to place the Rupees 200 allowed at the disposal of the Deputy Conservator of Forests to keep down vegetation. The suggestion seems to me a very good one indeed, for I think I am not wrong in saying that he, of all the European officers in the district, visits the place oftenest. Moreover, he has some of his subordinates always going about the hill as the trees thereon are under him. He accompanied me when I went over the hills Krishnagiri and Rajagiri and expressed his willingness to undertake the management of the work. I think he might be allowed to try it for a year or two under the supervision of the Sub-Collector. As to the buildings on both hills, I saw nothing to take exception to as to the growth of trees in the walls. They have been very fairly kept down.

3. There is a temple called Venkataramanaswami Kovil at the foot of Krishnagiri Hill, inside the rampart, quite overgrown with vegetation, and there are trees growing out of the ramparts near the Arcot gate which should be destroyed if possible. It is to do this work that the Sub-Collector wants an establishment for six weeks at a cost of 80 Rupees. My own opinion is that it will be found impossible to do all that is required for this amount. I think 150 Rupees might be allowed. Of course no more than is actually necessary will be expended.

4. I was shown another temple called Pattabhirama Kovil inside the fort at some distance from it and not far from the Chuckler's hill. It has fallen into ruins, but there are a mantapam and a termutti near it with carved stones of large size.

I think the ground formerly covered by the temple might be cleaned and what remains looked after. There is very little to clear.

5. I think a little money would not be thrown away in making the access up the hills a little more easy here and there. Till about three years ago I understand there was a chasm not very far from the top of the Krishnagiri Hill, where the buildings are more numerous and which is the highest which rendered it impossible to get to the top, and those who wished to get to the top had to get up by ladders along the side of a rock. This was bridged over by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, and the Rupees 12-14-0 referred to in my letter of the 16th July last is half of the cost of this bridge. This bridge will, I fear, soon need repair. Again, just at the very foot of one of the ways up the Rajagiri Hill it is exceedingly difficult to keep one's feet. One has to go along a well-worn boulder for some distance which is very slippery. This should, I think, be remedied if supervision of work done is to be expected. At the Arcot gate there is a stone with inscriptions which is broken, and from its present position one would suppose it had been attempted to remove it. I was unable to ascertain when it was first observed to be in its present position. The stone as it at present stands is insecure and will eventually fall. This can be easily prevented by propping up the arch where it is by a stone wall. I think 100 Rupees might be, with great advantage, allowed to do the above work and any other work which might be found necessary.

6. To sum up, I think that the proposal to employ gangs of coolies to remove the vegetation from time to time when required might be given a trial; that 150 Rupees should be allowed to clear vegetation from the Venkataramanaswami and Pattabhiraman Kovils and to remove trees growing out of the ramparts near the Arcot gate; that 100 Rupees might be, with very great advantage, allowed to make the bridge on the Krishnagiri Hill more secure to improve the way up the two hills here and there, and to make other minor improvements where necessary, and that the money should be expended by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, subject to the supervision of the Sub-Collector within whose division the fort lies.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. A. BIRD, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of South Arcot, dated Villupuram, 25th August 1878, No. 1143.

With reference to the Government Proceedings, No. 820, of the 15th May last, I have the honor to state that the ordinary establishment is not sufficient to remove the existing vegetation from the Gingee Fort, and to request that you will be good enough to sanction Rupees 80 for the appointment of eight men and one head cooly for six weeks, as noted in the margin, to do this work, which if done the ordinary establishment can keep the usual growth down.

		Rs.
Eight men, at 4 Rupees a-month	..	48
One Head Cooly, at 6 ,, do.	..	9
Cost of tools	..	23
Total	..	80

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From C. A. BIRD, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of South Arcot, dated Tindivanam, 3rd September 1878, No. 1170.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your letter, No. 1350, dated 24th August last, I have the honor to report on the points referred to in the closing sentence of paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 2139, dated 2nd August.

2. It is not necessary for me to visit the place immediately, as I have lately been there; in fact I was within the fort for nearly a fortnight during Jamabandi. I have also on several previous occasions visited both the big and little forts.

3. As to what has been done, beyond stating that an establishment has been kept up for checking the growth of vegetation, I can say little except that the establishment was not large enough. The fort had been allowed to be overrun with banyan trees, which have in most instances been partly killed by sawing through the roots, &c.; but they still exist, and it is for

this reason that prior to the receipt of the Board's Proceedings I wrote for sanction for a gang of able-bodied coolies thoroughly to destroy the existing old growth of trees.

4. If this be done, I consider that the present establishment, if looked after, is sufficient to keep the walls clear.

5. During the period I have been in charge of this division one gateway has been built up to prevent its falling, but this was not included in my last report as it was a separate transaction.

6. The Deputy Tahsildar has been endeavouring lately to keep a record of work done by keeping a record daily of the number of yards over which the establishment was employed, but I consider this quite useless, the only way to enforce the work being properly done everywhere is for the workmen to feel that their efforts are being watched.

7. The Board are mistaken in thinking that no one has taken any interest in the matter, as I can assure them that during the nine months I have been in the division I have taken every opportunity of my passing through Gingee to supervise this work, though I am unable to give details as to the number of trunks cut through and seedlings rooted out.

8. I have only here to add that the two forts cover a large area of ground, and that the allowance of Rupees 200 a year is hardly sufficient for the purpose for which it is granted.

From A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 31st October 1878, No. 444.

I have the honor to state that I find that the Deputy Tahsildar of Gingee misinformed me as to the names of the two hills on which there are buildings at Gingee, and that the hill which I call Rajagiri in my letter of the 5th instant, No. 407, should be called Krishnagiri and *vice versa*.

Submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 23rd August 1878, No. 1506.

2. The Board entirely approve the proposal that the annual grant for the removal of vegetation in the Gingee Fort should be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Conservator of Forests who is constantly in the vicinity and would utilize the money to greater advantage than any one else; he should have full discretion as to the expenditure of the money, being merely required to report annually through the Divisional Officer and Collector regarding the work done and the general condition of the buildings. The Board also support the application for a special grant of Rupees 250.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 119. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1878, No. 2076.

A special grant of Rupees 250 is sanctioned. It will be met from the allotment under "Miscellaneous and Unforeseen charges"—Provincial, 1878-79.

2. The proposal to allow the money now sanctioned and the annual grant to be spent by the Deputy Conservator of Forests is unobjectionable, but it should be formally approved by the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Public Works do.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

3012/3

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To the Board of Revenue.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Public Works do.
„ Accountant-General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Revenue Depart
No 5305

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 22nd.

Issued 80

Recd. 2 December

G.O., 22nd November 1878, No. 2078.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 118-119.

No 3018 - 10 December 1878

Ginjee Fort.—A special grant of Rupees 250 for the removal of vegetation in the Ginjee Fort, South Arcot District, and for the improvement of the bridge on the Krishnagiri Hill, &c., sanctioned.

With Order

Recorded.
The Secy
2 xi expd.

No 3018
Copy forwarded to mi for expd &c

10 Dec 78

Dept 5726/79