

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2123	Press ~~Mis~~
158.157	
Dated 10-9-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th September 1867.

No. 158. Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Bellary, 10th August 1867, No. 40 :—

In reply to Government Order, dated 18th July 1867, No. 1,595, paragraph 4, requesting me to report on the necessity of maintaining the Dispensary at Gooty as a public charge, with reference to G. O. dated 6th July 1864, No. 774, Public Department, I have the honor to annex copy of my letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1867, No. 105, submitting a proposal for utilizing the funds of the so-called Lungerkhana or poor-house at Gooty, for a public Dispensary, which awaits the approval of the Board and the sanction of Government. The small and poor town of Gooty, numbering 4,000 inhabitants, cannot build, and can scarcely support a Dispensary. The plan and estimate for an Hospital, Dispensary, and Apothecary, or Dresser's, quarters will be forwarded, when received from the Superintending Engineer. Until I receive the decision of Government as to the erection of a Dispensary, &c., and as regards the diversion of the funds proposed, I am in difficulty as to the cost of the buildings, for which the Superintending Engineer is to frame the requisite plans and estimates.

From the Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bellary, 15th June 1867, No. 105.

1. With reference to the subject of the Munro choultry, I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue, the former correspondence with regard to this institution with the view of making a suggestion thereon.

2. A report was called for by Government in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1852, as regards the state of repair and the working of the above institution.

3. Mr. Pelly replied on the 6th June 1853 and 23rd November 1853. The Board of Revenue in their order of the 15th December 1853, directed Mr. Pelly to state in what other manner than the gratuitous distribution of food, the grant allowed to Munro choultry might be applied, Mr. Pelly having proposed in the second letter adverted to, that part of the building should be converted into an Hospital.

4. Mr. Pelly reported on the 23rd February 1855, that he was not aware of any other mode in which the grant for the distribution of food may be more beneficially applied.

5. The Board of Revenue (30th April 1855), communicated the above Proceedings to Government, observing that conversion of part of the building into an Hospital would destroy, or greatly impair its use as a Choultry, that a Dispensary room might be kept in the institution, that the funds annually granted, Rupees 2,045, would meet the expense of the Dispensary.

6. Government, on the 18th April 1855, doubting whether any real good is done by distribution of food, were of opinion that the expenses of the Dispensary would "go far to consume the whole available funds of the establishment." They then called for a report as to the number of servants kept up, with the view of ascertaining whether any reduction could be made, and for other particulars connected with the management of the institution. This report was furnished on the 7th September 1855.

7. Government on the 22nd January 1856, generally approved of the report then submitted but no further reference was made to the subject of the Dispensary.

8. Having given the subject my best attention, I would beg to make the following suggestion. I think that the gratuitous distribution of food, except during times of distress, and under a rigid system of enquiry, is an almost unmixed evil.

9. The original intention was to distribute food to travellers, but hardly any persons, except professional beggars, travel without the means of paying their way.

10. The comfort of by far the greatest section of the community would be extended by the Munro institution being not converted into an alms-house.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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11. In my letter of the 6th February 1867, No. 22, I pointed out that while the chief object of the institution was that of affording accommodation to travellers, I could not recommend any reduction in the number of the establishment, either of cooks or water-carriers, or peons. The Board coincided in that view.

12. Having adverted to the disadvantages of applying the Government grant to the relief of mendicants of whatever class or grade of native society, for the bulk of the respectable classes would not claim as an alms what they could purchase for themselves, I would propose that the balance of the Government grant, after providing for the necessary servants of the

Rupees 2,576
" 603 Establishment.
Rupees 1,914

institution, and for repairs, should be appropriated for the purpose of building, in the vicinity of the Chuttrum, Hospital wards for the treatment of those sick of contagious diseases.

13. This is a measure which is most urgently and imperatively required. One has only to imagine the breaking out of cholera among the temporary occupants (generally strangers), and the want of any place to remove them to, to realize the necessity of employing funds designed for the purposes of true charity, to their most legitimate object.

14. The fact of a Dispensary having been attached to the Munro Chuttrum, and the attendance there of diseased persons for relief, renders the proposal I have made still more urgent.

15. Instead therefore of spending two-thirds of Rupees 2,045, or rather three-fourths of the now increased sum of Rupees 2,576 in the support of pauperism, I would suggest the diversion of this fund for the erection of an Hospital with Apothecary, or Dresser's, quarters attached thereto, in a situation not far removed from the Chuttrum. Two or three years' outlay of the grant would suffice for the erection of these buildings, and after they are completed, the grant might be applied to the support of the Medical Officer now paid by Government and purchase of medicines.

16. It is impossible to exaggerate the advantages of a local Dispensary and proper Surgical aid. The number of deaths arising from simple bone fractures, the vicious system of native medical practice, the unalleviated, or else aggravated misery caused by the ignorance of medical art, shew the superiority of a Medical institution as a charity above that of a Poor-house.

17. There are plenty of rich Natives able and willing to relieve the poor, but to treat the sick is beyond their powers. I think that while the Munro institution is kept up for the comfort of native travellers as a Serai, the allotment of funds intended to perpetuate the memory of Sir T. Munro will be now more appreciated by the people, if applied to the purposes of an Hospital than of an alms-house.

18. On this view being concurred in, I shall, in conference with the Superintending Engineer, submit plans and estimates for the erection of the buildings proposed.

No. 159. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1867, No. 2,123.

Miscellaneous.

1. Referred to the Board of Revenue, whose proposals the Government await.
2. The removal of the Dispensary from

the Chuttrum building seems most desirable in every point of view.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Collector of Bellary.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

88-2123.

Approved

of Rev. Disputes
to for await.

The removal of
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Chuttrum building seems
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14 Copies to the Board of Revenue
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10th Sept 67

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