Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th September 1872.

No. 73. Read the following letter from the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 10th August 1872 :—

In resolving once more to beg the Government to reconsider their decision regarding the site for the new General Post Office in this city, the Chamber of Commerce trust they may not be considered unduly importunate in their representation of the views which they continue to entertain on the subject, or unnecessarily anxious as to the settlement of a question that so essentially involves their own daily convenience, and that of their successors for all time. They are aware that the matter has not been hastily decided by the Government, for it is now nearly four years and a half since it was first mooted, and they would be content to abide by the decision communicated in the Proceedings of Government, Public Department, 2nd instant, were it not that they feel convinced that the opinions they have already ventured to submit have not received as much attention as in truth they deserve. The Chamber are materially strengthened in this view by the letter of the Director-General of the Post Office of India to your address, under date the 15th June, which is contained in the Proceedings above referred to. In that letter they are gratified to find that, though the Railway terminal site was originally indicated by the then Director-General, after personal examination, as the most suitable for the proposed office, the Head of the Department now very courteously admits that the reasons advanced by this Chamber "are quite sufficient to convince me of the propriety of reconsidering the question;" and that, after endeavouring to dispose of some of the Chamber's objections to the terminal site, he concludes by observing that, "under the above circumstances, the Government of Madras will probably not object to take the question of the site of the new Post Office into further consideration, giving full weight to all that has been or may be said on the part of the mercantile community." As this is with reference to the Chamber's letter of the 24th April, which the Government were pleased to refer to the Director-General for his opinion, the Chamber are necessarily disappointed by the intimation that His Excellency the Governor in Council "is of opinion that sufficient grounds have not been shown for a reconsideration of the decision that the General Post Office shall be located in the immediate vicinity of the new Railway Station." The Chamber may be pardoned for observing that the grounds alleged have been deemed sufficient by the Head of the Department, and that the Government have not as yet done the Chamber the honour of pointing out the peculiar advantages which the site indicated at John Pereira's possesses over those which are patent on the 1st Line Beach. And had the Chamber not been led to believe that the disinclination to reconsider the question was entirely confined to the Director-General, they would have solicited His Excellency the Governor, shortly after his arrival, to permit a deputation from their body to wait upon him, with a view to verbally explaining the many reasons that combine to render the mercantile community solicitous for the adoption of a site on the beach.

It is observed that the Government consider that "it would be impossible, under any circumstances, without considerable additional cost and inconvenience,

to place the General Post Office in that part of the 1st Line Beach originally contemplated, the sites assigned for the Telegraph Office and the Madras Bank premises having absorbed the greater part of the frontage available." The Chamber admit that this new feature of the question under consideration demands attention; but at the same time they would ask the Government to bear in mind that, on the 6th April 1868, or long before it was publicly known that other employment was contemplated for the space, the Chamber submitted "that the spot known as Abercromby's Battery on the beach, which, it is believed, has for a long period been reserved by the Government for a General Post Office, is the more eligible site, and may thus be turned to profitable account, as well as to the adornment of the city." The Chamber do not contest the claims of the Telegraph Office to a certain portion of so centrical and convenient a site, nor do they question the advisability of granting the Bank a portion of the available space, but they still think that room remains adequate for the convenient accommodation of the General Post Office, the importance of whose location is not secondary to that of either of the institutions named. It is understood that the Government have allotted to the Telegraph Office and Bank that portion only of the Battery which lies to the north of the Moosa Nallamootoo Street, and is bound by the Commissary-General's Depôt, thus leaving the remainder of the Battery, or that portion of it which lies to the south of the said street, and is bound by the Town Police Court, still at the disposal of the Government. It would appear then to be easy to give the Bank the smaller and southern portion of the Battery, and to reserve the northern section for the accommodation, under one roof, of both the Telegraph Office and the General Post Office. There is no connexion under existing circumstances between the Telegraph and Postal Departments, but the recent amalgamation of the two Departments in the United Kingdom has proved so eminently successful, that it may be reasonably expected that a similar arrangement will, at no very remote date, be considered advisable in India, and in that event the local Government will find legitimate cause for congratulation in the localization of the two Central Departmental Offices in one large building. Apart from this important consideration, the cost of erecting one building large enough to accommodate both offices must, in the nature of things, prove considerably less than the aggregated cost of erecting two detached buildings for the same purpose. It is understood that the estimate sanctioned by the Government for the Post Office is Rupees 1,93,000, and that for the Telegraph Office Rupees 1,52,000, or together Rupees 3,45,000, and that, if built together, there will be a saving of fully 15 per cent. in establishment, collective supports, verandahs, and facade. Even should the Government decide to reserve the northernmost portion of the Battery for the Bank, and to leave the southernmost section vacant for the present, the considerable area now occupied by the Government Granary, south of the Town Police Court, still remains. It is difficult to understand how so valuable a site in the city has been so long turned to very poor account; but it is a mere question of time when the granary is removed, and its site occupied by public buildings. With a sea frontage of 160 feet and a depth of 302 feet, the granary site is singularly well-adapted for the purposes of the two offices. The Chamber beg further to point out that, at John Pereira's, a building

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th September 1872.

such as it is contemplated to provide for the Post Office would contribute little or nothing towards the embellishment of the city; whilst, supported by the Telegraph Office and Bank of Madras in such a magnificent site as the beach, the fullest possible effect would be secured for its architectural merits.

In conclusion I may be permitted to point out that, as the Fort is the same distance from the Battery as it is from the terminal site, it is a matter of comparative indifference to that portion of the town whether one site is selected in preference to the other. The choice then lies between the reasonable convenience of officials, merchants, traders, residents, and habitués, of Black Town and its northerly suburbs, and that of the comparatively few inhabitants of the southerly and westerly suburbs who are large contributors to the revenue of the Post Office. In a merely geographical sense is the terminal site centrical. Leaving the Fort out of the calculation, by far the larger number of people who habitually and extensively use, and require to make frequent reference to, the Post Office, are found in Black Town, and must continue to be so found as long as Madras retains her present commercial status. As to the places "served through Madras," referred to by the Director-General in his letter under notice, they comprise, he has himself informed the Chamber, the Mount and Palaveram only, and in neither of these places would commercial exigencies be found to grudge a slight addition to the already considerable space of time needed for the carriage of the mails twice a day from Madras. The Chamber may assume that the Post Office authorities, in event of the adoption of the John Pereira site, will do all that lies in their power to mitigate the evils that will unavoidably attend the removal of the headquarters of what is peculiarly a commercial department from proximity to the centre of commercial interests, but it would obviously be expedient to anticipate the urgency of such exertions to facilitate postal communication by rendering them unnecessary, and making the General Post Office wait on trade, instead of trade on the General Post Office.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1872, No. 1211.

The Governor in Council resolves to communicate the above letter from the Chamber of Commerce, with copy of the Proceedings of Government, No. 885, Public, dated 2nd August 1872, to the Directors of the Madras Bank with the intimation that the assignment by G. O., No. 722, Financial Department, dated 29th November 1871, of the site required for the Bank, on the ground where the Commissariat Mule Stables stand, between the Stamp Office and the site allotted for the Telegraph Office on the northern section of Abercromby's Battery, leaves no site at the disposal of Government on the North Beach available for placing the new General Post Office there as desired by the Chamber.

2. Should the Bank Directors think it advisable, under these circumstances, to relinquish their lien on the site placed at their disposal, the Government will be prepared to consider favourably the Chamber's request, with which otherwise they are unable to comply.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th September 1872.

3. It is requested that the decision of the Bank Directors may be communicated to Government at an early date.

4. Copy of these Proceedings will be furnished to the Chamber of Commerce.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Directors of the Bank of Madras, with Proceedings, No. 885
,, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

Exd. J. Wright,

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE DIRECTORS OF THE BANK
OF MADRAS,
&c., &c. &c.

Dated September, 14th.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 14th September 1872, No. 1211.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 73-74.

Passing orders on a letter from the Chamber of Commerce suggesting again the advisability of building the new General Post Office on the North Beach.

Chamber of Commerce
Madras 15th August 1872

From

R. C. Walker Esq
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Ootacamund

Sir,

In resolving once more to beg the Government to reconsider their decision regarding the site for the new General Post Office in this city, the Chamber of Commerce trust they may not be considered unduly importunate in their representation of the views which they continue to entertain on the subject, or unnecessarily anxious as to the settlement of a question that so essentially involves their own daily convenience, and that of their successors for all time. They are aware that the matter has not been hastily

hastily decided by the Government, for it is now nearly four years and a half since it was first mooted, and they would be content to abide by the decision communicated in the Proceedings of Government Public Department 2nd instant, were it not that they feel convinced that the opinions they have already ventured to submit have not received as much attention as in truth they deserve. The Chamber are materially strengthened in this view by the letter of the Director General of the Post Office of India, to your address, under date the 15th June, which is contained in the Proceedings above referred to. In that letter they are gratified to find that though the Railway Terminal Site was originally indicated by the then Director General, after personal examination, as the most suitable for the proposed Office, the head of the Department now very courteously admits that the reasons advanced by this Chamber "are quite sufficient to convince me of the propriety of reconsidering the question":

and that after endeavouring to dispose of some of the Chamber's objections to the Terminal site, he concludes by observing that "under the above circumstances the Government of Madras will probably not object to take the question of the site of the new Post Office into further consideration" giving full weight to all that has been or may be said on the part of the mercantile community". As this is with reference to the Chamber's letter of the 2nd April, which the Government were pleased to refer to the Director General for his opinion; the Chamber are necessarily disappointed by the intimation that His Excellency the Governor in Council "is of opinion that sufficient grounds have not been shown for a reconsideration of the decision that the General Post Office shall be located in the immediate vicinity of the new Railway Station". The Chamber may be pardoned for observing that the

Grounds

grounds alleged have been deemed suffi-
-cient by the Head of the Department, and
that the Government have not as yet done
the Chamber the honor of pointing out the
peculiar advantages which the site indicated
at John Pereira's possesses over those which
are patent on the First Line Beach. And
had the Chamber not been led to believe
that the disinclination to reconsider the
question was entirely confined to the Director
General, they would have solicited His
Excellency the Governor, shortly after his
arrival, to permit a deputation from
their body to wait upon him, with a
view to verbally explaining the many
reasons that combine to render the mercan-
-tile community solicitous for the adoption
of a site on the Beach.

It is observed that the Government
consider that "it would be impossible
under any circumstances without considerable
additional cost and inconvenience to place
the General Post Office in that part
of the First Line Beach originally
contemplated, the sites assigned for the
Telegraph Office and the Madras Bank
premises having absorbed the greater part
of the frontage available". The Chamber
admit that this new feature of the ques-
-tion under consideration demands attention:
but at the same time they would ask
the Government to bear in mind, that
on the 6th April 1868, or long before it
was publicly known that other employment
was contemplated for the space, the Chamber
submitted "that the spot known as Alber-
-cromby's Battery on the Beach, which it
"is believed, has for a long period been
"reserved by the Government for a General
"Post Office, is the more eligible site,
"and may thus be turned to profitable
"amount, as well as to the advantage of
"the city". The Chamber do not contest
the claims of the Telegraph Office to a
certain portion of so central and con-
-venient a site, nor do they question
the advisability of granting the Bank
a portion of the available space, but

they still think that room remains adequate for the convenient accommodation of the General Post Office, the importance of whose location is not secondary to that of either of the Institutions named. It is understood that the Government have allotted to the Telegraph Office and Bank that portion only of the Battery which lies to the north of the Peroia Nallamootoo Street, and is bound by the Commissary General's Depôt, thus leaving the remainder of the Battery, or that portion of it which lies to the south of the said Street, and is bound by the Town Police Court, still at the disposal of the Government. It would appear then to be easy to give the Bank the smaller and southern portion of the Battery, and to reserve the northern section for the accommodation under one roof of both the Telegraph Office and the General Post Office. There is no connection under existing circumstances between the Telegraph and Postal Departments, but the recent amalgamation of the two Departments

in the United Kingdom has proved so eminently successful, that it may be reasonably expected that a similar arrangement will, at no very remote date, be considered advisable in India, and in that event, the local Government will find legitimate cause for congratulation in the localisation of the two central Departmental offices in one large building. Apart from this important consideration the cost of erecting one building large enough to accommodate both Offices must, in the nature of things, prove considerably less than the aggregated cost of erecting two detached buildings for the same purpose. It is understood that the estimate sanctioned by the Government for the Post Office is Rupees 1,93.000, and that for the Telegraph Office Rupees 1.52.000 or together Rupees 3.45.000, and that, if built together, there will be a saving of fully 15 per cent in establishment, collective supports, verandahs, and facade. Even should the Government decide to

reserve

reserve the northernmost portion of the Battery for the Banks, and to leave the Southernmost section vacant for the present, the considerable area now occupied by the Government Granary, South of the Town Police Court still remains. It is difficult to understand how so valuable a site in the city has been so long turned to very poor account: but it is a mere question of time when the Granary is removed, and its site occupied by public buildings. With a sea frontage of 160 feet, and a depth of 312 feet, the Granary site is singularly well adapted for the purposes of the two Offices. The Chamber beg further to point out that, at John Pereira's a building such as it is contemplated to provide for the Post Office, would contribute little or nothing towards the embellishment of the city; whilst, supported by the Telegraph Office and Bank of Madras in such a magnificient site as the Beach, the fullest possible effect would be secured for its architectural merits

Should not this work the Railway Terminus - the buildings are an ornament to a great thoroughfare

In conclusion I may be permitted to

15 5

point out that, as the Fort is the same distance from the Battery as it is from the Terminal site, it is a matter of comparative indifference to that portion of the town whether one site is selected in preference to the other. The choice then lies between the reasonable convenience of officials, merchants, traders, residents, and habitués, of Black Town, and its northerly suburbs, and that of the comparatively few inhabitants of the southerly and westerly suburbs who visit the Chief Post Office. In a merely geographical sense is the Terminal site centrical. Leaving the Fort out of the calculation, by far the larger number of people who habitually and extensively use, and require to make frequent reference to, the Post Office, are found in Black Town; and must continue to be so found as long as Madras retains her present commercial ~~importance~~ position. As to "the places served through Madras," referred to by the Director General in his letter

under

under notice, they comprise, he has himself informed the Chamber, the Mount, and Palaveram, only, and in neither of these places would commercial exigencies be found to grudge a slight addition to the already considerable space of time needed for the carriage of the mails twice a day from Madras. The Chamber may assume that the Post Office authorities, in event of the adoption of the John Pereira Site, will do all that lies in their power to mitigate the evils that would [illegible] attend the removal of the head-quarters of what is peculiarly a commercial Department, from proximity to the centre of commercial interests; but it would obviously be expedient to anticipate the urgency of such exertions to facilitate postal communication by rendering them unnecessary, and making the General Post Office wait on trade, instead of trade on the General Post Office.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

[illegible]
Secretary

Financial Department. 6

Despatched Council. 13 Sept. 72 E.A.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

From the Chamber of Commerce - Madras, dated 14 August 1872.

Order thereon dated 14 Sept 1872 No 1218.

The Governor in Council resolves to communicate the above letter from the Chamber of Commerce, with copy of the Pro: of Govern: ment No 885. Public. dated 2d August 1872. to the Directors of the Madras Bank with the intimation that the assignment by G. O. No 722. Financial Depart: ment dated 29th Novem: ber 1871 of the Site re: quired for the Bank, on the ground where the Commissariat

1872
Public Department
From
The Chamber of Commerce
Madras
Dated 10th August 1872
Rec'd 13th Sept 1872
1211
No. 1855
G.O. 14th Sept 1872
No 1205

Respecting a grant of ground to the Bank of Madras on Fort St George in lieu of that granted in 1868 for the Bank of Madras

Circular

I have always been in favour of the Bank site - but since it is now to my knowledge that the Directors of the Bank object to it if the Commissariat stays - and since the Bank pay for the ground - as a fair value - I am ready to accept the exchange proposed.

J. D.

Colonel Gill
Offg Secretary
Chief Engineers
&c. &c. &c.

Communicate with the Bank Directors, between the Stamp Office and the site allotted for the Telegraph Office on the Northern Section of the Esplanade battery, known as the site at the disposal of Government on the North beach available for placing the new General Post Office thereon as desired by the Chamber.

2. Should the Bank Directors think it advisable under these circumstances to relinquish their lien on the site placed at their disposal, the Government will be prepared to consider favorably the Chamber's request, with which otherwise they are unable to comply.

21

3. It is requested that the decision of the Bank Directors may be communicated to Government at an early date.

4 Copy of these Proceedings with his further wished to the Chamber of Commerce.

5. The Director of the Bank of Madras with Fort St. George dated 1/11/1885

To the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce.

1211

3-10-800

Govt. of {1872} Appointments.

Financial

To

The Directors of the Bank of
Madras.

Date {3-7-1872} 1872, No. 211.
Read. {4}

No.	Nos. 73. 74.

Referring to a letter from the Chamber of Commerce
on the Chamber of Commerce
requesting a sanitary
inspection of the Madras
Public Buildings, the
Government Civil Officers
in the Port Office
in the Port Office.

Secretariat & Coll. at once

Site for the new Post Office 235

After reading the further letter from the Chamber of Commerce, I am inclined to think that a site on the Beach would be preferable, supposing that a suitable one could be found.

The Chamber suggests two alternatives viz.

1. That the Southern portion of the part known as "Monroe's" Valley" should be appropriated to the Beach, and the Northern portion to a building in which the Post Office and Telegraph Office should be erected.

2. That if this cannot be done, the two Offices should be combined in a building to be erected on the area now occupied by

The Govt Examr.

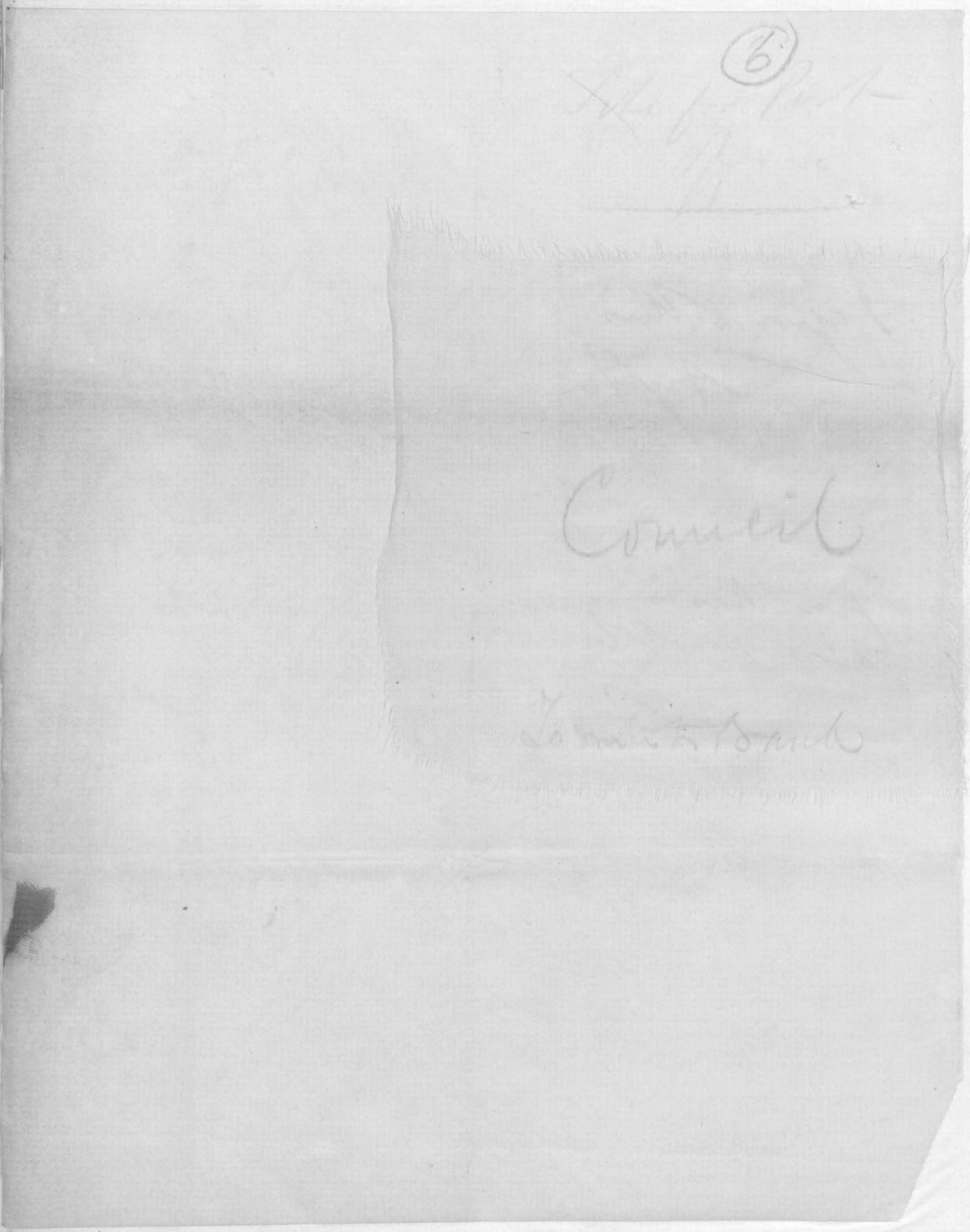
The first & personal enquiry to be
referred to the Chairman for report &
estimate.

In regard to the 2nd. - the expediency of
providing new premises for the Govt. Stores
must of course be considered: but
against this may be set pro tanto the
saving which would result from uniting
the two Offices under one roof.

Ht
Aug 22/72

I agree to this.
AJA

I fear this is
inopportune.
BP.



M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-57.

(1) Number of pages 1-26

(2) Date of repair 3-1-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1211 Press
Mis.

1873-74

Dated 14-9 1872.

14 ~~15~~
73-74

16/18

Not to be folded or roughly handled