M.R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1404 Press ~~Mis.~~

56-57

Dated 7.9.1863 ~~19~~

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 7th September 1863.

No. 56. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, dated 29th August 1863, No. 2,795.

Communicating papers relative to the new Artillery Barracks proposed to be built at Waltair. (Vide Proceedings Military Department, dated 29th August 1863, Nos. 475—484.)

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1863, No. 1,441.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Military.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Captain O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer 1st Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Waltair, 16th June 1863, No. 232:—

SIR,

1. With reference to the orders of Government on the subject of housing the Battery of Royal Artillery at Waltair, and more particularly with regard to paragraphs 5 and 6 in which this Department is called upon to make Estimates for converting certain private houses into Barracks, I beg, before ordering these Estimates to be prepared, to place before Government the following facts.

G. O. No. 1,444, of 6th June 1863.

2. Government state the system of purchasing private houses for conversion into quarters to be both expensive and unsatisfactory; this is particularly the case with the buildings which it is proposed to purchase here; they are old, built of indifferent materials, with brick in mud for most of the walls, and junglewood for their roofing; they swarm with white ants, as all the houses in the station similarly built do.

3. The sum to be paid for the whole of the property to be acquired will not fall short of 60,000 Rupees. At a sale of houses at Waltair, at the end of the past official year, very large prices were paid, and the property in the Collector's list for which no price has yet been demanded must be valued according to these high rates.

4. What it will cost to transform these scattered houses into Barracks, suitable for the Artillery, cannot well be determined until Estimates have been drawn out, but I am of opinion that this sum will not be very much less than what entirely new Barracks would come to.

5. So far from there being no other suitable ground available, there is an admirable site adjoining these private residences, commanding and looking over them; a site protected from the land winds, open to the sea breeze and enjoying an extensive view of the sea itself.

6. This land is the property of Government, having been purchased by Mr. Rohde for his Central Jail, and unless used for sites on which to erect Government buildings will have to be returned to the Ryots more or less damaged by this Department, who have felled whole lines of palmyra trees and otherwise prepared the ground for the construction of a Jail.

Vide G. O. No. 271, of 19th February 1863.

7. By selecting this site for the Barracks, Government will save in expenditure, whilst not only will the Barracks be more eligibly located, but they will not be of that unsatisfactory nature, which altered private houses must ever be; the community, too, will be a gainer, inasmuch as the four houses, which it has been proposed to purchase, will come into the market and be purchasable or rentable by its members, a convenience at a station like Waltair, where houses are with great difficulty procurable.

ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1863, No. 1,713.

Referred to the Military Department for consideration with reference to the Orders in that Department, No. 1,720, dated 27th May 1863.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works Dept.
Military
Pro: of the Madras Government.
No. 1713 of 30th June 1863.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Pro. of Govt., Mily. Dept., 17*th May* 1862, *No.* 1803. } Read again the papers noted in the
Do. 27*th* „ 1863, „ 1720. } margin.

Read also the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.

Referring for consideration a letter from the Superintending Engineer 1st Division, placing before Government certain facts with reference to the Order in the Military Department, No. 1720, of 27th May 1863, on the subject of housing the Battery of Royal Artillery at Waltair, and the conversion of certain private houses into Barracks. } Here enter 30th June 1863, No. 1713.

From the Quarter Master General.

Submitting His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's observations on the above. } Here enter 13th July 1863, No. $\frac{26}{5819}$.

ORDER, No. 2795, 29*th August* 1863.

The foregoing papers relate to the provision of Barrack accommodation for the Battery of Artillery at Waltair.

2. The Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, in his letter* marginally noted, urges certain reasons against the Plan proposed by the Commander-in-Chief, and the unadvisableness of converting old and indifferent dwelling houses into Barracks; stating, that the Buildings "are old, built of indifferent materials, with brick in mud for most of the walls, and junglewood for their roofing," and that "they swarm with white Ants, as all the houses at the Station similarly built, do." The Commander-in-Chief, to whom this Report was referred, deprecates any disturbance of the previous arrangements and orders, whether as regards the site, or the housing of the Artillery at Waltair.

* *No.* 236, *dated* 16*th June* 1863.

3. The Governor in Council has already objected to the conversion of dwelling houses into accommodation for Troops, and still adheres to the opinion, that this course is "both expensive and unsatisfactory." With Captain Chambers' unfavorable report before him, he is unable therefore to assent to the arrangements proposed by the Commander-in-Chief, and accordingly resolves to decline the purchase of the Buildings in question.

Pro. of Govt., No. 4252, 11*th Decr.* 1862.

4. The site purchased for the Central Jail at Waltair will be retained and made available for the erection of new Artillery Barracks, if approved of after being inspected by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his visiting Waltair at the end of this year. The original Plans and Estimate which are understood to have been forwarded to the District Engineer for revision, according to the rates prevailing at the Station, and for any unimportant modification of the Plans which the nature of the site might demand, will at the same time be submitted to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Vide paragraph 7, *Acting Deputy Chief Engineer's letter No.* 194, *dated* 28*th February* 1862, *recorded in Proceedings of Government, No.* 1803, 17*th May* 1862.

6. These Proceedings will be reported to the Government of India, with reference to previous correspondence, and communicated to the Revenue Department, with advertence to Revenue Proceedings, No. 3758, dated the 23rd June 1863.

To the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept. | Here enter 29th August 1863, No. 2796.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ Quarter Master General, with enclosures.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Adjutant General.
„ Controller of Military Finance, } for information.
„ Judicial Department.... ... } With Office Copies

Exd. T. Stubbs.

Judicial 1863 Dep.t
1441
Pro: Ltr

Prov: G Mad Gov.t in
Mily Dep.t &c
No 2795

Dated 29 Aug.
Rec.d 2d Sept.r 1863.
Reg.d & D Sp: Copies
No. 1937

Communicating
papers relative to the
new Artillery Barracks
proposed to be built
at Coltair

No. 1441 of 7th Sept. 1863

To be recorded.

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