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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public (Rural) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 219 Press Mis.

107-110

Dated 15-10- 1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following Papers.

No. 107. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 26th August 1858, No. 3061.

Communicating to this Department a letter from the Commissary General, reporting with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, 17th July last, No. 1387, that if the ground North of the Railway Terminus, now occupied by Boat-men's Huts could be obtained, that locality would answer very well for a Timber yard, while the site of the present Timber yard could as proposed be appropriated as a site for the Post and Telegraph Offices to be newly erected.

(Vide Military Consultation, 31st August 1858 Nos. 37 @ 39.)

No. 108. Letter from R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Post Master General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 7th September 1858, No. 2519.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated the 23rd July 1858, No. 932, and in reply to state for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that having personally inspected the site of the Commissariat Timber-yard on the North Beach, I consider it quite as eligible for the new Post Office as Abercrombie's Battery.

I take this opportunity to forward for submission to His Lordship in Council copies of two communications* from Messrs. Griffiths and Co. tendering their Shop premises in Popham's Broadway for sale to Government for the use of the Post Office.

* Dated 22nd April 1858.
Dated 2nd June 1858, with original plan in Tin Case (to be returned.)

I have inspected these premises also. They certainly contain sufficient accommodation (with the exception of a residence for the Post Master, which might be erected on the third floor) for the Local Post Office, and I believe the building to be of a substantial nature, the masonry consisting of brick in chunam throughout; the price which Messrs. Griffiths and Co. demand seems large, but if disposed to purchase it the Government will doubtless act upon the opinion of its Professional Officers as to the real value of the edifice.

With respect to the situation of the building, I beg to remark that next to the North Beach, which is decidedly the most eligible site, I consider Popham's Broadway as being the best place for the Madras Post Office.

Letter from Messrs. GRIFFITHS and Co.; to R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Post Master General, Ootacamund, dated 22nd April 1858.

SIR,

We are induced to address you regarding a tender which on the 24th February last we made to your Department, offering for sale our premises in Popham's Broadway, for occupation as a Post Office. We yesterday forwarded a plan of the premises with details regarding them, that our first letter did not give, and which we were desirous of placing before you, but we have learned with regret that an order on the subject has been passed by you which prevents their being forwarded: we are still anxious to give you the particulars, and trust that you will excuse our writing you direct for that purpose: we have the greater inducement to do so, from the information which we have, that the plan of building a Post Office, Telegraph Office, and Mercantile Rooms, has been quite given up, and that the proposed site will very shortly be covered with godowns in continuation from those of the Commissariat Yard adjoining, thus closing the only spot on the Beach where a building might be erected.

We beg to explain that our tender was not only of the premises in the Broadway, but also of a large yard with godowns stabling, and coach-houses, in the street in rear of the premises, and running from that street to the next one parallel to it, the whole premises thus covering

three streets, and having frontages to five, besides other approaches. The large show-rooms upstairs you are well acquainted with, but besides these the accommodation in the lower story is very great, the rooms are lofty and well ventilated and if the bins that now line many of them were removed, many more Arches might be opened out, we are sure that the whole of your Madras Establishment might be more than accommodated in the lower floor. The house is free from white-ants, and we never have any drain smell in it, it is quite open to the south and from the terrace above a considerable sea view is obtained, the Fort Flag Staff is seen from all the South side.

Our reason for tendering the premises for sale is that we have now an opportunity of obtaining others on the Mount road to which locality we have been long urged to remove, and which does offer us many advantages, this opportunity will pass away unless we can now close with it.

We trust that the great extent of premises offered will induce you to take a favorable view of our tender, we shall be glad to send you a Plan if you will allow us.

No. 109. Official Memo. from R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Post Master General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 13th September 1858, No. 2717.

The Post Master General has the honor to inform the Chief Secretary, in reply to his Memo. of the 10th Instant, that Messrs. Griffiths and Co., demand Rupees (100,000) one lac, for their premises in Popham's Broadway.

Letter from Messrs. GRIFFITHS and Co.; to R. H. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Post Master General Madras, dated 2nd June 1858.

SIR,

We were duly favored with your letter of the 19th Ultimo, and the Post Master Madras has examined our premises in Popham's Broadway tendered by us for sale to you. We have yesterday received from him a copy of his report to you.

Availing ourselves of your permission we have now to transmit to you a Plan of the Broadway premises, we have not yet one of the premises in Francis Jose street.

We beg to observe that the Post Master in approving of the premises, considers that to make his own quarters comfortable, a third story or rooms on the present terrace should be added, the premises in the several approaches to them offer every facility for this being done on any part of them.

We trust that upon the report made, you will be enabled to submit our tender to Government with your recommendation.

No. 110. ORDER THEREON, No. 2197; dated 19th October 1858.

These papers reply to the references made in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 17th July last, No. 1387, as to whether the present Commissariat timber yard on the North Beach, could be given up as a site for the erection of the projected Post and Telegraph Offices, and whether the Post Master General had any objections to offer to the proposed buildings being constructed on that site, instead of on Abercrombie's Battery as originally contemplated; the references having been made, in consequence of objections urged by the Municipal Commissioners to the complete occupation of the Battery, as interfering with the ventilation of the Town.

2. The Commissary General, in his reply received with the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department above recorded, intimates that if the ground North of the Railway Terminus, now in the occupation of Boatmen and other humble persons, could be obtained and given up for the construction of a new Timber yard, the present yard could be appropriated as a site for the new Post and Telegraph Offices. The Post Master General, in reporting that the site of the Commissariat Timber yard is quite as eligible for the new Post Office

as Abercrombie's Battery, submits two letters from Messrs Griffiths and Co., offering their Shop Premises in Popham's Broadway for sale, for a lac of Rupees, in view to its occupation as a Post Office; and states that, next to the North Beach, Popham's Broadway presents the most eligible site for such a building.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council observes that the erection of a Timber yard on the ground North of the Railway Terminus now in the occupation of Boatmen, would involve the removal of that useful class of persons to a greater distance from the scene of their business, and would thus be productive of serious inconvenience to the interests of the Port. It appears to his Lordship in Council that it is not now necessary that the Commissariat Timber yard should be on the Beach, as timber could be sent on being landed to the Railway direct, and be despatched at once to a yard more inland than the present. There is plenty of waste land between Royapooram and Perambore which might be made available for the purpose; and the Governor in Council resolves to ascertain, through the Military Department, whether any objections exists to laying out a Timber yard in that locality.

4. With regard to Messrs. Griffiths and Cos., tender of their Shop Premises in Popham's Brodway, the Governor in Council sees no prospect in the present state of the finances, of sanction being granted by the higher authorities for the purchase of those buildings; and the Post Master General will inform Messrs. Griffiths and Co., accordingly

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Pub: Works 1858 Department
Copy to Comm: 19th October.

No 2197

Engr: Mins: Consultation
J - 19th October 1858

From the Offg Chief Engr 28th October/58
No 2572 inclosing 20 Rs.

No 107 at 110

We are not willing that the Boatmen now occupying the ground North of the Railway Terminus, should be made to remove their huts from the present place, in order to make room for the Commissariat Timber yard the Site of the present yard being given up for the Post and Telegraph Offices. Observed that there is plenty of waste land between Royapooram and Persambaccum which might be made available for the purpose. It is therefore resolved to ascertain whether any objections exist to laying out a Timber road in that locality.