M.R.O. 1—82,400—23-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 1/10/58

G.O. No. 217 Press Mis.

67.108

Dated 16-10 18 58

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 19th October 1858.

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.

Military Department

N° 3061

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

26th August 1858

Read the following papers

Extract Minutes Consultation
Public Works Department

/Were enter 17th July 1858, N° 1387/

Commissary General's Office
Madras 24th August 1858.

N° 120.

From
The Commissary General
To
The Secretary to Government
in the Military Department
Fort St George

Sir

I have the honor to acknowl=
=edge Extract from the Minutes of Con=
=sultation and with reference to that part
of it which calls on me for my obser=
=vations relative to the selection of another
locality

(sulted 17th July 1858
N° 1387, D.P.W.
In order of 20th
July 1858. In D.

locality for the Commissarial Timber yard in order to make room for the erection of a Post Office and Telegraph Office on the site of the present Timber yard to state that I have examined the site to the North of the Railway Terminus, and am of opinion that if the ground at present occupied by Boatmen's huts and other humble dwellings could be obtained and given up for a Timber yard that locality would answer tho its removal from its present site would occasion much inconvenience.

2 It is advisable to have the Timber yard near the Sea Coast to save the cost of carriage of the Timber when landed to any great distance, and it should if possible be within moderate distance of the Executive Commissarial Officer in order that he may exercise his efficient control over the works constantly going on in it.

3 The present Timber yard is

is too limited in extent, it is extremely crowded, and considerable inconvenience experienced therefrom.

4 If it should be determined to construct a new one I would recommend that at least 100 feet in length and 50 in breadth may be added to the dimensions of the present one which are 300 by 186 feet.

5 A Plan of the yard and its buildings is enclosed, and the new erections would probably cost from 16,000 to 20,000 Rupees.

/Signed/ A. McCally, Colo.
Commissary General

Communicated to the Department Public Works.

/Signed/ W.H. Hopshare, Major
Alg. Dpty to Govt

Lt
Lennard Smith

Orders are requested as to whether the Remo. of the Chief Secr.y the Post M.r the Hon. Mr. Collet & the Principle Clerk of the Sec.y the Hon. the Governor are to be brought on the Sea. Coast or remitted to Quebec (the Capital) for the month of Sept.r Mai. 5th Inst.

[illegible]

Ord.e

Ord.e to Com.rs 20th July/58 P. 384/59

P. Wks 1858 Depart.t
Com.rs 19th October
No. 1959

Ex: Inins: Coms: in
the Military Depart.t.

Dated 26th
Recd 27th } augt/58

No. 3061.

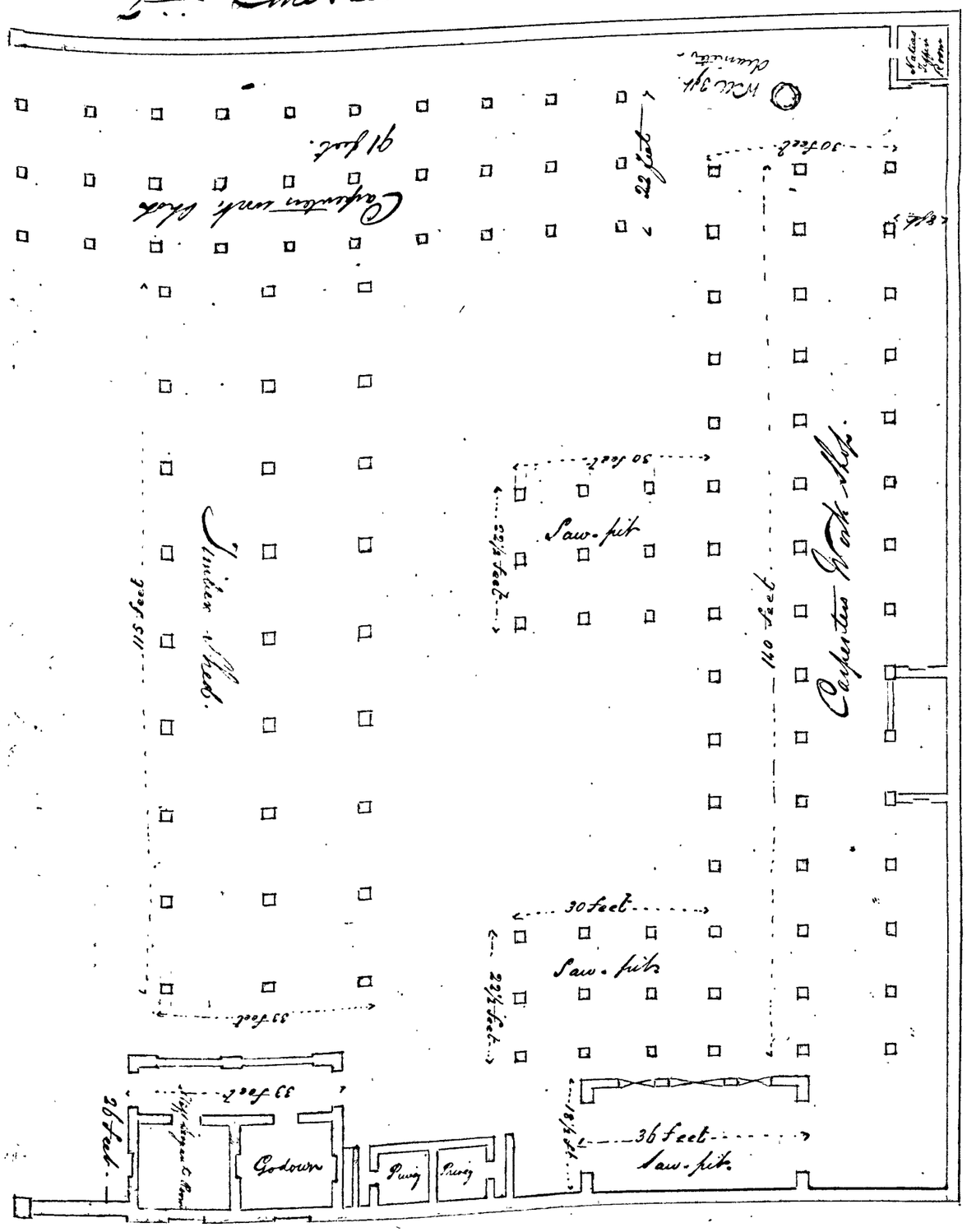
Encl.s 1
S.E. No. 2187. 19th October 1858.

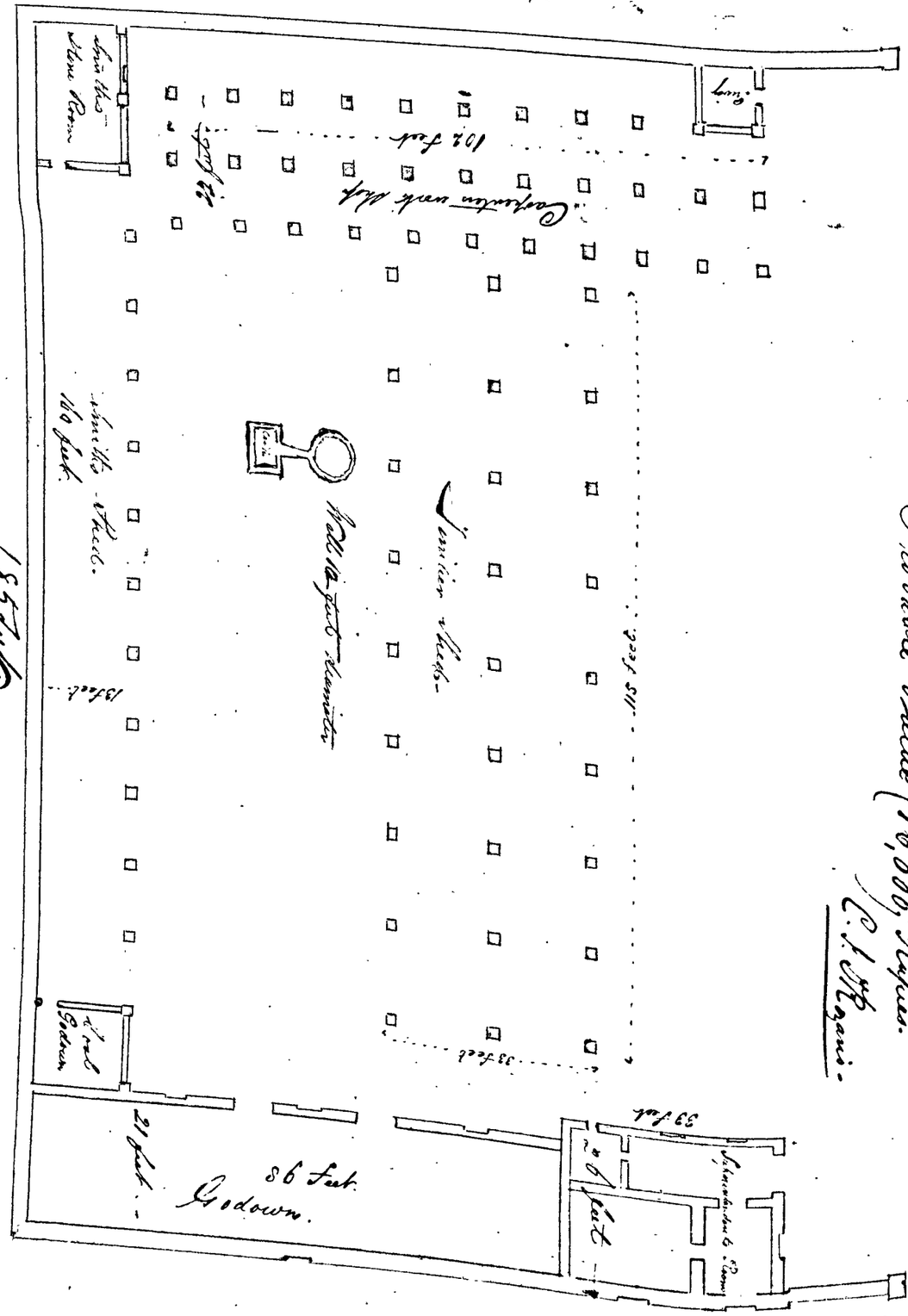
Communicating to their Dep.t a letter from the Commiss.r Shirley reporting with reference to Sec.y's Let.r of 17th July last No. 1387 that if the Boundaries of the Railway Terminus were enlarged by Boat Head Pier could be obtained, that locality would answer very well for a Timber yard while the site of the present Timber yard could as proposed be appropriated as a site for the Post and Telegraph Offices to be newly erected.

No. 107.

Sep.r 24 Sep.r
Oct.r 22. Oct.r 18th

2nd Line Beach.





Pl. to the Value (£6,000) of Rupees C. I. Rupees.

300 feet North Beach Road.

East

N. C. Timber Depot
13th. August 1858

C. I. Rupees.
Supt Timber Depot

Approved
Aberdeen

Brown
Conductor

Ground Plan of the Timber Yard

Memorandum on Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department dated 26th August 1858, and on letter from the Post Master General, 7th September 1858.

Consequent on a representation from the Municipal Commissioners that the construction of the projected Post and Telegraph Offices on the site of Abercrombies Battery, would completely mask one of the few openings for the passage of the Sea breeze into the Town, the Government requested the Chief Engineer to report whether any other eligible locality could be found for the erection of the proposed offices. In reply, the Officer in charge of the Central Office stated that the Commissariat Timber yard, which adjoins Abercrombies Battery, possessed a sufficient extent of frontage for the proposed buildings, and the Government, admitting the great importance of securing to the inhabitants of the Town a free circulation

× Extract Minutes Consultations 26th April 1858 No 778.

+ Extract Minutes Consultations 17th July 1858 No 1387.

of

of air, and referring also to the possibility of Abercrombies Battery being retained as a means of defence against attacks from the Sea, expressed their opinion that the construction of the new Offices on the site of the Commissariat Timber yard, was a question worthy of consideration. Before however passing final orders on the Subject, they communicated the correspondence that had taken place, to the Public and to the Military Departments, in view to its being ascertained in the former Department, whether the Post Master General had any objections to offer to the proposed change of site; and in the latter, whether the Commissariat Timber yard could be given up for the purpose stated, and another established at the North of the Railway Terminus.

The papers recorded at the head of this memo reply to the enquiries above made. The Commissary General states that although the removal of the Commissariat Timber yard from its present site, would occasion inconvenience another yard could be constructed North of the Railway Terminus, if the ground at present occupied by boatmens huts and other humble dwellings could be obtained and given up for the purpose. He observes that considerable inconvenience is experienced in consequence of the limited extent of the present yard, and he suggests that in the event of its being determined to construct another, its dimensions should be at least 100 feet in length, and 50 feet in breadth, in excess of the present yard. The new yard and buildings, the Commissary General thinks, would probably cost from 16,000 to 20,000 Rupees.

The Post Master General after inspection of the site of the Commissariat Timber yard, considers it quite as eligible for the new Post Office as Abercrombies Battery. He submits however two letters from

Messrs

Messrs Griffiths & Co, offering for sale their Premises in Popham's Broadway, for occupation as a Post Office; and states that with the exception of a residence for the Post Master, which might be erected on the third floor, the buildings are sufficiently commodious for the local Post Office. He thinks that the price asked by Messrs Griffiths & Co (which however is nowhere stated) is large; and as to the situation of the buildings, he considers that next to the north beach, Popham's Broadway presents the most eligible site.

Orders are solicited on these papers. The project entered in the Budget was for a Post and Telegraph Office, with an Exchange Hall; but the Premises of Messrs Griffiths & Co will serve the purposes of a Post Office only, and if they should be purchased, the general plan contemplated of combining the Postal and Telegraphic Departments with the Exchange Hall, will have to be abandoned. Some decision seems also necessary with regard to the site on which the new Offices should be erected when sanctioned.

I fancy that there is very little chance of either a new Office or the purchase of Messrs Griffiths premises being sanctioned for a good long time to come.

J.P.

Both the plans here proposed are open to objections. In Com.t Str.t will narrow the Timber yard of the Bonhomes and subject from Roy a paraon - but there people already much cramped in their business by the Railway Terminus can not be compressed much more & they are moved away towards Trafalgar Square in consequence of the

Experienced both the nature of the Park & the relative of levels & location

As to these difficulties I offer more information when we can give an opinion the Civil Architect the Work on the building & these I do not think there terms

But talking these demand of a Lakh Rupees beyond the for P.O. alone before that sum this the amount req^d for alteration when the Ch. Engr Estimate for P.O. - Telegraph Office & Exchange altogether amounts to £ 1,87,000/0/0

We are not yet in a position to decide. meantime the papers should go to the Gov^t Hy

Rec'd Lahore 18 Sept.

Pdt

I am disposed to think that it is not necessary now that the consignment timber Yard should on the bank - as it could be sent on being landed at the Railway direct. I despatched at once to a yard more in land - than the present there is plenty of waste land between Rajpoorana - & Serampore where a yard might be established.

Enquiry might be made about this. I think it any unlikely that sanction would be given for the purchase of Mrs Greffiths premises.

H

Memo: by the Chief Secretary.

with a Note by the Honorable Mr. Elliot

&

A Minute by the Right Honorable the President

No. 2197

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 19th October, 1858.

Read the following Papers.

Extract Minutes Consultation Military Department.

From the Post Master General

Memo: from Do

/Herewith 26th August 1858, N 3061/

/Herewith 7th Sept. 2519/

/Herewith 13th Sept. 2717/

These papers refer to the references made in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 17th July last N 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

any objections to offer to the proposed buildings being constructed on that site, instead of on Abercrombies 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 that 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 Abercrombies Battery, submits two Letters from Messrs Griffiths & Co. offering their Shop Premises in Popham's Broadway for sale, for a Sum of Rupees, in view to its occupation as a Post Office, and states that, next to the North bank, 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

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

in Council resolves to ascertain through the Military Department whether any objections exist to ~~the erection of~~ a Timber yard in that locality.

With regard to Messrs Griffiths & Co's tender of their Shop Premises in Popham's Broadway, 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 & Co accordingly.

10 Copies to the Offg Chief Engr Dept 20th
1 — " — " Marine Dept " "
1 — " — " Post Master General " "

Further Reports 1864

Public Works 1858 Depts
Cons: 19th October

No 2197

Extract Minis: of Cons:
of 19th October 58.

Ex: Minis Cons: 30 November 58
Ct No 2962 in Cons 21st Jany 59
No 207

Are not willing
that the Boatmen now occupy-
ing the ground North of the
Railway Terminus should be
made to remove their huts &c
from that place in order to
make room for the Commissari-
at Timber Yard, the site of
the present yard being given
up for the Post and Telegraph
Offices. Observe that there
is plenty of waste land be-
tween Kayaposum and Perambore
which might be made avail-
able for the purpose. It is
therefore resolved to ascertain
whether any objection exists
to laying out a Timber Yard
in that locality.

No 107 at 110

Cy Cth R18th