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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.*Cons 31-3-1860*

G.O. No.

*658*Press
Mis.*121-122*

Dated

*29-3-**1860.*Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of March 1860.*

No. 121. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 20th March 1860, No. 1,084:—

Communicating a letter from the Quarter Master General of the Army, regarding a Subordinate of Department Public Works at Jackatalla being ejected from his house by the Commanding Officer, and concurring with the Commander-in-Chief that the house should be restored. } (Vide Military Proceedings from 11th to 20th March 1860, Nos. 233 @ 235.)

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, 29th March 1860, No. 658.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with reference to his letter dated 6th January 1860 No. 8,870.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer, 6th January 1860, No. 8870; to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government, a case of notice of ejection issued by the Officer Commanding

1 Original letter from the Special Executive Engineer, 3rd Battalion of Her Majesty's 60th Rifles at Jackatalla.
Jackatalla, No. 261, dated 22nd December 1859, with 1 enclosure.

2. The building in question was built some time ago by one of the subordinates employed on the Jackatalla works, and when he had resided in it for some time, he afterwards sold the house to the Apothecary in Medical charge, and it is now rented by one of the subordinate Officers employed on the works.

3. This small house is certainly situated within the limits of the Cantonment, and, therefore I suppose in the strictest interpretation of Military regulations, may come within the authority of the Officer Commanding the station, but it was never intended for, and never has been an Officer's dwelling; it is simply an Overseer's quarters, built there with the special purpose of being in the immediate vicinity of the works, and I am obliged to object for the interests of Government, to this summary ejection of which notice has been given, as the removal of the present tenant, an Overseer, may be exceedingly detrimental to the progress of the general works at Jackatalla.

ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1860, No. 66.

Referred to the Military Department for consideration.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief for His Excellency's observations.

17th January 1860.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 7th March 1860, No. 80; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Adverting to order of Government dated 17th January last, I have the honor by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to submit the explanation as offered by the Officer Commanding Jackatalla, in reference to the complaint made through the Department Public Works, from a Draughtsman at Jackatalla, that he had been ejected from his house to make way for an Officer.

* To be returned. 2. Major Ward's letters* are enclosed in original.

3. That Officer's letter dated 31st December last, which he believes not to have been received, was duly received, but was not replied to, because, as the 60th Rifles were then about to leave the Hills, the question would have been decided by that vacation.

4. Again, in para. 4 of Major Ward's letter dated 4th ultimo, No. 110, he lays stress upon a passage in a letter from this Office to his address, as follows:—

Para. 6. "Several houses are occupied by non-military persons—you will be so good as to look to this—Carpenter Maistries, and Engineer Writers, and such like persons cannot be permitted to occupy houses built on land granted only for the erection of Officers' Quarters, while so many Officers are either without houses, or are domiciled together in inconvenient numbers."

5. Major Ward has therefore mistaken the authority he possesses in the matter, and while acting for the welfare of the service, he has too hastily ejected from his house, a subordinate, which though once occupied as an Officer's residence, was not originally erected for that purpose. The land on which it is built having been granted to one Crawshaw of the Department Public Works, to build a house for his own use.

6. The difficulty under which the Officers labored in respect of Quarters at Jackatalla, was brought to the notice of Government in my letter dated 14th November 1859, No. 428, and there appears no mode of obviating it, short of building Officers' Quarters, or of ejecting non-military occupants.

7. The non-receipt of any orders from this Office spoken of in a previous para. of the letter, strengthened Major Ward in his view of the propriety of the step he had already taken, but as the ejection had taken place prior to the reference to this Office, it was certainly unauthorized.

8. Under the circumstances therefore, the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that, inconvenient as it is to Officers as a matter of personal comfort, and detrimental as it is to discipline that they should be compelled to live at Coonoor, when their duties are at Jackatalla, the house should be restored to the person ejected. Major Ward has been already informed that he should have waited for orders from Head Quarters, prior to taking the steps he has.

9. The form of Lease which is now being revised in communication with the Government Solicitor, will prevent the recurrence of future difficulties of the kind, but that will not remove the inconveniences attaching to the present tenure of house property in Cantonments.

From the Officer Commanding Jackatalla, 31st December 1859, No. 700; to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to inform you, that on the 20th instant, application was made to me by an Officer of the 60th, for permission to reside in a small house situated within the limits of this Cantonment.

On enquiry, I discovered that the house in question was occupied by a Draughtsman in the Engineer's Office. I however was of opinion that an Officer belonging to the Regiment quartered in this station, had a prior right than any of the subordinate Officials connected with the Public Works Department, to the house. I therefore served a notice on the occupant, desiring him to quit the premises on or before the expiration of one month from the date of the notice.

The Executive Engineer has remonstrated with me on the procedure, and I therefore beg you will be so good as to inform me if I have exceeded my duty in having endeavored to procure a Quarter for an Officer who has hitherto been obliged to live at Coonoor, in consequence of there being no house available in this station.

The house in question was, on arrival of the Battalion at Jackatalla, occupied by Lieutenant Murray.

On his departure in August last, it remained unoccupied for some little time, and I reported it to you as being too small for the accommodation of an Officer. It was subsequently rented by its present occupant, the Engineer's Draughtsman.

The inconvenience arising from living at such a distance from Barracks, has made the present applicant for the house think, that its accommodation would be quite sufficient for him; hence his application to me.

From the Officer Commanding Jackatalla, 4th February 1860, No. 110; to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George.

1. In reply to your letter dated 28th January 1860, number and subject as per margin, No. 263.

Relative to Mr. Hammet's ejection.

I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter which I wrote to you on the 31st December last, which appears not to have been received; in addition I beg to add, that the ejection took place on the 20th ultimo, in compliance with the notice served upon Mr. Hammet on the 21st December.

2. I beg to point out that I observe a material misconception on the part of Colonel Bell, in para. 3 of his letter No. 8370, dated 6th January 1860, where he states that the house in question was never an Officer's dwelling; the fact being, that the house was occupied by Mr. Murray, (late Lieutenant 60th Rifles) and to make room for whom, the late Barrack Sergeant of the station was ejected by Colonel Bedford, on the arrival of the Battalion on the Hills.

3. Another error on the part of Colonel Bell I beg to point out, which I perceive in the para. above quoted, in the latter part of which the person ordered to be ejected is stated to be an Overseer; whereas in fact he is a Draughtsman, whose whole duty is in the Engineer's Office; he has nothing whatever to do with the "progress of the general works at Jackatalla."

4. I may here be permitted to remark, that I was the more induced to imagine my orders of ejection would have been approved of by the authorities from what you stated in the 6th para. of your letter to me, No. 2319, dated Fort Saint George, 28th September 1859.

5. The correspondence forwarded with your letter under reply, is herewith returned.

No. 26.

HEAD QUARTERS, SOUTHERN DIVISION, TRICHINOPOLY,
7th February 1860.

The letter alluded to in the first paragraph was forwarded to you on the 3rd January 1860.

(Signed) R. BUDD, Major Genl.,

Commanding Southern Division.

ORDER, No. 1084, 20th March 1860.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Quarter Master General of the Army be communicated to the Department Public Works, with reference to the order in that Department, No. 65 of the 9th January 1860.

2. The Governor in Council concurs with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the house in question should be restored as proposed in para. 3 of the Quarter Master General's letter, which will accordingly be carried into effect.

(True Extract.)

M. M. H. H.
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Department Public Works, with 25 pages of papers.
" Quarter Master General, with enclosures.

Exd. J. Davis.

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with reference to his in the
dated 22 January 1860 & 1839.

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Ms. 1084.

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29 - March / 03 }
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With our Obedience

May 21 1872