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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>1713</u>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<u>667-668</u>	
Dated <u>30-6-</u>	<u>1863</u> .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th June 1863.*

No. 667. 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.

No. 668. 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.

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

Military
Barracks

N. 232

Superf. Engrs Office M. W.
Maltain 16 June 1863

From

Captain O. N. S. Chambers R.E.
& Superf. Engrs P. W.
Colonel W. Burroughs R.E.
Secretary to Government
Department Public Works

Sir,

G.O. 187444
of 6th June 1863.

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

2. Government state
the system of purchasing private
Houses for conversion into Quarters
to be both expensive and unsatisfac-
-tory; this is particularly the case
with

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 jungle wood 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 Rs. At a sale of houses at Malabar, 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. That 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 Contabul 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 Contabul.

7. By selecting this site for the Barracks, Government will save in expenditure, whilst not only will the Barracks be more eligibly located

Order of O.
No 271 of
19th Feb 1863.

located, but ^{they} will not be of that
unsatisfactory nature, which altered
private houses must ever be; the
community too will be a gainer
in as much as the 4 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 Waltham, where houses
are with great difficulty procurable.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient

Ob. Charles F. F. F.

Imp. Exp. F. F.

No 11863 Depo
From No 2127.

The Superintending
Engineer 1st D. 10

To The Secretary to Govt
D. P. M.

Dated 16th
Decd 17th } June 1863
Pecd 24 }

No 232
Encls.

Reports for the Consi-
deration of Government, certain
facts as to the disadvantages
of purchasing private houses
for conversion into Depo
for the Royal Artillery
at Wallin

With an Order
No 1713 - 31 June

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Referred to the Military Department for
consideration with reference to the order in that
Department of 1720 dated 29th May 1863 -

1st Copy
to the Military Department. Aug 1863
X283
The Secretary }
30 June 1863 }

No 667. 668