

P. W. D.

*Proceedings of the Madras Govt.  
Read the following.*

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

19th March 1881, No. 1610.

**Military Buildings.**

Read the following paper :—

No. 301. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George ; dated Bangalore, 28th February 1881, No. 110-1591.*

I have the honor, by order, and with reference to O.G., No. 1133, dated 23rd February 1881, to solicit reconsideration by Government of its order for the retention on military returns of certain old buildings in the fort and cantonment of Bellary. Most of these buildings have not been used for military purposes for years past, and none of them can ever again be required for such purposes. To retain them on military returns is merely to burden those returns most unnecessarily, and to place upon the military authorities of the station a fictitious responsibility in connection with the charge of them.

2. In a public Government document, the military authorities at Bellary were censured for want of care of certain old buildings in the fort. An enquiry was at once instituted, and it was ascertained that most of these buildings were mere ruins and that it was only through adherence to what had been the practice in this Presidency that they were retained on military returns. Any expenditure in the repair or maintenance of such buildings, or in placing guards or chowkeydars over them, would be a useless waste of public funds.

3. Convinced that the continued retention of these useless buildings on military returns was a mistake, the late Commander-in-Chief directed that Government should be addressed to have them struck off. This was done in this office letter, No. 826, dated 2nd August 1880. Shortly afterwards, an order of the Government was received, which exactly accorded with this view. The Government of India directed\* that all temporary and all surplus buildings in excess of the wants of the authorised strength

\* See O.G., Public Works Department, 5th October 1880, No. 2308-W.  
Military Department No. 6588, dated 18th October 1880.

of the troops at a station should be removed, in order to reduce expenditure on up-keep. The buildings in question at Bellary are distinctly such as are mentioned in the Order of the Government of India. They are in excess of the wants of the authorised strength of the troops at the station, and their retention as military buildings is altogether unnecessary.

4. Although the censure passed on the military authorities at Bellary in connection with these buildings was afterwards withdrawn, the Order of Government (31st January 1881, No. 559,) left it to be inferred that responsibility for the charge of these buildings rested upon the military authorities.

5. Under these circumstances, I am directed by the Provincial Commander-in-Chief to re-submit the question for the consideration of Government, and to solicit that the buildings at Bellary, as per list enclosed, may be struck off military returns. It will be observed that some of these buildings, which are not actual ruins, have, with the sanction of Government, been handed over to Civil departments.

6. I am to point out that unless this is sanctioned, the military authorities at Bellary will be placed in a very awkward dilemma. They must either accept responsibility for the charge of old useless buildings, and care for them in the matter of protection and repairs, which would be an utter waste of public funds, or they must allow them to continue uncared for, as they have been for years past, and thus treat as a mere nominal thing the responsibility in connection with them which the Order of Government implies.

7. Neither of these courses would be right, and the Provincial Commander-in-Chief therefore requests Government to sanction the buildings in question being struck off military returns.

8. I am to add that the question of the future custody of the fort of Bellary does not affect the removal from military returns of buildings that are no longer required. In all cantonments and forts, when buildings are no longer required for military purposes, they are, or should be, struck off Military returns, although the cantonment or fort still remains in military charge.

9. As the Order of Government, No. 1133, dated 23rd February 1881, invites attention to para. 5 of Order of Government, No. 559, dated 31st January 1881, I am directed by the Provincial Commander-in-Chief to say that he has no personal knowledge of the fort of Bellary and therefore does not wish to make any suggestions regarding it, especially as he is informed that an officer of such great military experience as Sir Neville Chamberlain, who personally inspected the fort, has fully expressed to Government his views on the subject.

No. 302.

ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1881, No. 1610.

While the Government desire that the fort at Bellary shall remain in military charge and await the proposals of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief for its proper custody, they sanction the removal from the military returns of the buildings in the fort and cantonment specified in the Quartermaster-General's list, which will be transferred to the Public Works Department for issue of the necessary orders for their disposal.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,  
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.

„ Public Works Department, with list.  
„ Revenue Department.

*Order thereon, 24 March 1881, No. 801 W.*

*The list will be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer, 1<sup>st</sup> file who will, in communication with the collector of Bellary, submit proposals for the utilization or disposal of the buildings in question.*

*True Extract*

*J. Pennycook, Major R.E.  
Under Secy to Govt P.W.D.*

*To  
The Rev. Secy.*

2 copies given to Corporal  
21-11-81-  
6. No 1889  
3. S. Copies.  
Govt. of (1881) Madras  
MILITARY.  
P. W. D.

To  
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.  
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 19th.

Issued.

Recd.

Encl.

~~G.O., 19th March 1881, No. 1610.~~

24<sup>th</sup> March 1881 No 801/W.

MARCH.  
Nos. 301-302.

Sanctioning the removal from the military returns of the buildings in the Bellary fort and cantonment, and transferring a list thereof (received from the Quartermaster-General) to the Public Works Department, for issue of the necessary orders for their disposal.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.  
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

19th March 1881, No. 1610.

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\* See O.G., Public Works Department, 5th October 1880, No. 2308-W.  
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(True Extract.)

*W. H. A. H. H.*

Colonel,

*Ag. Secretary to Government.*

To the Quartermaster-General.

„ Public Works Department, with list.

*and 50/1000*

Exd. A. Raitt.

5. 10-80 h 2308 W  
5-2-81 - 321 W  
9-3- - 615 W

S. W. Cal. 1776.

Gobt. of (1881) Madras.  
MILITARY.

To  
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,  
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 19th.

Issued

Recd. — 21<sup>st</sup> — SC-5  
Encl. 1

G.O., 19th March 1881, No. 1610.

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N<sup>o</sup> 801 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 24<sup>th</sup> March/81

Read the following:—

Proceedings of Govt. in  
the Military Dept. } NE No. 1610 d/19<sup>th</sup> March 1881

The list will  
be forwarded to the  
Superintending En-  
gineer 1<sup>st</sup> Circle, who  
will, in communication  
with the Collector of  
Bellary, submit pro-  
posals for the utiliza-  
tion or disposal of the  
Buildings in question

L. 22/3

S. E. 1<sup>st</sup> Circle  
with list in original  
Rev. Dept.

24-3-81

S. S.

24-3-81

N 803 W

N<sup>o</sup> 803 W of 24<sup>th</sup> March/81  
 Communicated to the  
 Superintending Engineer  
 2<sup>d</sup> Circle with reference  
 to his letter N<sup>o</sup> 89 W of 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Feb'y 1881.

S. W. C. N<sup>o</sup> 1774.  
 Govt. of {1881} Madras.  
 (Educational Dept)  
 P. W. of March  
 The S. W. C.

To

Dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 1881, No. 75.  
 Recd. 21<sup>st</sup>

Nos.

B. N. 801 W of 24<sup>th</sup> March/81

B. N. 801 W of 24<sup>th</sup> March/81  
 B. N. 801 W of 24<sup>th</sup> March/81

Directing A. C. H. B. to  
 place the sum  
 of Rs 62-12 at the  
 credit of P. W. Dept  
 for constructing a  
 school house &  
 latrine at Kestica  
 Gherry.

J. G. H.

S. C. 2<sup>d</sup> Circle ✓  
 Ex. P. W. A. ✓

24-3-81

with order  
 A 803 N