

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
MILITARY.

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

N^o 8754d/ 31st March/81

Communicated to the
Supg. Engrs 2^d Circle.

The question of an assign-
-ment of funds will be con-
-sidered when the project for
the two Barracks for a Field
Battery of Artillery comes under
review.

Sgd./ J.P.

Dated March, 21st.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 21st March 1881, No. 1657.

B/P 8754d/ 31-3/81

MARCH.
Nos. 320-321.

Sanctioning the purchase of certain private
houses at St. Thomas' Mount, at a cost not
exceeding Rs. 7,290, and directing the Public
Works Department to provide the necessary
funds, &c.

S.E. 2^d Circle
Encl. Sept.

With order.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

21st March 1881, No. 1657.

Military Buildings.

Read the following paper :—

No. 320. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Bangalore, 7th March 1881, No. 160-1767.*

With reference to Proceedings of Madras Government, 3rd December 1880, No. 7569, and 14th January 1881, No. 206, I have the honor, by order, to forward the documents as per margin, in which the local authorities strongly advocate the purchase by Government and the demolition of eleven small houses at St. Thomas' Mount, in order to clear the vicinity of the site on which it is proposed to build two new barracks for a battery of Field Artillery.

2. Colonel Gloag estimates that the buildings in question could be purchased for Rs. 7,290. The cost of demolition would have to be added to this sum, whilst the sale of the materials would fetch a certain amount as a set-off against the outlay of Rs. 7,290 for the purchase of the buildings.

3. For sanitary reasons the removal of these buildings is very desirable, and the Provincial Commander-in-Chief recommends that the Public Works Department be empowered to purchase the buildings and have the ground levelled as part of the scheme for the construction of the new barracks.

From Colonel A. R. GLOAG, R.A., Commanding St. Thomas' Mount, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated St. Thomas' Mount, 28th January 1881, No. 110.

Referring to Proceedings of Madras Government as per margin, I have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the Board therein detailed assembled at this station on Wednesday, 26th instant,—Surgeon-Major H. C. Guinness, Army Medical Department, doing duty, Royal Artillery, and Major J. B. Richardson, Commanding the Battery, being in attendance. The Board unanimously came to the opinion that unless the small cottages alluded to in Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, dated 27th October last, No. 2478-A.W., are to be pulled down, it would be impossible to build the necessary barrack accommodation for a battery on the present site. From every point of view (if these barracks are to be built, and they are absolutely required if the battery is to be stationed here), sanitary and otherwise, this is imperatively necessary. They should never have been allowed to remain where they are so long; they spoil the site both of the old and new barracks. A much smaller scale of valuation as compensation could, with every justice to the owners, be drawn up. Unless these buildings are removed, the Board do not think that it would be of any use going on with the building of the barracks.

Major Ross Thompson has undertaken to prepare plans, showing how matters stand now, and how the new barracks would be situated on the proposed plan to be submitted by the Board, should the cottages alluded to be demolished and the site cleared.

No. 14-G.

Forwarded to the Quartermaster-General.

I concur in the opinion expressed by Colonel Gloag. I consider the annexation of the ground occupied by the small parcherry buildings highly desirable, not only in order to secure a really good site for the new buildings but also on the score of discipline. It is in my opinion objectionable that these little private dwellings should be permitted to remain so close to the men's barracks.

The compensation has been certainly over-estimated; it is probable that a clearance could be effected for a sum considerably less than that first submitted for the approval of Government.

On these grounds, I strongly advise a reconsideration of the question.

In the mean time, as the battery is comfortably quartered in the South Barracks, Mount, there is no absolute necessity to precipitate matters.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
1st February 1881.

(Signed) R. C. STEWART, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Centre District.

From Colonel A. R. GLOAG, R.A., Commanding St. Thomas' Mount, to the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Centre District, Fort St. George; dated St. Thomas' Mount, 28th February 1881, No. 119.

Referring to your Diary No. 97, of 7th current, forwarding letter,* No. 924, of 3rd idem, Enclosures, Procs. of Govt., 11th and 14th January 1881. I have the honor to furnish herewith the list of prices as compensation to the owners of the houses referred to in the foregoing correspondence:—

List of Houses and Compensation.

No.	Census No.	Owners' Names.	Amount will take.
1	812	Mrs. Gurner	RS. 1,500
2	813	Mrs. Wilson	1,100
3	852	Theroovangada Moodelly	450
4	854	Ramanja Charry	350
5	855	Mr. Hargreaves	800
6	856	Ramanja Charry	250
7	857	Moonasawmy Moodelly	390
8	858	} Under one roof—Rungasawmy Pillay	450
9	859		450
10	860	Mrs. Maguire	800
11	861	Rungasawmy	750
Total compensation; will take no less ...			7,290

2. I stated in a previous letter that it would be quite useless, and indeed a waste of public funds, to endeavour to build new barracks on the present site unless these bungalows are purchased and materials removed, or sold or utilised. The value of the materials may be roughly estimated at about 3,000 rupees, the cost of demolition would have to be deducted; but if put up to auction, it is believed about 2,000 rupees would be realised for the materials,—the purchasers being made to at once demolish the houses and remove the materials.

3. I regret that delay should have taken place in the preparation of this report, but my hands have been more than full with census work and the annual inspection of four batteries of Artillery, with the preparation of the accompanying inspection returns and reports. I would suggest that the compensation be accepted.

No. 898.

Forwarded to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George, with reference to his No. 929, of the 3rd February 1881, and strongly recommended.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3rd March 1881.

(Signed) R. C. STEWART, Brigadier-General,
Commanding Centre District.

No. 321.

ORDER THEREON, 21st March 1881, No. 1657.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions the purchase of the private houses in question at a cost not exceeding Rs. 7,290.

2. The Public Works Department will provide the required funds, and issue the necessary orders for the demolition of the buildings, disposal of the materials and clearing the site.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Quartermaster-General.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raith.