

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

3rd November 1884, No. 5332.

Account Department.

Read the following papers:—

- No. 8. *From Colonel C. CARTER, Controller of Military Accounts, to Lieut.-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 4th August 1884, A.*

Having been informed demi-officially by the Superintending Engineer that he has been instructed to arrange, in communication with me, for hiring houses in Madras for the occupation of the offices of the Military Account department with effect from the 1st September, I have the honor to represent that it is essential, for the proper and efficient discharge of the duties of the department, that the offices, if not in the same building, shall be close together to admit of easy intercommunication between the Examiners and between the Examiners and the Controller, both in his own and the Accounts Branch of his office.

2. The concentration of the offices of the department in each presidency has always been an object which was considered most desirable to attain. In this and the Bombay presidency it was attained at considerable expense about twenty years ago; in this presidency by the addition of an extra story to the buildings now occupied, and in Bombay by the removal of the offices from the presidency town to Poona, to a building originally intended for an hotel. In Bengal also the offices of the department will be under one roof by the end of this year. I therefore beg most respectfully, but urgently, to deprecate any plan by which the offices under me will now be dispersed and located in buildings at a distance from each other.

3. The Superintending Engineer proposes three houses, two of them described as the two best he knows of, and, I believe, he is correct in so describing them; but these are all at a considerable distance from one another, the extreme distance being about a mile and-a-half. This being the case, the houses, I regret, are not suitable, and I know of no collection of buildings in Madras equal to the accommodation of my department. I therefore beg that, before any orders are issued, my objection to the dispersion of the offices under me may be fully considered.

4. As, however, the Government of India have approved of the removal of the offices from Fort St. George, I have the honor to submit the following proposal which, while ensuring the concentration of the offices, provides for their early accommodation elsewhere without any additional expenditure to the State.

5. The buildings at Bangalore, known as the "Cubbon Rooms" with attached bungalows, all standing in the same compound and within a few yards of one another, are, in my opinion, in every way suitable for the temporary or permanent accommodation of my offices, and are available for occupation at a month's notice. The rent of these premises is Rs. 700, an amount covered by the ordinary presidency house-rent of the officers of the department.

6. The Cubbon Rooms are lofty, airy, and well ventilated; the Superintending Engineer went over them with me unofficially and will doubtless be able to give an opinion on them, which will warrant their survey with a view to occupation. As I have before stated, I am not aware of any other available buildings which

can be considered suitable for the accommodation of the Military Account department, the condition on which the Government of India sanctioned their removal from Fort St. George; and as the Government of Madras in their Proceedings of the 31st May last sanctioned the removal of the offices from Madras to Bangalore, and have, I understand, abandoned the scheme of locating the offices in the Fort on the unfavorable opinion of the Chief Engineer as to their adaptability, I trust that the present proposal will meet with approval, as it meets all requirements.

No. 9. *From Colonel C. CARTER, Controller of Military Accounts, to Lieut.-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 11th August 1884, A.*

In forwarding a copy of my letter, dated 11th August 1884, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, I have the honor to state that I much regret not having been able to tell him that the department could be accommodated in any of the buildings proposed by him. I have given the matter very serious consideration, and I am prepared, if necessary, to show, for the satisfaction of Government, what, apart from the discouraging financial aspect of the proposal, would be the seriously disturbing effect on the system of work that would follow the dispersion of the offices of the department.

From Colonel C. CARTER, Controller of Military Accounts, to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, Chepauk; dated Fort St. George, 11th August 1884, No. 1489.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your demi-official furnishing a list of houses in view to the accommodation of the Military Account department in Madras. I have inspected the houses in question, the majority of which I find are now occupied, and no one of which is equal to meeting the wants of my department. I have, accordingly, the honor, with a view to the early submission of the report called for by Government in their Proceedings as per margin,* to inform you that, as the hiring of any cluster of the houses mentioned would necessitate the separation of the offices

* Proceedings of Government, Military Department, No. 3807, of 7th August 1884, para. 4.

under me to such an extent that, in my opinion, it would involve the disorganization of the department and completely paralyze work, I am unable to report any of them as suitable. The Controller, the Examiners, and their establishments must have ready access to each other, and this frequent personal intercommunication would be impossible in detached houses in a climate like Madras.

2. I see that in your demi-official you also refer to possible accommodation at St. Thomas' Mount. The Proceedings of Government, however, only make mention of Madras, and I cannot for a moment suppose that the Government of Madras would ever contemplate recommending to the Government of India that the head-quarters of the Military Account department should be established at such a small and unimportant cantonment, even if room for it could be found there.

3. I am sending a copy of this to the Military department for information, and shall be glad to be furnished with a similar copy of your report to the Chief Engineer.

No. 10. *From Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauk, 14th August 1884, No. 1850.*

With reference to G.O., No. 1967-W., dated the 11th instant, I have the honor to forward letter, No. 1489, of the same date, addressed to me by the Controller of Military Accounts. I first obtained the measurements of an empty house in Hadow's Road and another in More's Road. The superficial area contained in these two houses appeared to be such as would suffice for the officers and clerks of the Military Accounts department; but, as there is a large record department and a great mass of records, I considered that a third house in the Pantheon Road,

then vacant, would complete the required accommodation. The rent of the three houses together came to Rs. 530, and I telegraphed to you on the 29th ultimo that I believed Rs. 550 would cover the rent of hired houses.

2. Since then I gave the Controller of Military Accounts a list of several of the larger houses chiefly occupied as hotels; and from conversations with Colonel Carter I find that he considers it indispensably necessary that the several offices should be very near each other, also that each office should have its own records with it. Hitherto the records have not been thus separated; but, for detached houses, it is necessary to calculate the area that would be occupied by the records of each of the offices. The houses used as hotels on the Mount Road could not be taken up without some notice, and it can only be expected that higher terms would be demanded than would be the case where houses have been standing empty.

3. There are no two of the houses sufficiently near to each other to allow of communication on foot without much discomfort during office hours; and more than two houses would be required for the whole of the offices. There is a certain minimum space that must be allowed to each branch of the Military Accounts department, and if a house can contain two branches, but not the whole of a third, then the third must go bodily to another house. In short, without going further into particulars, houses are wanted of certain sizes; and the aggregate requisite area has to be provided—not any how, but to suit the different parts.

4. Hence, in order that the Controller's conditions may be satisfied, it does not appear to be possible to procure suitable hired accommodation in Madras.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have looked over Patter's Gardens, and find there is not near enough room for the offices. Round the quadrangle there are a great many small rooms, but the inner height of the walls is only about 12 feet, and the width of the rooms is rather less than 12 feet. These ranges of buildings are therefore not suitable.

Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

The Superintending Engineer, V Circle, reports that it does not appear possible to procure suitable hired accommodation in Madras for the Military Accounts offices, bearing in view the conditions laid down by the Controller.

Those conditions appear to be—

- (1) that all the offices must be housed in one building, as the "necessary frequent personal intercommunication would be impossible in detached houses in a climate like Madras";
- (2) that the records must be located in the same buildings with the office establishments.

2. With respect to the first condition, I would observe that the Controller's proposal to locate the offices in the Bangalore fort involved their being scattered within no less than five detached buildings, separated from each other by a maximum distance of some 600 yards; and with respect to the second condition, that proposal involved the location of the records in an isolated building at one end of the fort.

3. It was in communication with me that the Superintending Engineer suggested the houses named in para. 1 of his letter. The two houses proposed for the accommodation of the offices are separated by a distance of about 800 yards, while the house proposed for the records is distant from them about one mile. Under instructions from me, the Superintending Engineer informed Colonel Carter that the Government would be prepared to connect all three houses by telephonic communication, and also to provide any necessary number of small covered four-wheeled vehicles, to be pushed by coolies, similar to those in frequent use by

mercantile offices. Colonel Carter, however, said at once that those proposals could not meet the difficulty. I cannot but think that he attaches too much weight to the necessity for constant personal intercommunication. That necessity can scarcely be so urgent as in the cases of the Agent and the Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway Company; yet their offices are more than two miles apart, and the constant necessary intercommunication is efficiently carried out by telephone.

4. When it was proposed that the offices should be moved *permanently* into the Bangalore fort, the fact that the five buildings were scattered about at some considerable distances was not regarded as a difficulty, and the proposal to move the offices *temporarily* into three detached buildings at Madras, with the additional provision of telephones and conveyances, does not appear to me so utterly impracticable as it does to Colonel Carter.

5. It was also under instructions from me that the Superintending Engineer suggested the possibility of finding suitable *temporary* accommodation at St. Thomas' Mount; but it will be seen that Colonel Carter considers it out of the question even to contemplate the temporary location of his offices "at such a small and unimportant cantonment." It is necessary to explain that the Superintending Engineer was instructed by me to make that suggestion for the reason that I understood, from Colonel Carter's own proposals, that it was a matter of indifference where the offices were located so long as suitable accommodation was provided.

OOTACAMUND,
18th August 1884.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

No. 496-E.

Forwarded to the Military Department, with advertence to the Proceedings in that department, under date the 7th August 1884, No. 3807.

OOTACAMUND,
18th August 1884.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Military Department, with 3 enclosures.

No. 11. *Extract of a letter from Colonel C. CARTER, Controller of Military Accounts, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 25th August 1884, A.*

Para. 2. I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to urge how necessary it is that the long-vexed question of the location of the Military Account department should be speedily settled, for not only does the present state of uncertainty most seriously interfere with the despatch of business, but the almost daily personal attacks and misrepresentations of the leading Madras journal are further calculated to foster a discontented and mutinous spirit amongst the subordinates of the different offices.

3. This is so very serious a matter that I would remind Government of the plan for the immediate and suitable accommodation of the department which I submitted to them in my letter of the 4th August; and I would also invite their attention to Major Sawyer's remarks in paras. 6 and 7 of his report.

Extract of a letter from Major G. W. SAWYER, Military Accounts Department, to the Controller of Military Accounts, Madras; dated Bangalore, 23rd August 1884.

Para. 6. Whilst thus reporting unfavorably on the property I was deputed to inspect, I should, I think, fail in my duty were I not to mention how much I was struck by the suitability of the "Cubbon Rooms" at this station for the location of the offices of the Military Account department.

7. No one, even cursorily viewing the ample space offered by Mr. Brown, can fail to see that it is the very accommodation, short of the erection of an entirely new building devised for the purpose, which is wanted for the location of the abovenamed offices. The space available amounts to some 18,000 square feet, to which could be added another block if needed, and it can be so allotted and arranged as to place each office in *one* room under the eye of its superintendent—a consideration of the utmost importance; and, as the several buildings are within a few feet of each other, the whole department would be practically under one roof.

No. 12. *From Colonel C. CARTER, Controller of Military Accounts, to Lieut.-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 25th August 1884, B.*

I have been informed that the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, has received instructions from the Chief Engineer to report on the suitability of certain barracks at St. Thomas' Mount, for the accommodation of the Military Account department, and I lose no time in submitting a respectful but emphatic protest against any such arrangement for the location of my department.

2. St. Thomas' Mount is a small cantonment upwards of eight miles distant from Madras. It is not a military centre, and for that reason alone is, in my opinion, quite unfitted to become, even as a temporary measure, the head-quarters of the Military Account department.

3. It likewise affords no suitable private house accommodation for either officers or clerks, so that communication with Madras, where the officers and clerks of the department would have to reside, would necessarily be by road or rail. Distance excludes the former from consideration, for a compulsory daily drive of sixteen or seventeen miles to and from office is altogether out of the question. Communication by rail I also consider impracticable in the case of a large department. Moreover, the forced closing of the offices at a fixed moment daily, notwithstanding the pressing urgency of business, would, I submit, be most detrimental to the progress of work, and the interests of the public service.

No. 13.

No. 4084.

The Secretary to Government, Military Department, is directed to request that the attention of the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, be called to an article headed "Removal of Public offices" in the *Madras Mail* of the 18th instant, suggesting that the buildings now occupied by the Madras Male and Female Civil Orphan Asylums near the Southern India Railway terminus might possibly be made available for the offices of the Military Accounts department. An inquiry regarding this suggestion should be made.

2. If the buildings in question be found sufficiently commodious and in other respects suitable, the Government desire to be informed whether other premises could be found for the accommodation of the asylums, and whether the Directors of those institutions would, in consideration of Government providing sufficient and suitable accommodation elsewhere in Madras, transfer their present property to Government.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
21st August 1884.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.

No. 14.

No. 4085.

The Secretary to Government, Military Department, is directed to inquire, for the information of Government, whether the barracks at St. Thomas' Mount now occupied by the battery of garrison artillery shortly to be located in Fort St.

George will be available if required temporarily for the accommodation of the Madras Military Accounts offices when vacated by that battery.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
21st August 1884.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

No. 15. From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Quarter Master General, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 27th August 1884, No. 1046-A.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 4085, dated 21st instant, I am desired to state that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has no objection to the Military Accounts offices being located in the barracks at St. Thomas' Mount now occupied by the battery of garrison artillery when it is removed to Fort St. George.

No. 16. From Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Madras, 25th August 1884, No. 2019.

In reply to your memorandum, No. 517-E., dated the 20th instant, I have the honor to report that I have examined the north barracks at the Mount, now occupied by the Royal Artillery garrison battery, and the south barracks close by which are standing empty.

2. The south barracks consist of one long barrack room, 427 feet long by 38 feet broad, and there are three upstairs rooms, one at each end, and the third over the centre of the barrack room.

There is thus a great deal of space, but the barrack room is divided into three bays in cross section; the middle portion is 15 feet wide, while on each side there are pillars connected by arches which bear the roof joists and form inner verandahs. There are outer verandahs on both sides; there is only one centre door-way on the front of the barrack, while at the back there are doors alternating with the windows.

3. Much room is taken up by the double row of pillars; the walls are low, measuring 12½ feet to the under side of the joists; in each half barrack there is one large roof ventilator thrown across and some six feet higher than the rest of the roof; otherwise there is no ventilation through the terraced roof.

4. The rooms upstairs would provide for six officers, and the offices might be accommodated in the barrack room if the superficial area alone be considered. But looking to the great number of clerks, and the great bulk of records, the air must stagnate and be very oppressive. It would thus be necessary to take the north barrack accommodation also; the main barrack room is of the same size as the south barrack, while above there is only one room now used as the battery office.

5. The buildings are faulty in construction; but by allowing ample ground space for the offices in taking the two barracks, the drawbacks arising from want of height and ventilation would be reduced. The long barrack rooms have an open passage at each end leading out to the back into the barrack yard; doors would have to be put in if the offices are to be located in the barracks, and pandals would be required on the west side of two of the upstairs rooms where there are no verandahs; but on preliminary inspection little further appears requisite to be done to provide accommodation.

6. I have since received your memorandum, No. 529, of the 22nd instant. From general recollection of the Orphan Asylum buildings in Egmore, I do not think there is nearly enough room for the Military Accounts offices, but I will report again when I have obtained the measurements.

From Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Madras, 1st September 1884, No. 2087.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 529-E., dated the 22nd August 1884, I have the honor to report that I have inspected the Civil Orphan Asylum buildings at Egmore and find that they are sufficiently commodious, but not in other respects suitable for the offices of Military Accounts.

2. The buildings consist of a long two-storied building, the boys' school; at a little distance there is the boys' hospital to the north-west, and to the south-east there is the head master's bungalow. The girls' school is a double-storied building enclosed by a compound wall, and the girls' hospital is near their school.

3. The above buildings could be made use of; and there are also an old school-house now used as a chapel, the assistant master's quarters and the quarters of the matron and apothecary; inferior tiled buildings that are not taken into account, besides the cook-room and out-offices.

4. In the boys' school upstairs there is one long room 224 feet in length by 36 feet broad, divided into three bays by two rows of pillars supporting the terraced roof. This would make a spacious office room, but the height of the walls is only 11½ feet, there are no verandahs, and there are only venetian window shutters, no glazed shutters.

Down stairs the long hall is used as a dining room and play room; but the accommodation is spoiled, as the height of the walls is only 11½ feet and there is a row of wide piers and low arches making an inner verandah on each side. To the north the verandah is closed by venetian doors; to the south the verandah is quite open. The lower story, as it is, could not be used as an office.

5. The girls' school has three good rooms upstairs 15½ feet high, but the two rooms below are only 10¾ feet high. The boys' hospital has a room 13 feet high, and another 18 feet high; this small detached building is good so far as it goes, and so is the head master's bungalow, which has four rooms 14 feet high. The girls' hospital has two good sized rooms in which the walls are about 11¾ feet high, but another similar room is only 9¾ feet high.

6. In the five detached buildings mentioned in para. 2, viz., the boys' school upstairs, the girls' school, the boys and girls' hospital, and the head master's bungalow, there is not accommodation that would be considered suitable for the clerks in the offices alone. The space would be found for them by taking the lower rooms of the girls' hospital (para. 5); the officers and their assistants are thus still left out.

7. Under these circumstances I have not gone on to inquire about other premises being found for the accommodation of the asylums.

No. 620-E.

Transferred to the Military Department, with advertence to the correspondence noted below:—

No. 496-E., of 18th August 1884, Public Works Department.

No. 4084, of 21st August 1884, Military Department.

2. The Superintending Engineer has been requested to submit plans of the north and south barracks at St. Thomas' Mount, together with an estimate showing the probable cost of the alterations, &c., which, in his opinion, will be required for the proper accommodation of the Military Accounts Offices. From his letter it is understood that the cost will amount to only a small sum.

OOTACAMUND,
4th September 1884.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 4575.

Referred to the Controller of Military Accounts for opinion as to the suitability of the garrison artillery barracks at St. Thomas' Mount for the temporary accommodation of the Military Accounts Offices.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
16th September 1884.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

No. 17. From the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department; dated 17th September 1884, No. 686-E.

ABSTRACT.—Transferring letters from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, covering plans of the north and south artillery barracks at St. Thomas' Mount and an estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,120, for alterations to accommodate the offices of the Madras Account department.

No. 4644.

Forwarded, with plans, to the Controller of Military Accounts, in continuation of Military Department No. 4575, dated 16th September 1884.

(By Order.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
18th September 1884. Offg. Secretary to Government.

No. 18. From Colonel C. CARTER, Controller of Military Accounts, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 30th September 1884, E.

I have the honor to submit the following report as called for in your memorandum marginally cited, the enclosures of which are also returned.

No. 4575 of 16th September 1884.
No. 4644 of 18th September 1884.

2. As the north and south barracks at St. Thomas' Mount afford a superficial area which would doubtless meet the requirements of a similar number of men to those in the Military Account department, and the buildings are the property of the State, the proposal to use them for the accommodation of a public department is in the abstract unassailable, but I desire to offer the following remarks on the subject of their suitability for the offices of the Military Account department.

3. I would in the first place invite attention to the present report on them by the Superintending Engineer. He states that "the walls are low, measuring 12½ feet to the underside of the joists; in each half barrack there is one large roof ventilator thrown across, otherwise there is no ventilation through the terraced roof." The air must stagnate and be very oppressive. The buildings are faulty in construction, but by allowing ample ground space for the offices in taking the two barracks the drawbacks arising from want of height and ventilation would be reduced" (not removed).

4. To this severe professional condemnation I would add that, from a careful personal inspection of the barracks, it seems to me that they are undeniably hot and oppressive, which condition is easily accounted for, as, in addition to their being "faulty in construction" as observed by the Superintending Engineer, the disused south barracks have been medically reported on as "shut out from the north and east winds," the only refreshing ones on this coast, and "the heat," already aggravated by such exclusion, "increased by radiation from the hill."

5. The barracks are low, flat roofed, single-storied, and flush with the ground on the side nearest the rock. The rooms upstairs referred to as providing accommodation for six officers could not be used for that purpose, as they are on the terraced roof, and not only get the radiated heat from the rock immediately behind, but also from the roof around them. They are, moreover, accessible only by means of outside flights of steps leading from the barrack yard, and are, in consequence, practically isolated from the barrack room below, where the assistants and clerks would work. These rooms, I understand, have at times been used as regimental offices, and one is still used as the Brigade office, but there can be no analogy between these offices and that of a large public department. It must be borne in mind that these small offices are complete in themselves and that there is no occasion for constant communication either with officers in the other rooms on the roof or with clerks in the room below, as there would be were the rooms used, as proposed, for the officers of the Military Account department.

6. I would also remark that the height of the barracks throughout is less than the average height of the buildings in the fort at Bangalore, which the Chief Engineer animadverted on in his report (see para. 17 of Military Secretary's minute, Proceedings of Government, No. 3807, of 7th August 1884). Thirteen feet having been considered inadequate in a cool station, 12½ feet, even with increased space, would surely not suffice in a hot one in buildings such as above described.

7. On consideration of the above objections, Government will, I am sure, be of opinion that the barracks are not suitable for the accommodation of a body of men engaged the whole day through in close mental application, and that, owing to their situation at the very base of the mount, no alteration could render them so.

8. To the above objections to the barracks as buildings, I have to add the following remarks, which are wholly apart from the question of their suitability or otherwise.

9. Setting aside the question of private houses for the officers, that of housing the clerks remains, and I think I may confidently state that at the Mount there is no sufficient accommodation available for them, and that, even if there was, by far the larger number would continue to live in their present houses in Madras.

10. The distance of the Mount from Madras is 8½ miles (*vide Route Book*), so that the idea of the men proceeding to and from office daily by road may at once be discarded, and the railway considered as the only means of communication.

11. At Madras the railway station may be put down as being on an average two miles from the residences of the clerks, and at the Mount as one mile from the barracks, so that, besides the railway fare, the clerks would have to make arrangements for their conveyance at both ends of their journey. The fare and double carriage hire would together entail on them an expense which few of them could afford. It has been suggested that Government might perhaps be prepared to arrange for a special train service at the cost of the State; if so, it would have to be included in the cost of the project, and would, I believe, amount to a very considerable sum.

12. The coming and going of the whole body of clerks by train at fixed hours daily would further be most detrimental to the progress of work; for, notwithstanding the pressing urgency of business, the whole of the offices would necessarily have to close at the same hour daily to enable the clerks to regain their homes, and it must not be overlooked that a certain percentage of daily absentees from failure to meet the morning train must be expected.

13. The location of the Military Account department at the Mount would thus not only be directly prejudicial to the interests of Government, but it would also fail to be of use in remedying the state of affairs brought to notice in my letter of the 31st March last regarding the extraneous duties undertaken by some of the employés, while the fact of returning daily at a fixed hour would tend to an increase, rather than otherwise, of such private business, to effectually stop which it is most desirable that the connection of the clerks with Madras should be altogether severed.

14. The reasons against the proposal may thus be summed up—

- (1) The construction and position of the barracks at the Mount render them unsuitable;
- (2) The department being dependent on a train service, special or ordinary, the working of the offices would be most prejudicially effected;
- (3) The employés of the department would not be severed from their private employ.

15. As these reasons will, I believe, be accepted by Government as sufficient for abandoning the proposal to locate the department at the Mount, I would beg to urge a consideration of the alternative set forth in my report, A, of 4th August 1884. The buildings therein referred to are offered on a five years' lease at Rs. 700 a month. The extra cost of carrying out the proposal is only the initial one of transferring the offices, while it has the advantage of locating the Military Account department at the head-quarters of a division of the army and a large military centre in buildings admirably adapted for the purpose.

16. In conclusion I would ask for an early consideration of the matter with a view to a final settlement.

No. 5005.

Referred to the Public Works Department for favor of remark.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND, 8th October 1884. (Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

No. 19. From Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauk, 15th October 1884, No. 2747.

I have the honor to return the enclosures of your memorandum, No. 746-E., dated the 10th instant, and to report that there would doubtless be a good deal of discomfort and inconvenience to the officers in occupying the upstairs rooms in the barracks at the Mount. The room in the centre of the block is surrounded by the terraced roof of the barracks, and thus there is much glare and radiated heat that can only be mitigated by pandals. The end rooms are raised about six feet above the main roof, so that they are not so bad as the centre rooms. But they give access, by a ladder, to the main terraced roof, and it is only by walking along the roof that the officers would have communication with each other.

The assistants and clerks would have to come up to the officers' rooms by the masonry steps, which are outside the barrack verandah and are uncovered.

2. The Controller of Military Accounts mentions defects in situation and the want of height in the barracks—on these points there cannot well be any difference of opinion—and no effective remedy can be applied, for the roof cannot be raised without reconstruction at a great expense.

No. 784-E.

Transferred to the Military Department, with reference to endorsement in that department, No. 5005, dated 8th October 1884.

OOTACAMUND, 17th October 1884. (Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 3rd November 1884, No. 5332.

Referred for the consideration and orders of the Government of India.

No. 21. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department;
dated 3rd November 1884, No. 5333.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Military Accounts.

" Quarter Master General.
" Public Works Department.
" Adjutant-General, } for information.
" Financial Department, }

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

P. W. D.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

MILITARY.

To

THE CONTROLLER OF
MILITARY ACCOUNTS,
&c., &c., &c.

Communicated

to the S. E. I. Circle

(Sd) JH

Dated November, 3rd.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 3rd November 1884, No. 5332.

No 2803 Wd 8th Nov^r 84

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 8—21.

Account Department.

Offices of the Madras Military Accounts
Department.—Further correspondence relative
to the provision of accommodation for the — on
their removal from Fort St. George, referred to
to the Government of India.

S. E. I. Circle

With order