

26-6-08

P. W. D.

Govt. of 1885 Madras.

REVENUE.

N^o 1001 Wd/27 April/85.

Communicated to the
Suptg. Engineer VII Circle
(Signed) J.S.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 8th April 1885, No. 423.

N^o 1001 Wd/27 April/85.

APRIL.

S.E. VII Circle

Ey^d P. W. Accts.

Buildings occupied by the Head
Assistant Collector at Shermadevi.

Sir V. Levinge's offer to make over to Govern-
ment the —, accepted; and the Collector's pro-
posal to charge rent, sanctioned.

With order

8TH APRIL 1885, No. 423, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1885, Mis. No. 2731 :—

Read—the following letter from J. LEE-WARNER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th February 1885, No. 73 :—

I have the honor to bring the following circumstances to the notice of the Board, and would recommend that the matter be placed before the Government for final orders in communication with Sir Vere H. Levinge.

2. The premises occupied at present by the Head Assistant Collector at Shermádevi, both as his dwelling-house and office, were (are) the property of Sir Vere Levinge. They were first built by Mr. Whittingham and descended by gift or otherwise to Sir Vere, who laid out a good round sum of money on their improvement. Since those days successive Sub-Collectors and Head Assistant Collectors have gone into the buildings without any question and occupied them rent free. The present Head Assistant, who is now leaving the district, paid, I believe, Rs. 17 a year land assessment, and received Rs. 10 a month from the Government for lending to the Government the out-building which is still used as an office.

3. I might probably never have known this, had not Mr. Broadfoot, the other day, proposed to me to sell the office bungalow to the Department of Public Works to be converted into the ryot's shed, which is to be attached to the new offices under construction. Apart from the fact that I question the utility of a ryot's shed where there is the large porch of the Hindu temple in the immediate proximity, I questioned Mr. Broadfoot's right to sell; and on making a reference to Sir Vere Levinge, he requested me not to listen to such a proposal. He said in his letter, which I do not suppose was confidential, "the bungalows are either my property or the property of the Government."

4. I think that advantage should be taken of the very recent appointment of Mr. Rawson in the Gazette of February 10th to come to some determination by which the future integrity of these buildings, a pious gift to the resident divisional officer, may be assured. They have very much deteriorated in the last few years, and I am assured on good authority that, if money is not soon laid out, they will collapse in ruin. To secure the intention of the original donor, it would seem advisable that, if Sir Vere Levinge does not object, the buildings should be assigned to the Government on the terms that a monthly rent be exacted from the resident civilians to create a fund from which the repairs may be executed and the premises improved.

5. I wrote again to Sir Vere Levinge soon after he wrote to me, but I have received no reply owing, I regret to think, to his illness. I understand that he is now in Madras, where it would be most easy to get his opinion.

Read—the following letter from Sir VERE H. LEVINGE, *Bart.*, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 11th March 1885 :—

When I went to Shermádevi in 1854 as Sub-Collector in succession to Mr. Charles Whittingham, that gentleman gave me the buildings which he and his predecessors in office had erected there. These consisted of a sitting-room, bed-room

and bath-room, built on the roof of the mandapam situated on the edge of the square tank (the sides of the mandapam having been enclosed so as to form a servant's room below) and two small bungalows and some out-houses, to which I myself subsequently added a 5-stall stable. As I hear that Mr. Broadfoot, of the Civil Service, lays claim to the buildings and proposes to sell them, I write to say that I do not think he has any right to them, and that I am willing to make over to Government all my right, title and interest in them, in the hope that the Government will always retain them for the use of the divisional officer stationed at Shermádevi, and on the condition that if any deed of conveyance is considered necessary, the Government will bear the cost of drawing it up, stamping it and having it registered. I should be glad to have the document sent to me at an early date for signature.

Resolution—dated 21st March 1885, Mis. No. 2731.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board observe that ever since 1862* claims of proprietorship of the kind now put forward by Mr. Broadfoot have

* Paragraph 5 of Mr. Silver's letter printed in Board's Proceedings, dated 14th November 1862, No. 7498.

been repeatedly made by successive officers stationed at Shermádevi. It now appears from Sir Vere Levinge's letter that there

has been no such transfer of ownership as contended for by Mr. F. Kindersley and his successors, and the Board recommend that Sir Vere Levinge's offer be accepted, and the property taken charge of by Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letters in original to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Tinnevely.
„ „ Sir Vere Levinge, *Bart.*

ORDER—dated 8th April 1885, No. 423, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government regret to observe that since the date of the foregoing Proceedings Sir V. Levinge has died in

Madras. They resolve, however, to accept his offer in the confident belief that his action will be acknowledged by his executors. The Collector's proposal to charge rent for the purpose of keeping the premises in repair is approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with one enclosure returned.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

70 Copies.