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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

6th September 1886, No. 5471.

Distribution of Army—Reliefs.

Read the following papers:—

No. 104. From Major D. J. S. McLEOD, Deputy Quarter Master General, Madras Army, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 5th July 1886, No. 2376-A.

It having been suggested to the Commander-in-Chief that, though the records of this office contained nothing to show that the old North and South Barracks at St. Thomas' Mount had ever been un-

* *Vide* Proceedings of Government, No. 2506, healthy, the bad health * of the I Battery, dated 22nd April 1886. 4th Brigade, Royal Artillery, while in

occupation of the latter was in some degree due to their inferiority, the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, was asked to favor His Excellency with any information in his possession as to the medical history of these barracks, his opinion at the same time being invited as to whether the sickness in the battery was in any degree attributable to them.

2. From his reply (copy enclosed) † it appears that, though no very definite charge can be brought against the bar-

† Letter No. 667 of 28th June 1886 (with one racks in question, there is sufficient enclosure). indirect evidence against them to make it inadvisable, in the opinion of His

Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that they should be re-occupied by any troops if avoidable.

3. Sir H. Macpherson therefore wishes to take advantage of the absence from Bellary of half a battalion of British Infantry to locate there temporarily the extra Field Battery, Royal Artillery, at present allotted to this Presidency which can now be comfortably accommodated in vacant buildings in the British Infantry Barracks, some slight expense being incurred in the provision of a temporary forge and shoeing shed, funds for which can be obtained out of the special grant made this year by the Government of India for providing accommodation for augmented strength of British troops, nothing being expended on the barracks at St. Thomas' Mount, for which an allotment of Rs. 8,870 has been made in the current year's budget.

4. To give effect to this arrangement His Excellency proposes to move the I Battery, 4th Brigade, Royal Artillery, from Wellington as soon as the season will admit of its marching to Bangalore, the S Battery, 1st Brigade, Royal Artillery, which will have been almost four years at that station being moved thence to Bellary by route march, and hopes that these movements will be sanctioned by Government, whose early orders on the subject are solicited.

No. 105. With report from Controller of Military Accounts; 21st August 1886, A.

No. 106. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1886, No. 5471.

The movements proposed in the foregoing letter from the Quarter Master General were approved in Proceedings of Government, No. 4847, dated 13th

August 1886; the location of the extra battery of Field Artillery at Bellary must, however, be regarded as a purely temporary arrangement.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has perused with regret the reports now made on the South Barracks at St. Thomas' Mount, and would suggest, for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's consideration, that the question of their fitness for the accommodation of troops should be referred to a special committee, composed of the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, an Officer of the Quarter Master General's Department, and the Deputy Surgeon-General of the District, who should be instructed to report whether any measures are practicable for the improvement of the buildings, or whether they should be definitely condemned.

No. 107. *To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department;
dated 6th September 1886, No. 5472.*

(True Extract.)

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

To the Quarter Master General.
„ Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Madras.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Controller of Military Accounts.

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 6th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 6th September 1886, No. 5471.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 104—107.

Distribution of Army—Reliefs.

Extra Field Battery, Royal Artillery.—
Location of the — at Bellary sanctioned as a
temporary arrangement; and the question of the
fitness of the South Barracks at St. Thomas'
Mount for the accommodation of troops, refer-
red to a Special Committee for report.

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