

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

20th March 1886, No. 1804.

Military Buildings—Appropriation.

Read the following papers :—

No. 259. From Colonel E. FAUNCE, Officiating Quarter Master General, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 4th March 1886, No. 103-T.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has learned with considerable regret from perusal of Proceedings of Government, No. 1135, dated 22nd ultimo, that there is no prospect of early arrangements being effected for the removal from Fort St. George of the offices of the Civil and Military Accounts Department.

2. The Provincial Commander-in-Chief did not consider it necessary in his report submitted in this office letter No. 23-A * of 5th January 1886, to put forward the removal of these offices from Fort St. George as one of the essential measures to be provided for in connection with the arrangements for accommodating the augmented strength of the British Infantry Regiment quartered in Fort St. George, inasmuch as he understood it was one which had been decided upon independent of that demand for accommodation, and for which funds had been or would be made available without special reference to it.

3. Had Lieutenant-General Rowlands been aware of the real position of matters in regard to the removal of the offices in question, he would have felt it incumbent upon him to make an urgent representation on the subject to Government, pointing out that whatever expense might be involved, the urgency of the demand for accommodation would warrant its being met.

4. Sir H. Macpherson trusts it is not yet too late for him to move Government to give its early consideration to this matter, in view to prompt measures being instituted to secure, at all events, the removal of the offices of the Military Accounts Department from Fort St. George before the hot season sets in.

5. The urgency of the demand for accommodation will be understood from the statement given in the margin; but while the South Wales Borderers continues to supply the detachment at Port Blair, the deficiency shown will almost be met, if the buildings in occupation by the Military Accounts Department are made available for troops.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED.				
Single men.				
British Infantry	...	...	...	780
Garrison Battery	...	...	...	104
				884
ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.				
Single men.				
King's Barrack, Fort St. George	...	...	...	577
North Barracks, St. Thomas' Mount	...	...	...	75
				652
Deficient				232
Deduct detachment temporarily at Andamans.	...	...	...	136
Total deficient				96

6. It is perhaps necessary to explain here in regard to the difference in the figures showing accommodation available at St. Thomas' Mount as given in the statement in margin and in this office letter No. 23-A of 5th January 1886, that, though the North Barracks at St. Thomas' Mount nominally contain accommodation for 145 men and eight Sergeants, the medical authorities consider that, with their faulty construction

and bad position, not more than 120 men at most should be allotted to them, of which 45 should sleep in tents, using the barracks during the day only. This being the case their capacity can really be said to be for 75 men only.

7. The Commander-in-Chief has been given to understand that the grant offered by the Government of India for the purchase and improvement of the buildings into which it was proposed to move the Military Accounts offices fell short of actual requirements by about Rs. 10,000.

8. Should this be the case, Sir H. Macpherson would suggest that the extra sum required be looked on as essential expenditure to be incurred in the current year in providing extra accommodation

* Procs. of Govt., No. 183, of 8th Jan. 1886. for British troops, and be obtained by transfer of a sum of Rs. 12,000 allotted for this purpose to Secunderabad,* but

which has not been expended because meanwhile, by the permanent retention of a Regiment of British Infantry from this Presidency in Upper Burma,† the necessity of providing accommodation for a third Regiment, British Infantry, at Secunderabad has been removed.

† Procs. of Govt., Nos. 364 and 483, of 18th and 21st Jan. 1886, respectively.

9. The importance of securing more accommodation in Fort St. George for British troops before the hot weather sets in is so great that Sir H. Macpherson trusts the Government of Madras will support his endeavours to obtain it by strongly urging the proposed solution of the difficulty as regards funds upon the Government of India.

10. Should, however, this proposition not be accepted by the Government of India, Sir. H. Macpherson desires me to suggest as an alternative that the proposal made by the Controller of Military Accounts in paras. 5 and 6 of his letter,

Procs. of Govt., No. 5332, of 1884.

A., dated 4th August 1884, to remove his offices to the "Cubbon Rooms" at Bangalore may be favorably entertained, in view of the difficulty of securing eligible accommodation in Madras at a cost that the Government of India is at present prepared to incur, and of the urgent necessity of providing more accommodation for troops in Fort St. George; the "Cubbon Rooms" could, it is understood, be made over for occupation within a few weeks, thus releasing before the approaching hot weather quarters in the Fort which, as has been shown, are urgently required for troops.

11. His Excellency would also point out the removal of the Military Accounts offices to Bangalore has the further advantage of leaving the building known as "The Mansion," which it was proposed to purchase for those offices, available for the Civil Account Department, of the removal of which from Fort St. George there would otherwise appear ‡ to be little or no probability.

No. 260. Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department, Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Calcutta; dated 8th March 1886, No. 1492.

Your 75-M.W., 21st January last.

Additional accommodation not being now immediately necessary at Secunderabad, Army proposes transfer from special grant for that station of funds still required for purchase and enlargement of Mansion at Madras for Military Account offices (vide your 962-M.W., 27th August 1885). Madras Government strongly recommend this; but, if inadmissible, beg reconsideration of proposal to remove Military Account Department to Cubbon Rooms, Bangalore (see your 646-F. of 24th December 1884). This arrangement would leave Mansion of Madras available for

Civil Account Department, whose office in Fort St. George is also required for troops and for which no other building can be found.

Very early reply is requested, it being essential, owing to increased strength of British Regiment, that more accommodation in Fort should be provided before ensuing hot season.

No. 261. Telegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Military Department, Madras; dated 17th March 1886, No. 387-M.W.

Your telegram 8th. Total grant for purchase, repairs and alterations of "Mansion" cannot exceed Rs. 75,000; transfer of special grant from Secunderabad, therefore, inadmissible. Question of removal of Accounts Offices to Bangalore cannot be re-opened.

No. 262. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1886, No. 1804.

Ordered that the reply of the Government of India be communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Alwyn Herbert

Lt.-Col.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

" Public Works Department.

" Controller of Military Accounts, for information.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

20th March 1886, No. 1804.

Military Buildings—Appropriation.

Read the following papers :—

No. 259. From Colonel E. FAUNCE, Officiating Quarter Master General, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department ; dated Fort St. George, 4th March 1886, No. 103-T.

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2. The Provincial Commander-in-Chief did not consider it necessary in his report submitted in this office letter No. 23-A * of 5th January 1886, to put forward the removal of these offices from Fort St. George as one of the essential measures to be provided for in connection with the arrangements for accommodating the augmented strength of the British Infantry Regiment quartered in Fort St. George, inasmuch as he understood it was one which had been decided upon independent of that demand for accommodation, and for which funds had been or would be made available without special reference to it.

3. Had Lieutenant-General Rowlands been aware of the real position of matters in regard to the removal of the offices in question, he would have felt it incumbent upon him to make an urgent representation on the subject to Government, pointing out that whatever expense might be involved, the urgency of the demand for accommodation would warrant its being met.

4. Sir H. Macpherson trusts it is not yet too late for him to move Government to give its early consideration to this matter, in view to prompt measures being instituted to secure, at all events, the removal of the offices of the Military Accounts Department from Fort St. George before the hot season sets in.

5. The urgency of the demand for accommodation will be understood from the statement given in the margin ; but while the South Wales Borderers continues to supply the detachment at Port Blair, the deficiency shown will almost be met, if the buildings in occupation by the Military Accounts Department are made available for troops.

6. It is perhaps necessary to explain here in regard to the difference in the figures showing accommodation available at St. Thomas' Mount as given in the statement in margin and in this office letter No. 23-A of 5th January 1886, that, though the North Barracks at St. Thomas' Mount nominally contain accommodation for 145 men and eight Sergeants, the medical authorities consider that, with their faulty construction

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Single men.

British Infantry	...	...	...	780
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ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

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North Barracks, St. Thomas' Mount	...	...	...	75
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Deficient

Deduct detachment temporarily at Andamans	...	...	...	...	232
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Total deficient

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7. The Commander-in-Chief has been given to understand that the grant offered by the Government of India for the purchase and improvement of the buildings into which it was proposed to move the Military Accounts offices fell short of actual requirements by about Rs. 10,000.

8. Should this be the case, Sir H. Macpherson would suggest that the extra sum required be looked on as essential expenditure to be incurred in the current year in providing extra accommodation

* Procs. of Govt., No. 183, of 8th Jan. 1886.
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(True Extract.)

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

To the Quarter Master General.

" Public Works Department.

" Controller of Military Accounts, for information.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

Gobt. of (1886) Madras.

MILITARY.

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

Dated March, 20th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 20th March 1886, No. 1804.

MARCH.

Nos. 259—262.

Military Buildings—Appropriation.

Military and Civil Accounts Offices.—Reply of the Government of India to certain proposals in connection with the removal of the — from Fort St. George in view to accommodating troops, communicated to departments concerned.

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Govt. of (1886) Madras.

MILITARY.

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THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,
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Dated March, 20th.

Issued

Recd.

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No. 797 Wd. March 25. 1886

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