

No 3388

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 10th Decr 87

Read the following

Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.
df.

Note on the proposal to place
the new High Court Buildings
on the site on the Esplanade,
north and north-west of the Light
- house

The question of providing new
buildings for the High Court at
Madras has engaged the attention
of Government since the year 1875,
and it is still open, owing to the
difficulty of securing a suitable site
for the purpose. In 1884, a Committee
was appointed with the late Chief
Justice as Chairman, to report as
to the most suitable site in
Madras. The Committee reported their
unanimous opinion that of the open
"the site on the

Esplanade north and north-west of the Light-house would be the most convenient for the public, if there was no objection on the part of the Military authorities."

Reference was made to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Frederick Roberts, who replied as follows, through the Quarter Master General. "I am desirous to remark for the information of the Committee, who have the subject under their consideration, that the C-in-C. has now had an opportunity of inspecting a rough sketch of the spot proposed north and north-west of the Light-house, and that H. E. would raise no objection to this site so long as the building has a frontage parallel with the China Bazaar Road, and that no subsidiary buildings are erected in rear of the Court-house, between it and the glacis of the Fort."

In the Inspection Report of Fort Saint George dated 1885, the Officer Commanding the Eastern D^{ist} referred to this matter in the following terms: "Before concluding the report

Letter N^o 212 of 22nd Jan'y 1885.
to the Secy: to Govt: Mil'y: Dept:

been described in a recent order of Govt: as 'the only perfect site for the High Court' & it seems that there will be great opposition to ^{the} its removal to the only other eligible locality

Col: Ross Thompson with site plan

the Committee desire to bring to notice the serious objection there is to the erection of the new High Court House on the Light-house Esplanade in such close proximity as 300 yards from the Fort out-works, and 116 yards from the Light-house Battery, interfering as it must, with the defence of the Fort on the north, and to a certain extent prejudicing the offensive powers of the Light-house Battery."

In connection with these remarks H. E. the C-in-C. noted as follows: "Sir Frederick Roberts quite agrees with the Committee that the site selected for the new High-Court House is not a desirable one, and H. E. would not have approved of it, had he not been informed that no other suitable site could be found."

The opinion of H. E. the present C-in-C. has been recorded in the

* G.O. 5783 July of 1885

Esplanade north and north-west of the Light-house would be the most convenient for the public, if there was no objection on the part of the Military authorities.

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In the Inspection Report of Fort Saint George dated 1885, the Officer Commanding the Eastern Division refers to this matter in the following terms: "Before concluding the report

the following words "If it is considered necessary to maintain Fort St. George as a place of refuge, no further buildings should, in my opinion, be allowed in the Esplanade. In fact, part of the existing Ordnance lines should be removed."

"I doubt however whether there is any station in India in which a place of refuge is so little required. If therefore there is no other site suitable for the High Court, available, I think that the question might be referred to the Govt. of India with a view to the opinion of the Coast Defence Committee being obtained."

In pursuance of this suggestion, the question was referred to the Defence Committee who replied as follows in their letter to the Govt. of India, Mil. Dept. No: 287 dated 7th September 1887. "I am directed by H. E. the President to acquaint you for the information of the Govt. of

been described in a recent order of Govt. as 'the only perfect site for the High Court' & it seems that there will be great opposition to ^{the} removal to the only other eligible locality

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India, that the Defence Committee are unanimously opposed to the site on the Esplanade of Fort Saint George, marked 'B' on the plan, being appropriated for this purpose"

Order thereon -
H. E. No: 3388 Wd. 10th Decr/87

Ordered that the above Note be placed before the Defence Committee when assembled at Madras, in view to consideration whether, after inspection of the locality, there is any serious objection, from a Military point of view, to the erection of the High Court buildings on the proposed site. This has

This Note and the site plan will be laid before the Committee by the Royal Engineer Member, Colonel Ross Thompson.

9.0.2707 W 4/13-10-87

No 343 B. 16-7-87

" 1719 W. 23-7-85

" 1663 W. 17-7-85

" 1153 W. 15-5-85

" 2423 W. 1-10-84

12/12/00 ✓
31-7-13 ✓

Hon. Mr. Hutchins

Sites for High Court

No. 3388 W 2/10th Decr 87

Issue but
Please mention in Council

See in Council

File

12/11/87

4th Nov