

31ST JANUARY 1887, No. 40, MARINE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From the Hon. R. W. BARLOW, C.S., Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 17th December 1886, No. 1599.

With reference to the enclosed copies of resolutions of the Harbour Trust Board at their meetings held on the 18th November 1886 and 9th December 1886,

Letter to the Commissary of Ordnance, No. 995, dated 29th October 1886.

Letter from do. do. No. 9177, dated 15th November 1886.

Letter to the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops, No. 996, dated 29th October 1886.

Letter from do. do. No. 762 S., dated 2nd November 1886.

Letters to the Commissary of Ordnance and General Superintendent of Public Works Stores, Nos. 1238 and 1239, dated 20th November 1886.

Letter from the Commissary of Ordnance, No. E/10222, dated 10th December 1886.

and of the marginally-noted correspondence which has passed between this office, the Ordnance, and Public Works Stores departments, I have the honor to request that the departments in question may be directed to vacate the premises (two bath-rooms) referred to.

2. The Commissary of Ordnance is wrong in stating that there has been any intention—at all events on the part of this Board—of *reserving* these quarters “for military purposes,” and when Act II of 1886 came into force, they clearly vested

in the Trust; but the said departments being in occupation when the Board was constituted, they were not disturbed till the necessity arose. The circumstances which led to this necessity are as below.

3. The pilots have hitherto been quartered in the portion of the Harbour Dues Office to the east of the road and immediately south of the pier entrance; but the Port Officer, readily recognizing the imperative need of more accommodation for the Harbour establishment when reorganized, moved the pilots with my sanction into the Secretary's office, temporarily, while shifting the Marine divers from the building occupied by them at the north shore end of the pier into the Marine yard, in view to giving the pilots the quarters thus rendered vacant. The two bath-rooms in question form a portion of this latter building, and were some years ago placed by the Master Attendant at the disposal of the Ordnance Department and Public Works Stores, as office accommodation for a Conductor and clerk, respectively. They are now urgently required for the use of the pilots, or I should not ask these departments to remove; both however decline to vacate, though I have offered to provide better accommodation for them in the north and south sheds respectively.

4. The Port Officer has written very urgently, asking, either that the accommodation promised should be made over, or that the pilots be allowed to return to their old quarters—a course that would cause the greatest inconvenience. I have no alternative but to address Government, though I do so with much regret, as both departments still decline to vacate, after a second request made to them and after communication to them of the formal resolution of the Trust.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Hon. R. W. BARLOW, C.S., Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, Madras, to the Commissary of Ordnance, dated Madras, 20th November 1886, No. 1238.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 9177, dated 15th November 1886, and to forward herewith copy of resolution of the Harbour Trust Board relating thereto passed at the meeting held on the 18th instant.

I have only to add that I shall be happy to meet your wishes in any way in my power, and to request that you will kindly direct your representative to occupy the accommodation provided in the ^{north}_{south} shed.

Arrangements are being made to carry a line of rails to the spot, when the difficulties you point out as to loading will apply to the present quarters and not to the north shed.

I much regret that you should be inconvenienced, even although only for a short time, but the crowded and insufficient accommodation at the inner end of the pier, coupled with the absolute necessity of finding quarters for the pilots, renders it unavoidable.

No. 1239. A similar letter to the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores.

EXTRACT of Proceedings of the Harbour Trust Board, at a meeting held at the offices of the Board on Thursday, the 18th day of November 1886.

4. Read letter, No. 10542, dated 8th November 1886, from the Port Officer, Madras, pointing out that the rooms lately tenanted by the pilots in the Harbour Dues Office had been given up on the understanding, and in full trust, that the rooms occupied by the Ordnance and Public Works Store departments would be placed at his disposal in lieu of those surrendered, accommodation being found for the departments in the south shed and north shed, respectively; and requesting, if this arrangement could not be carried out, that the pilots might be allowed to return to their old quarters.

Read letter, No. 762-S, dated 2nd November 1886, from the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, declining to give up the small room now occupied by him adjoining the Divers' late quarters until other suitable accommodation is provided.

Read also letter, No. 9177, dated 15th November 1886, from the Commissary of Ordnance, Fort St. George, stating that the space proposed to be allotted in the north shed, in lieu of the small room at present occupied by him at the shore end of the pier, is unsuitable and would be inconvenient, while a separate store-room should be at his disposal for explosives.

Resolution.—Resolved that the Chairman be requested to inform the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, and the Commissary of Ordnance, that the rooms referred to are urgently required, and to request that they may be vacated at an early date.

EXTRACT of Proceedings of the Harbour Trust Board, at a meeting held at the offices of the Board on Thursday, the 9th day of December 1886.

14. Read letter from the Port Officer, No. 11432, dated 6th December 1886, requesting that the new quarters for the accommodation of the pilots may be immediately placed at his disposal.

Resolution.—Resolved that the Chairman be invited to address Government on the subject.

From Major J. C. FISHER, R.A., Commissary of Ordnance in charge, to the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, Madras, dated Fort St. George, 10th December 1886, No. 10222—E.

In continuation of this office No. 9622, dated 26th November 1886, I have the honor, under instructions from the Inspector-General of Ordnance, to inform you that the shed in question forms one of the sites proposed to be reserved for military purposes, and the Committee, of which the Inspector-General is a member, have only on the 7th instant decided to represent to Government that it is absolutely necessary to retain all the sites reserved for military purposes. I am also directed by the Inspector-General of Ordnance not to relinquish the site in question, pending the decision of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Under the above circumstances, I regret that I cannot comply with the request contained in paragraph 2 of your letter, No. 1238, dated 20th November 1886.

From Major D. J. S. McLEOD, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 17th December 1886, No. 4663-A.

With reference to proceedings of the Madras Government as per margin, referring

No. 6427, dated 13th October 1886. correspondence in the Marine Department
„ 7022 „ 11th November „ regarding certain sites within Madras Harbour limits required for the use of the Military authorities, I am desired to

submit the enclosed proceedings of a committee, which was assembled at Madras on the 7th instant to report on the matter, in order that the reason of the demands put forward by the various Military Departments might be made clear.

2. Sir Charles Arbuthnot, having perused these proceedings, is fully convinced of the necessity for the demands made, both as to the position and area of the plots, with the very slight alteration that plot C be contiguous to plot D as shown in blue pencil on the map; * His Excellency would therefore strongly urge that Government should require the plots to be allotted to the Military Departments accordingly.

3. It seems desirable to note that the special reason why the Ordnance Department requires plot B is that its position near the pier and line of rails affords facilities for shipment and receipt of gun and small arm ammunition, heavy stores, machinery, &c., which would not be obtainable elsewhere.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Members of the Committee, to the Quartermaster-General, dated Madras, 7th December 1886.

We have the honor to inform you that our committee, composed of

Commissary-General,
Inspector-General of Ordnance,
Superintending Engineer, V Circle,

reassembled this day to consider the subject of your letter, No. 4440-A, of the 2nd instant.

2. When we considered this question in the first instance, we were duly impressed with the fact that at some future date the area within the harbour groynes may be of considerable value for commercial purposes. We therefore most carefully scrutinized the several departmental demands which were put before us, and restricted our application for space to the lowest possible limit.

3. We have now again reconsidered the proposal made on the occasion of our first meeting, and regret that we cannot, with due regard to the interests of Government, abate in any way the demands there made as shown on the plan forwarded by our committee with letter, No. 2642, dated 4th September 1886, to the President, Harbour Trust.

4. The grounds on which we based our demands for the several plots are as follow:—

A.—*Clive's Battery.*—The necessity for retaining this battery under the control of the Military authorities is obvious.

B.—*Ordnance Department.*—A building 100 x 35 with clear space in front to the pier. This is required for the reception, examination, and separation of ordnance stores on landing, and will be in constant daily use throughout the year.

C.—*Quartermaster-General.*—A plot 90 feet broad and extending to the sea. The Assistant Quartermaster-General satisfied us that this plot was absolutely necessary to his department for the embarkation and debarkation of troops and baggage.

D.—*Commissariat Department.*—A plot 240 feet broad extending down to the sea. The experience gained during the recent embarkation of troops for the Burma expedition has shown that the department cannot possibly do with a smaller area. It will be noted that in order to economise space, the sheds are crowded together almost inconveniently close.

E.—*Ordnance Department.*—A plot 60 feet broad extending down to the sea. For the storage of coal on landing.

F.—*Site for new Battery.*—This will be required when the guns of the present lighthouse battery are replaced by guns of heavier metal, arrangements for which have, we understand, been already made.

G.—*The Northern Boundary of the Military Department land.*—Plot G has been corrected in accordance with G.O., dated 1st June 1886, No. 276, Marine Department, and has been also added.

Gobt. of (1887) Madras.

MARINE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 31st January 1887, No. 40.

JANUARY.

Harbour Trust.

Passing orders on correspondence respecting
certain buildings and lands within harbour limits
which are required for military purposes.

B5

A4