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MILITARY DEPARTMENT, 28TH AUGUST 1889, No. 5888.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Cantonments—Lands.

Read the following papers:—

No. 351. From Brigadier-General M. PROTHEROE, C.B., C.S.I., Quarter Master General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 15th September 1888, No. 3074-B.

I am desired, by the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the consideration and orders of Government, the correspondence as per margin connected with an application from the Rev. T. H. Whitmore, Wesleyan Minister, for a site on the Monument Esplanade, Madras, for the purpose of erecting on the accompanying plan a soldiers' home, including recreation and other rooms, with a view to provide a harmless place of resort for soldiers when outside the Fort.

2. His Excellency recommends the grant of the site for the purpose specified, on payment of the usual quit rent, subject to the following conditions:—

- (1) That the buildings be erected within a specified time to be fixed by Government.
- (2) That claim of the grantees on the site shall last only so long as the buildings on it are used for the purpose specified in the application.
- (3) That, in the event of the site being required at any time by Government, the buildings thereon shall be immediately removed and the site cleared by the grantee.
- (4) That the proprietary right of the grantee in the buildings erected on the site shall not be transferred to any other person or body without the written consent of the Commander-in-Chief.
- (5) That the house, &c., erected on the site shall be open for use by British soldiers and sailors, of all religious denominations, without any distinction.

3. I am to request that the plans may be returned when no longer required.

From Rev. T. H. WHITMORE, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, to the General Officer Commanding Eastern District, dated Madras, 21st June 1888.

With reference to the project for erecting a soldiers' home in Madras, with reading and recreation rooms, conveniences for convalescents, &c., I have the honor to apply to you for the grant of a plot of land on the maidan, situated near to the Broadway station, on the South Indian line of railway, on the right-hand side of the road between the entrance to the Fort and Popham's Broadway.

The design of the home is neat and ornamental as you will perceive from copy enclosed. The object we have in view is to provide a harmless place of resort for our soldiers when they are outside the Fort, which, while it shall be perfectly free and open to every man without the smallest distinction of class or creed, will at the same time be practically a home to them while in this country, and so, we trust, help to foster a feeling of self-respect and encourage habits of manly self-restraint.

Fourteen such homes have already been erected by our Chaplains in various military centres at a cost of about £ 25,000.

And the generosity and promptitude with which sites have been granted for the purpose, both by provincial Governments and especially by Military courts, leads us to encourage the hope that our present application will secure your approval and sympathy.

The scheme has been honored with special mark of kind patronage by Her Majesty the Queen, and also by the Prince and Princess of Wales who were kind enough to open a large bazaar, which was held in aid of the work on the 17th May last.

It also enjoys the commendation of such officers as Sir Garnet Wolseley, Sir Frederick Roberts, and, I may say, of all the distinguished officers under whose notice the scheme has happened to come.

The Commander-in-Chief in India signified his special and hearty approval the other day, in a letter to Sir G. H. Chubb, the English Secretary, of the work, and assured him that "any such effort should always have his heartiest co-operation."

I now venture (with the approval of all my colleagues in this city) to submit the application for your consideration, and trust that you will be able to grant us the plot of land for which we apply to such an extent as will be sufficient for the purpose, together with the necessary out-buildings, a gymnasium and small compound.

From Rev. T. H. WHITAMORE, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Eastern District; dated Madras, 25th July 1888.

In reply to yours of the 23rd instant, No. 3042, requesting me to furnish a sketch plan showing site and dimensions of the ground required for the soldiers' home and subsidiary buildings, I have the honor, herewith, to enclose a sketch accurately drawn, which, as you will perceive, shows the site and its complete surroundings.

2. The plot for which we ask is marked in red ink, and on the scale indicated at the foot of the plan represents 150 feet frontage by 150 feet in depth. The building itself, with cook-house and godowns, with a gymnasium on a small scale, will occupy most of the space.

3. With reference to a question asked me some time since as to the probability of this scheme being carried out supposing the grant of the land were made, I am glad of the opportunity of saying that there is no doubt about this, as the proposal has been before our church authorities at home, and has their heartiest sympathy and approval. Indeed they have promised us liberal aid.

4. It commands very general support among our friends here in Madras also, besides which it is only right to say that I am acting in this matter with the cordial assent and approval of all the Wesleyan Missionaries in Madras as well as some at home who are returning, so that I may say that the credit of the Wesleyan Church stands pledged to see the scheme completed within a reasonable time and effectively worked afterwards.

We shall set vigorously to work the moment we receive a favorable reply.

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. MOORE, President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Assistant Quarter Master General, Eastern District; dated Madras, 6th August 1888, No. 516.

With reference to your letter No. 3178, dated 2nd August 1888, I have the honor to inform you that there is no objection to the site proposed, but the land is Government property and within esplanade limits. The sanction of Government will, therefore, be necessary. I would point out that a plan of the proposed building must be submitted in the usual way.

2. The enclosures of your letter under reply are herewith returned.

From Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, R.A., General Officer Commanding Eastern District, to the Quarter Master General, Madras Army; dated Fort St. George, 15th August 1888, No. 378-G.

I have the honor, in forwarding the documents and plans as per margin in connection with

the application of the Wesleyan Mission for a plot of ground on the Monument Esplanade, Madras, for the erection of a soldiers' home, to request you will be so good as to lay the same before His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with whose approval I trust the undertaking may meet. It is, I think, a very beneficial one as regards the welfare of the soldiers.

Letter dated 21st June 1888, from Rev. T. H. Whitmore, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, with plan of soldiers' home.
Letter dated 25th July 1888, from Rev. T. H. Whitmore, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, with site plan of grounds.
Letter No. 516 of 6th August 1888, from the President, Municipal Commission.

2. The introduction of regimental institutes will no doubt add much to the soldier's comfort and will afford entirely separate accommodation for temperance men, but as the latter must of necessity be at no great distance from the refreshment branch of the institute, it will not afford the same immunity from temptation to those who have not much control over themselves as a home of the description now proposed to be erected.

3. This, as will be seen from the plan, is of handsome exterior, and it will be seen from Mr. Whitmore's letter that the institution is intended for men of all denominations who will appreciate a place outside the Fort.

No. 352.

No. 6594.

Before sanction can be accorded for the grant of the site applied for, the Secretary to Government, Military Department, is directed to inquire whether the Rev. T. H. Whitmore is prepared to accept, in their entirety, the conditions specified in para. 2 of the Quarter Master General's letter above recorded.

2. The Rev. T. Whitmore should also be asked to state within what time he hopes to have the buildings erected.

(By Order.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

28th September 1888.

To the Quarter Master General.

No. 353. From Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. HUTCHINS, Deputy Quarter Master General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 25th January 1889, No. 262-B (Cantonments—Lands).

With reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 6594, of 28th September last, I am desired to forward, for the

information of Government, the correspondence marginally noted, and am to state that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief recommends the grant of the additional piece of land now asked for under the circumstances mentioned.

No. 9-G of 9th instant, from General Officer Commanding Madras District, with letters dated 22nd December 1888 and 21st January 1889, from Rev. T. H. Whitmore, Wesleyan Chaplain.

2. His Excellency sees no objection to the words "and sailors" being inserted after the words "British soldiers" in clause 5 of the conditions specified in this office letter No. 3074-B of 15th September last, and I am accordingly to request that the necessary addition may be made in the clause referred to above.

3. It is noted that the Wesleyan Chaplain agrees to complete the proposed home before the end of June 1891, and that the entire area of land now applied for will cover 23 grounds and 241 square yards.

4. His Excellency has no objection to the proprietary right to the buildings to be erected on the site to be granted being vested in the Rev. James Cooling, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission at Madras and his successors in office.

5. With reference to the latter of the two letters noted in the margin from the Wesleyan Chaplain, I am to say that the Commander-in-Chief strongly recommends, for the favorable consideration of Government, the Chaplain's request that the home, when completed, may be treated as a charitable institution and be accordingly exempted from municipal taxation.

6. I am to request that, if sanction to the grant of this piece of land be given, orders may issue for the necessary steps being taken towards demarcating the land to prevent encroachments and to ensure the payment of the usual quit rent.

7. I am to solicit that the early orders of Government may be passed on this application, as the Wesleyan Chaplain is desirous of starting the work in connection with the home as early as possible in the current year.

From Brigadier-General G. J. SMART, R.A., General Officer Commanding Madras District, to the Quarter Master General, Madras Army; dated Fort St. George, 9th January 1889, No. 9-G.

With reference to your letter No. 3295-B, dated the 3rd October last, I have the honor to forward herewith, in original, a letter, dated the 22nd December 1888, from the Rev. T. H. Whitmore conveying the acceptance by the members of the Wesleyan Mission of the conditions under which the site on the Monument Esplanade will be granted to the Mission for the erection thereon of a soldiers' home, and to request that the permission solicited in para. 5 for the addition of the words "and sailors" may be noted.

2. Under the circumstances represented in the last paragraph of the letter, I beg to strongly recommend that the additional extent of ground applied for be granted.

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From Rev. T. H. WHITAMORE, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, to the District Staff Officer, Madras; dated Egmore, Madras, 22nd December 1888.

In reply to your No. 3295, dated 3rd October, I have first to apologize for the long delay which has followed your letter, and to explain that it has arisen through the absence of some of our senior ministers in official position, whose full approval and sympathy it was necessary to obtain before we could confidently give the required guarantees or proceed safely with the work.

2. I am glad to say that they have on their return expressed their full and hearty agreement with what has been done, and I am duly authorized to record our written acceptance of your generous grant, together with the guarantees particularized in your letter, which, at your request, I reply to seriatim—

- (1) We agree to erect and complete the proposed home within, say, the next two and a half years, that is to say by or before the end of June 1891.
- (2) We agree to relinquish our claim to the land if the home should cease to be used for its original purpose.
- (3) We agree that if the site should be required by Government for strategic or other military purpose to hand it over at once to the authorities without claim for compensation.
- (4) We accept of this clause also, but suggest that the proprietary right be vested in the Rev. James Cooling, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission and his successors for the time being as they may be appointed.
- (5) The home will certainly be free to British soldiers of any and all denominations without any qualification whatever; we have only to ask your permission to use the words "and sailors" after "British soldiers" in this clause, as it often happens that sailors of the royal navy obtain the privilege of a day's leave on shore while Her Majesty's ships are lying in the harbour.
- (6) I am to express the thanks of our annual district meeting to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for his kindness in granting us the site; but we regret to find that the extent of the plot specified in our previous letter, viz., fifty yards by fifty is hardly sufficient for the purpose. I am, therefore, instructed to ask that in addition to this His Excellency will kindly consent to its extension by thirty-five yards in length to twenty-five in depth; this latter because the plot we have selected is very low and damp, and at the back of the proposed site the ground is much higher. We therefore ask that it may be extended to the last-named dimensions.

From Rev. T. H. WHITAMORE, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, to the District Staff Officer, Madras; dated Egmore, Madras, 21st January 1889.

In reply to your inquiry No. 272, dated 19th January, as to whether the Mission is willing to pay municipal taxes, I have to say that the Mission will certainly be responsible for all necessary taxes, and we quite understand that quit rent must be paid in any case, but we presume that the soldiers' home will be classified as a charitable institution, and as such be exempted from assessment, as it would considerably lessen the working expenses of the home hereafter; we venture respectfully to request that, if possible, the ground be granted subject to the quit rent charge only.

No. 354. From Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department, to the Quarter Master General, Madras Army; dated Fort St. George, the 28th February 1889, No. 1550.

With reference to your communications marginally noted, I am directed to inform you that before taking into consideration the Rev. Mr. Whitmore's application that a site be granted on the Monument Esplanade for the erection of a "soldiers' home," the Government desire to be furnished with further and complete particulars in regard to the method in which it is proposed to manage the institution.

2. Information is also requested as to whether it is contemplated to hold religious services in the building.

3. I am further to inquire whether the Rev. Mr. Cooling, on behalf of the Wesleyan Mission, is prepared to consent to the proprietary title to the home being vested in the hands of the Government of Madras.

No. 355. From Colonel A. G. HUTCHINS, Deputy Quarter Master General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 27th March 1889, No. 915-B.

With reference to your letter No. 1550 of 28th ultimo, on the subject of a site for the erection of a "soldiers' and sailors' home" at Madras, I am desirous to forward, for the information of Government, the accompanying letter marginally noted furnishing the required information.

2. The suggestion made by the Rev. T. H. Whitmore in his letter seems worthy of favorable consideration.

From Rev. T. H. WHITAMORE, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, to Deputy Quarter Master General, Madras Army; dated Madras, 19th March 1889.

With reference to your No. 1149, dated 15th March, enclosing copy of No. 1550 of Government of Madras, I beg to reply—

First, as to "further and complete particulars as to the method in which it is proposed to manage the institution" (soldiers' home)—

- (a) It will be a place of public resort for soldiers of every class when they are out of barracks.
- (b) Every man wearing the Queen's uniform will be made heartily free of the home, without reference to any denominational preferences. The question of differences of religious persuasion will not, we trust, touch the home at all, and there will be no attempt at proselytizing at any time.
- (c) In connection with the home there will be a library and reading room; it is intended to provide all kinds of games so far as the place will allow; there will be a small private room for parties passing through Madras to other cantonments; a large recreation room for lectures, concerts, club meetings, &c., possibly two lavatories, and any other popular conveniences that we may be able to devise.
- (d) Of course the home will be conducted on temperance principles, and we shall see that the refreshments and beverages provided are of good quality and as cheap as possible.

2. With regard to holding religious services in the home, I may say at once that it is not in the least intended to turn the place into a meeting house for that purpose. But in case any of the men should wish to retire on a Sunday evening for the singing of hymns and a short service somewhat in the nature of family prayer, they would be free to do that, and there will, we hope, be a small room in the house into which the men may retire at any time for this purpose if they so wish; after the fashion of the usual prayer room in barracks.

3. As to our willingness to consent that the "proprietary title be vested in the Government," we have every desire to assist the Government in this matter, and also by accepting any conditions which may have been imposed elsewhere in India in the case of similar erections; but to facilitate an arrangement that would meet all requirements, I would venture to suggest that the matter be referred to the Government Solicitor, so that he may draw up a document which, while it shall give Government power of immediate resumption in case of military emergency, shall also protect the interests of (the Conference or) the Wesleyan Mission.

No. 356. From Rev. T. H. WHITAMORE, Wesleyan Chaplain, Madras, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Madras, 5th April 1889.

Since you were kind enough to see me in Madras about the soldiers' home, it has appeared to be necessary to state somewhat more fully and particularly our position with regard to that institution; and in a conversation with General Smart last Wednesday, he agreed entirely with my own suggestion that it would be well to write informally to yourself upon the matter.

Our first reason for building the home is that there is not one in Madras, and in our belief there is most urgent need for such a place.

There is a small temperance room largely resorted to by nations on the esplanade, which has just been thrown open to Christians of every class, but which

the soldiers do not and are not likely to use much. But even if it were largely used by the men, it would not in the least conflict with our project of a home.

The next point which I must emphasize is that the home would not in any way interfere with any institute inside the Fort, and the one is not at all rendered unnecessary by the other. The men regularly stream out of the Fort towards evening, and our home is intended to do all for the men outside the Fort that Sir Frederick Robert's scheme will do inside, viz., meet the requirements of the men for refreshment, entertainment and recreation, together with sleeping accommodation for men travelling or on furlough, &c.

As to the attitude and wishes of the men in relation to the movement, I thought it well to secure from them generally an expression of their opinion. Four hundred and ten within three days stated in writing that, in their view, such a place as we intend to build will be a great boon to the non-commissioned officers and men in Madras, and will meet a want which they have felt very much since their arrival. The names included three Sergeants-Major, thirty Sergeants and as many Corporals.

I must also strongly re-affirm the *bonâ fides* of the unsectarian character of the home.

The only condition upon which any grant is made by the London Committee (a committee consisting of several Members of Parliament, several official and commercial gentlemen) is—(1) that the home shall be unreservedly free to soldiers and sailors of whatsoever religious denomination they may be, and (2) that there shall be no interference whatever with a man's religious preferences.

A solemn undertaking has to be entered into that this condition will be faithfully observed before any grant is made.

With reference to the newspaper view of the question, it may be and probably is quite true, as the *Mail* says, that certain temperance rooms in the Presidency have failed to reach the level of success which was expected of them. There are several ways of explaining that no doubt, but it does not follow that because a place bearing a particular name and worked on certain specific lines has failed that therefore soldiers' homes are unnecessary, or that they must likewise fail.

On the contrary both officers and men distinctly state that the homes they have known in England, Malta, &c., have "worked well and have been useful."

The home in Secunderabad has had such a run of success that they are considerably enlarging it. That at Bangalore is beginning well; so at Honkong and Dum Dum, where Government has lent a large bungalow until they can build the home.

I am unable to understand the opposition which has been raised to our project. It is the first serious thing of the kind of which I have heard elsewhere, the homes have been regarded as highly beneficial, philanthropic institutions. It is reserved for Madras to discover that a failing temperance room might be injured by the erection of another. I may say that in my judgment this would not be the case, as the use of the one would only illustrate the value of the other.

You are aware that the general movement enjoys the very highest possible patronage at home, and that our particular scheme is favored with the kind patronage of His Excellency the Governor, and also that of General Smart, and by many distinguished officers in the Presidency who have permitted me to use their names as vice patrons.

I should say also that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army writes to say that "he wishes the Madras branch every success."

On these grounds therefore, as well as on those previously stated in my reply to the inquiry recently sent down from Government, we beg that the kind recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the land applied for on the Monument Esplanade be granted, may be confirmed.

I trust that I may be forgiven if I venture to ask that the question may be settled at the earliest possible date, as steps have already been taken on the strength of earlier negotiations to promote a large bazaar next November in aid of the movement, and we scarcely like to proceed further until we hear again from Government.

2788

I ought perhaps to say in conclusion that I trust this somewhat informal letter is not out of order, particularly as General Smart thought it well that I should bring some of the matters mentioned above to your notice, so that, if necessary, you might submit them to Their Excellencies the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief.

No. 357.

ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1889, No. 5888.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to grant the site on the Monument Esplanade—measuring 23 grounds, 241 square yards and 6 square feet—applied for by the Rev. Mr. Whitmore, for the erection of a "Home" for the recreation of British soldiers and sailors on the terms specified and agreed upon and subject to the acceptance of the further condition imposed in para. 2 of this order.

2. The grant of the site now authorized is made on the distinct understanding that the proprietary title of the land and buildings about to be constructed is to be vested in the hands of the Government instead of the General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission at Madras as suggested by the Rev. Mr. Whitmore.

3. The request of Mr. Whitmore that the Home when completed be treated as a charitable institution, and, as such, be exempted from assessment, will be considered in the Local and Municipal Department.

4. The Revenue Department will be requested to issue the necessary orders for the proper demarcation of the land in question.

5. The Government note that the "Home," like other kindred institutions in England and in India, is to be conducted on purely non-sectarian principles, and that no religious exercises of any kind will be permitted in it.

6. The question as to the expediency or otherwise of having a prayer-room in the "Home" will be referred for the opinion of the Government of India.

7. The Government Solicitor is accordingly requested to draw up, in communication with Rev. Mr. Whitmore (as representing the Wesleyan Mission at Madras), an agreement based on the lines now sanctioned, and submit a draft of it for the approval of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General, with 2 plans.

" Revenue Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Government Solicitor.
" Public Works Dept.

No. 358.

No. 5889.

Copy of the above forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, for favor of the opinion of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council with reference to para. 6 of the Resolution.

(By Order.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

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C^{ms} 9171/89

Govt. of {1889} Madras.

MILITARY.

To
THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Military Department.

No: 2788 W. L. C. B. 1889

Communicated to

the Suptg Engineer V
Circle and the Engr
Archives for information.

SD/ W. L. C. B.
2. 10. 89

Dated August, 28th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

28th August 1889, No. 5889.

B^h 2788 W. L. C. B. 5/10/89

AUGUST.

Nos. 351-358.

Cantonments—Lands.

Monument Esplanade, Madras.—Orders
passed on an application from the Rev. Mr.
Whitmore, Wesleyan Minister, for a site on the
— for the erection of a "Home" for the recrea-
tion of British soldiers and sailors.

S. E. V. Circle

C. A. St. Gout.

(W)

With 1889