Session — 1893

PWD

GO No. 2557. W.

Dt. 10.10.1893

257/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., dated 20th January 1893, No. 54, Revenue.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on papers relating to the utilization of the old High Court buildings for the accommodation of the Stamp and Stationery office, as also the offices of the Port officer and the Madras Town Deputy Collector.

READ—again endorsement, dated 17th July 1893, No. 2639, on letter from Messrs. Eales and Co. inquiring whether the Government is disposed to sell the Stamp office building, and, if so, at what price.

READ—also endorsement of the Public Works Department, dated 25th July 1893, No. 631 D, on letter from the Consulting Architect to Government reporting that the accommodation in the old Police Court is insufficient to locate the offices of the Inspector-General of Registration and the Registrar of Madras.

READ—also memorandum from the Public Works Department, dated 8th August 1893, No. 670, intimating the value of the Stamp office building and of its site.

READ—also the following letter from M.R.Ry. S. SRINIVASA RAGHAVAIYANGAR, Avergal, Diwan Bahadur, C.I.E., Inspector-General of Registration, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Athur, 23rd July 1893, T. No. 1554:—

In paragraph 3 of G.O., dated 20th January 1893, No. 54, Revenue (and paragraph 5 of G.O., dated 31st May 1893, No. 1452 W.), communicated in G.O., dated 1st March 1893, R. No. 252, Judicial, the Consulting Architect to Government was directed to inspect the Old Town Police Court building and report whether the building does not contain sufficient accommodation for my office and that of the Registrar of Madras. I also inspected the building and found that, besides being unsuited for a public office on sanitary and other grounds, it does not contain sufficient accommodation for my office and that of the Registrar of Madras. The Consulting Architect to Government is also of the same opinion as will be seen from the enclosed copy of his letter, dated 19th July 1893, No. 1223, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. Owing to the unsuitability of the building and its locality for a public office, the Town Police Court was removed from it before 1883 on the representation * of the late Mr. Scharlieb, and Mr. Hamnett reported † in 1884 that the building could not be utilized as a Registration office for similar reasons. The building, in fact, was left unoccupied for several years after the removal of the Police Court from it and it was only as a temporary measure that the office of the Deputy Collector of Madras was removed to it, as the building which was till then occupied by the latter office was purchased by Messrs. Wrenn, Bennett and Co.

* G.O., dated 24th December 1883, No. 3387, Judicial, and G.O., dated 10th January 1884, No. 66. W.

† G.O., dated 27th March 1885, No. 840, Judicial, and G.O., dated 19th January 1885, Mis. No. 156.

2. Apart from the objections to the locality, the Consulting Architect having reported that the additions necessary to the Town Police Court building to adapt it to the requirements of the Registration department cannot be made without great alterations and that most parts would perhaps have to be rebuilt, the question of providing suitable accommodation for my office and that of the Registrar of Madras, where very valuable records of title to property are kept, the necessity for which was on several occasions brought to the notice of Government, has to be considered. It is of great importance that the office of the Registrar of Madras should be located in the same building as that in which my office is held, as I have to be away from Madras during the greater portion of the year, and it is desirable that my office should be in charge of a senior officer like the Registrar of Madras who could sign papers for me and attend to any emergent calls for informations from Government. The Government has also in G.O., dated 5th December 1892, No. 2228, Judicial, desired me to consider whether it would not be more economical to build an office for the Sub-Registrar of Sowcarpet than to rent a building at a monthly cost of Rs. 40. The cost of a new building would not, I think, be less than Rs. 10,000. It seems to me that, instead of having a separate building constructed at this cost, it would be more economical to locate the Sowcarpet Sub-Registrar's office in the same building as that in which the Inspector-General's and the Madras Registrar's offices are held. This would require a slight re-arrangement of the divisions of the town which are under the charge of the Registrar and the Sub-Registrar respectively and this can be easily effected.

3. On the representation of Mr. Hamnett, plans and estimates were prepared in 1886 for the construction of a combined building for my office and those of the Registrar of Madras and the Registrar of the Diocese. The estimate amounted to Rs. 85,000, but the Government declined to sanction the estimate on financial grounds in G.O., dated 12th January 1888, No. 58, Judicial. At the time of the preparation of the plans there were 354 Registration offices in the Presidency and the total number of documents registered amounted to 608,942. The number of offices has now risen to 405 and the number of registrations to 873,161 or by 43 per cent. With the increase in the number of offices and the expansion of the operations of the department, the quantity of registers, forms, &c., for which store-room has to be provided in my office, has necessarily increased notwithstanding that during the last two years the quantity of books and forms, of which a stock was kept, has been reduced from eighteen months' requirements to little more than six months' requirements. Further, since 1888, I have been placed in charge of the office of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for which also additional accommodation has to be provided. Bearing these considerations in mind, I have made an estimate of the accommodation required, which I beg to enclose for the information of Government.

4. The necessity for a combined office for the Inspector-General of Registration, the Registrar of Madras and the Sub-Registrar of Sowcarpet, having been established, either a new building should be constructed or some other Government building in which sufficient accommodation is available should be found. The cost of a combined building on the plan prepared by Mr. Brassington in 1886 was estimated at Rs. 85,000, and, having regard to the increased accommodation now required as per statement referred to in paragraph 3 *ante*, a new building cannot, I think, be constructed for any thing less than a lakh of rupees. The finances of the department are in a very flourishing state (the surplus income earned in 1892–93 amounting to Rs. 4,81,607 or about 36 per cent. of the receipts of that year) and can well bear the charge for the construction of an office for the head of the department and the Presidency Registration officers. Barring the construction of a new building, it seems to me that the building in which the Stamp and Stationery office is held may be utilized for the purpose when the building is vacated by the Stationery office on its removal to the Old High Court buildings. A part of the building might be easily made fire-proof for the safe custody of the records of title of property. The actual accommodation required is given in the statement referred to above, and any excess space available in the building, after allowing a reasonable margin for the annual increase of records of a department in which business has been growing rapidly, will not, I venture to submit, be much; and if there is any considerable space left, it may be utilized for the purpose of establishing a central record-room for the Chingleput district. As stated above, a new building

suited to present requirements cannot be constructed for any sum less than a lakh of rupees—a sum which, I believe, is considerably in excess of the present market value of the Stamp and Stationery office building. The utilization of this building will thus be more economical than the construction of a new building which will have to be taken up sooner or later.

5. In these circumstances, I beg respectfully to request that the Government may be pleased to reconsider its order, dated 20th January 1893, No. 54, Revenue, and direct the utilization of the Stamp and Stationery office for the offices of the Inspector-General, the Registrar of Madras and the Sub-Registrar of Sowcarpet, with such improvements as may be deemed necessary.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of letter from Consulting Architect to Government, dated 19th July 1893, No. 1223.

No. 1381.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

OOTACAMUND, 10th August 1893.

(Signed) A. BUTTERWORTH,
Ag. Under-Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.

ORDER—dated 5th September 1893, No. 779, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

In the circumstances now reported, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the Stamp and Stationery office building should, upon the removal of that office to the Old High Court buildings, be converted into offices for the Inspector-General of Registration, the Registrar of Madras and the Sub-Registrar of Sowcarpet. Any modifications necessary for this purpose will be considered in the Judicial Department. As regards the Old Police Court in which the Government at first proposed to locate the Registration offices, it will, on its being vacated by the Madras Deputy Collector's office, be taken charge of by the Public Works Department.

2. Messrs. Eales and Co. will be informed that the Stamp and Stationery office building is not for sale.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" Messrs. Eales and Co. (paragraph 2 only).

Ext. S. J. Perein.

70 Copies.

Govt. of {1893} Madras.

REVENUE.

No. 2557 Wajib. dated October 1893.

Communicated to the Consulting Architect for information and guidance.

6/9/93 JH

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 5th September 1893, No. 779.

SEPTEMBER.

Stamp and Stationery Office buildings.

Considering that the — should be converted into offices for the Inspector-General of Registration, the Registrar of Madras and the Sub-Registrar of Sowcarpet, and stating that any modifications necessary for this purpose will be considered in the Judicial Department.

CA 6/9/93