

IN 3530
CURRENT NO. 3603

Govt. of {1894} Madras.
ECCLESIASTICAL.

Issued

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Recd.

16.5.94

Encl.

G.O., 30th April 1894, No. 37.

APRIL.

Consecration of the Perambur
Church.

Stating that Government has no objection to
the — but that the Railway will have to keep it
in repair.

No. 1288 W. d. 23rd May 1894.

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18/5/94

referred to
by

C.A. to Govt. 23/5
CA to Govt.

INDEXED
20/5-18/5
20/5-25/5

No. 1348-C.

Referred to the Ecclesiastical Department for favour of opinion.

28th March 1894.

(Signed) F. R. UPCOTT,
Jt. Secy. to Govt., P.W.D. (Ry. Branch).

From the Rev. S. MORLEY, M.A., Bishop's Chaplain, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 18th April 1894, No. 1299.

With reference to your No. 673, dated 5th April 1894, herewith returned, I am desired by the Right Reverend the Bishop to state that he was not aware that the proposed site of the church at Perambur is held by the Railway Company on lease from Government. This being the case, it would seem simplest for Government, after obtaining the consent of the Company, to grant the usual sanction for consecration, that the church might be under the same rules as all other consecrated Government churches.

2. With regard to his use of the term "church property for ever" he meant that it cannot be alienated from church purposes and church law. When the site of a church has been legally made over to the Bishop and Archdeacon, then it is clear that the site and building are "church property for ever" in the full sense of the words. But even if other persons than the Bishop and Archdeacon were appointed to be the trustees, these would hold the property for the church, and would as such be representatives of the church, so that "church property" would seem in such cases also to be rightly used of the building and site. When a church has been consecrated by Government sanction, Government holds that church as church property, and has prescribed certain special rules for such buildings. But the Bishop has no objection to the question being referred to the Advocate-General.

3. The words in the sentence of consecration are appended:—

"We by divine permission, Bishop of do therefore, by virtue of our ordinary and episcopal authority, now separate and set apart the said place, edifice or structure, containing in length from east to west feet, and in width from north to south feet, from all profane or common uses, and do hereby dedicate the same as the church of at aforesaid to God and divine worship, and do consecrate it for the celebration of divine service therein according to the Church of England, and we do openly and publicly pronounce and declare that it shall so continue for ever hereafter separated, dedicated and consecrated, by this our definitive sentence or final decree, which we make, pronounce and promulge in these writings; saving and reserving unto us and our successors, Bishops of Calcutta, all ordinary and episcopal jurisdiction, rights and privileges."

ORDER—dated 30th April 1894, No. 37, Ecclesiastical.

The Government has no objection to the church being consecrated, but it will be for the Railway Company to keep it in repair.

(True Extract.)

Abdy Thellus
Capt. M.
Chief Secretary

To the Right Reverend the Bishop.
" Public Works Department.
" Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
" Venerable the Archdeacon.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From L. S. MOSS, Esq., Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 15th March 1894, No. 5805—201.

I have the honour to inform you that it is considered desirable that the Perambúr church should be consecrated when it is completed, but there are certain conditions attached to consecration, one of which is that the site and building be church property for ever. I enclose a memorandum by His Lordship the Bishop of Madras, dated the 31st January last, on this subject, in which this condition is stated. The site on which the church is to be erected is the property of the Government and is only leased to the Company. I have not, therefore, any authority to make it over to the Ecclesiastical authorities.

2. An undertaking can be given that the church shall only be used for church of England purposes, but it cannot be consecrated by the Bishop until the Government consents and authorises us to act in accordance with His Lordship's wishes, and I therefore request that I may be favoured with the orders of the Government on the subject.

It may, perhaps, be advisable before coming to a decision to refer to the Advocate-General the question as to whether the contention of the Bishop is correct, that if consecrated the site and building shall be church property for ever.

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Memorandum.

Consecration brings a building under Ecclesiastical rules.

It is a condition of consecration that the site and building be church property for ever. The site should be made over by the Company to the Bishop and Archdeacon in a formal document, stating the purpose for which it is given.

In the case of Perambúr, as Government is to become possessed of all Madras Railway property at the end of 14 years, it is advisable that Government be a consenting party to the consecration, the more so as it is hoped that Government will adopt it as a Government church, committing it to the care, not of the Archdeacon only, but also of the Department of Public Works.

If both the Company and the Government agree to the consecration, the building, when consecrated, will be church property for ever and under Ecclesiastical rules.

Under those rules, in dealing with the fabric and furniture of a church, Bishops, Archdeacon, Clergyman, people, all have their responsibilities and rights. Certain Railway officers will be representatives of the people.

It will be convenient to be guided as nearly as may be by the Government rules for church committees.

The representatives of the Company should have such control with regard to alterations in fabric or furniture as Government possesses in Government churches.

MADRAS,
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