Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 1176 W

DATED 4/4/96

1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Residence for the Collector at Tanjore

Orders, regarding the quartering —

[P. W. 20.
300—15-9-95.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated April, 4th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O. No. 1176 W., 4th April 1896.

APRIL

Residence for the Collector at Tanjore

Cancelling G.O. No. 339 W., dated 28th January 1896, and leaving it to the Collector of Tanjore to make his own arrangements for house accommodation.

No. 1176 W., 4th April 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 1029, dated 2nd March 1896.

Full Board.

Read—letter from G. STOKES, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated 12th February 1896, Ref. on Cur. No. 2238-Ver.

Read—also endorsement of the Acting Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 21st February 1896, Mis. No. 771, on Government Order, Public Works Department, dated 28th January 1896, No. 339 W.

Resolution—Mis. No. 1029, dated 2nd March 1896.

The Collector's letter will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Mr. Rawson's letter requesting Government to sanction the construction of a residence for the Collector at Tanjore was forwarded, in original, with Board's Proceedings, No. 5805, dated 19th November 1895. Mr. Stokes was unaware of his predecessor's recommendation and was only apprised of it when G.O. No. 223, dated 18th January 1896, transferring the papers to the Public Works Department was communicated to him. Mr. Stokes now enters a strong protest against any interference with the present arrangements.

3. The Board is of opinion that Mr. Stokes has made out a somewhat strong case against moving the Collector's residence to Tanjore, and considers that there is no reason why the Collector should not be allowed to live at Vallam, so long as the concession is not abused. The First, Third and Fourth Members of the Board have all held the appointment of Collector of Tanjore, and they concur with Mr. Stokes in considering that the health, as well as the comfort, of any officer condemned to reside in Tanjore itself and to do the work of Collector, would be seriously threatened.

4. It must, however, be noted that the Collector of Tanjore very often finds it necessary to keep a second house in Tanjore as well as the house at Vallam. Such an arrangement can always be made, if necessary, and there appears to be no reason why the State should incur the heavy cost of constructing a permanent residence there. As the second house at Tanjore need not be a large one, the aggregate cost to the Collector would probably not be so much as the rent of a large house at Tanjore built by the Public Works Department.

5. Since the above proceedings was drafted, the Board has received a copy of G.O. No. 339 W., dated 28th January 1896, in which Government proposes to give the house, now occupied by the District Judge, to the Collector and to build for the former officer. For the reasons stated above, the Board would respectfully suggest a reconsideration of these orders.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

Mis. No. 1075, Revenue.

Transferred to the Public Works Department with the Honourable Members' notes.

Fort St. George,
17th March 1896.

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary to Government.

Order—No. 1176 W., dated 4th April 1896.

In consideration of the arguments so strongly urged by the Collector of Tanjore and the Board of Revenue, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to cancel G.O. No. 339 W., dated 28th January 1896, and to leave it to the Collector to make his own arrangements for house accommodation.

(True Extract.)

Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department.
" Judicial Department.
" Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" Consulting Architect to Government.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.
Spare Copies

No 1176. W of 4' april/96.

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

B of R
Civil works

[illegible]

Endorsement in the Revenue Dept on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, (Land Revenue), No. 1029 Mis. dated 2nd March 1896........................ (H.E. No. 1075 Mis. d/17th March 1896)

4 P

In consideration of the arguments so strongly urged by the Collector of Tanjore and the Board of Revenue, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to cancel G.O. No. 339 w dated 28th January 1896, and to leave it to the Collector to make his own arrangements for house accommodation.

21/3/96

ASH
29.3.96

BP
1/4/96

JS
2/4/96

DESPATCHED
21 APR. 96

Revenue Department.
Judicial ,,
Suptg Engineer V Circle.
Consg Architect to Govt.

~~H.S. circ~~

Collector's residence at Tanjore

T thro
B[illegible]

H.E. 23/3.
circ 30/3 } R 4/4.

D/4 2,000—25-7-94.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 8546 of 95

From the Board. L.R.

Dated 19—11— 1895.

FOR ORDERS.

In this paper, the Board submits for the sanction of Govt an application from the coll'r of Tanjore for a residence for him in that ~~locality~~ station. The coll'r says that no house is available which is at all suitable for the purpose and that it is desirable that the proposed residence should be ready for occupation at the same time that the new office building is opened for use. The Board's Pro. is very meagre, but the following is a summary of the discussions on the subject in the Govt office.

FOR ORDERS.

2. In 1890, when the question of the transfer of headquarters from Vallam to Tanjore arose, it was urged as an argument against the proposal, that it would be necessary to build not only an office ~~fo~~ but also a residence for the collr. The objection was allowed and the proposed transfer was dropped on the ground of expense.

vide G.O. $\frac{525}{7\text{-}7\text{-}90}$ and the notes thereunder

3. The removal of the headquarters from Vallam to Tanjore was considered in the next following year, on the motion of Sir Henry Stokes. In that connection, he said: "There would be no necessity whatever to build the collr a house. There are several good houses in Tanjore - at least half a dozen - one of which he might get; and at any rate, in

G.O. $\frac{348}{20\text{-}4\text{-}91}$

vide his minute dt 28-2-91 under Clr. 1765 under G.O. $\frac{348}{20\text{-}4\text{-}91}$

D/4 2,000—25-7-94.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 189 .

FOR ORDERS.

such a place as Tanjore where there is plenty of money and private enterprise there would be no need for ~~the~~ Govt to build." The Hon Mr Garstin disapproved of the suggestion that the Govt should trust to ~~private~~ the speculation of some local resident to build a house for the collr, and stated that he ~~had~~ would not oppose the transfer from Vallam to Tanjore provided both office and residence were ~~built~~ built for the collr. H E the Govr thought that the move should certainly be made "even if it were found necessary to build a"

vide his minute dt 13-3-91 under G.O. $\frac{348}{20\text{-}4\text{-}91}$

minute dt 14-3-91 under G.O. $\frac{348}{20\text{-}4\text{-}91}$

FOR ORDERS.

"a residence as well as an office for the collr".

An Orders ~~were~~ was accordingly drafted ~~sanctioning~~ directing the transfer of headquarters from Vallam to Tanjore and in this, the Hon Mr Garstin put in a para to say that the Govt would be "prepared to sanction the erection of a suitable residence for the collr at Tanjore if one cannot be rented for him". To this add-

3. ition Sir Henry Stokes objected on the ground that the construction of a residence would require the sanction of the Govt of India and that no case could be made out in favor of it. At any rate, Sir Henry Stokes said, "there is no necessity whatever to go into the question now and to couple the change of headquarters with the provision of accommodation for the collr".

vide minute dt 6-4-91 under G.O 348/20-4-91

do

D/4 2,000—25-7-94.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 189 .

FOR ORDERS.

In this view, H E Concurred and no mention was made in the G.O. about the residence.

4. When the question of headquarters was again considered in June last, the provision of a residence for the collr was also incidentally noted. The Hon Mr Bliss, writing against the removal, suspected "the probable need of building a house for the collr" and H E the Govr said that the coll and his office should move to Tanjore "as soon as the offices are built and arrangements completed for securing him a suitable dwelling house — and"

G.O 2247/5-6-95

minute dt 31-5-95 under G.O 2247/5-6-95

do dt 3-6-95 under G.O 2247/5-6-95

"and steps to secure these two objects should be taken at once".

5. Orders are requested if further information is to be called for. Mr Thomson refers to a house near the Ry station owned by Ratnasami Nadar. He says it is convenient and healthier than any other and rents Rs 80. The owner might be willing to rent it out to the Collr

If the proposal to construct a residence is approved, the sanction of the Govt of India should be applied for. (paras 15-17 of chapter X of the PWD code Vol I.)

When in 1891 Sir H. Stokes wrote "there are several good houses in Tanjore. at least half a dozen – one of wh. the Colr. might get" I can

RS
16-12-95

SAW
15/12.

FOR ORDERS.

vide D.O. 26 under G.O. 2247 / 5-6-95

It is believed that Ratnasami Nadar is also the owner of the house now occupied by the Collr at Vallam. The Secy may know.

& perhaps he was not a good judge of the sort of house a Colr. required

D 2,000–25-7-94.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 189 .

FOR ORDERS.

only suppose that after long absence from the District the
| H. his memory failed him – As a matter of fact there are only four houses in the place in which a married Collector could possibly reside, and, of these, only two are in the least degree suitable for an officer in such a position – at least that is my opinion. wh. is perhaps a little out of date – One of these two is known as the Residency & is always occupied by the District Judge. The other is and, for long years, has been occupied by the District Surgeon – Of course, in a sense, the Collector could "get" the Doctor's house – but where is the Doctor to live? As matters stand at present the Collr could not get the Residency, for that is

FOR ORDERS.

C No. 8546 of 95

—

Residence for the Coll. of Tanjore.

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the property of the Palace and is in charge of the Judge, who would naturally object to give up his house to the Collector –

The other two houses are Colonel Brockman's house, which is very small and is always occupied by the Executive Engineer and the house belonging to the Rájah – wh. has very little accommodation and wh. for the last 7 or 8 years has been rented by the Committee of the Tanjore Club – When Mr. Stokes was Collector, he rented this building together with Col. Rolland, the Supt. of Police – It affords room for two batchelors & that is about all – Probably the Club has the building on lease – & if so, the Collector could not "get" it – But however this may be, there are not, I hope, many Collectors who would be inclined to fall out with the small community of a Mofussil station by over-reaching the members of it by "getting" their club-house for a private residence –

As to private enterprise undertaking to build – there is no sign yet of Mr. Stokes' sanguine expectations being realized – and yet it is some time now since the decision was come to that the Collector's Cutcherry should be built – The Rajah won't build, nor do I for one moment suppose that any one else will be induced to do so – and it seems to me that the only course is for Govt. to undertake the work – I submit, however, for consideration whether it might not be better to build for the Judge & set free the Residency for the Collector's abode. It will be readily admitted that the position of a Govt. servant, occupying a house which is the property of the Tanjore Ránee, and being de facto his own land-lord, is not a desirable position – So long as the Collector was the Receiver of the Palace property, extravagant demands on the part of the Residency Tenant for improvements and additions to the building or furniture were disallowed – but since I resigned the Receivership six years ago and a Eurasian Vakil has held the appointment during the pleasure of the District Judge, the situation is completely changed – and there are good reasons why the Collector and not the Judge should occupy the Residency – I make this suggestion because this opportunity presents itself – although of course the same kind of house will be needed for either of these officers – The suggestion is not made upon abstract principles alone –

I beg for orders whether the P.W.D. is to be asked for plans and estimates for a residence – whether for the Collector or the Judge –

L.G. 4/1/96.

I think the Colr shd be asked his opinion. I understand from Ratnasami Nadar that his house is available & that the Club can be well accommodated elsewhere. He thinks the accommodation will be sufficient.

If a house is to be built I think it shd be for the Judge not the Colr. Shall we not have to get the sanction of India before calling for plans & estimates?

J.G.
9/1/96

But Mr. Gibson, who knows the house as a guest – surely he is a better judge of what sort of house a Colr. requires than Ratnasami Nadar –

I don't see what we can do but build – I suspected all along that this would be necessary. I don't know where the money is to come from
By deferring some taluk cutcherry W
I should give up the idea of moving the office from Vallam

10/1/96

There is nothing for it but to build, and apparently the new house had better be for the Judge, rather than for the Collector, for the reasons given by the Secretary. If the sanction of India is necessary, it should be obtained, and if there is any difficulty about funds now, it may be necessary to build the Collector's office first, and ~~the Collector's~~ his house afterwards. This may be inconvenient to the Collector for a time, but it can't be helped. I am sure that the public convenience will be so well served by the change from Vallam, that we ought to carry it out.

W 12 Jan

Hon. Mr. Grose
Hon. Mr. Bliss
H.E. the Governor

Proposal that Government should build a house for the Collector at Tanjore.

339 W

Ords. 3
~~559~~ 2770/96

C. 7/1
R. 15/1

D/4 2,000—25-7-94.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 1739

From the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue

Dated 2. 3. 1896.

FOR ORDERS.

Please see 'notes'ˣ under G. O. No. 223 d/ 18. 1. 96. It was there decided, on a proposal from the Collector of Tanjore to provide a residence for him at the town of Tanjore, that a new building should be constructed for the District Judge and that the building now occupied by the latter officer should be made available for occupation by the Collector. The proposal in question was made by Mr. E. C. Rawson and Mr. G. Stokes nowˣ requests a reconsideration of the order on the ground that the construction of a house for the Collector at Tanjore is quite unnecessary and altogether undesirable. He states

× Obtained from the P. W. Dept.

I think we had better yield to the arguments so strongly urged by the Collr & the Board. We have not a "tabula rasa". If we had, the Collr's house shd certainly be erected near the cutcherry, but under existing circumstances we had better let him live at Vallam & drive ~~b~~ 6 miles in & out. This will do no harm to public interests.

J.G. 13/3/96

W.B. 14/3/96

× When Mr. Stokes wrote his letter d/ 12. 2. 96, he was not aware of the decision of Govt: under G. O. 339/28.1.96 W, communicated in G. O. 771/21.2.96 Rev.

FOR ORDERS.

states that the distance from the Collector's present house to the Office site is not much over 6 miles; that in Madras many officers live at longer distances; that, except for his own convenience, it is not clear why the Collector should be compelled to reside at Tanjore; that the Collector's doing so would serve no public purpose or convenience; that any one wishing to see the Collector on public business could do so at the Office; that there is telegraph to Vallam and that in a few years a railway is likely to pass its gate; that "Vallam is healthy and beautiful and it is a joy to live there instead of in D. P. W. built house saddled with an enormous rent and in the midst of an abandoned quarry which can grow nothing but an ugly scrub;" that in Vallam the Collector has some peace and quiet retirement, while in Tanjore he will be pestered with native visitors in and out of season;
that

that he seriously doubts if under the circumstances, the Collector will be able to get through his work and live; that life at Vallam is cheape that the Public Works Deptt: is not likely to build a proper house for any rent less than Rs 250 a month, while the rent of the Vallam house is only Rs 100; that when the Collector goes out into camp, he can leave his family behind him in Vallam practically free from Cholera and infectious diseases, which cannot be the case in Tanjore; that the building of a residence for the Collector at Tanjore needlessly imposes on the State a very heavy charge and burden. Mr. Stokes also urges that the owner of the Vallam house is entitled to some consideration, as, if the Collector is compelled to reside at Tanjore, the house at Vallam will

will be left without a tenant and go to ruin.

2. The Board of Revenue supports the Collector's request and considers that there is no reason why the Collector should not be allowed to live at Vallam, so long as the concession is not abused. It also adds that its 1st, 3rd and 4th Members, who have all held the appointment of Collector of Tanjore, concur with Mr. Stokes in considering that the health, as well as the comfort, of any officer condemned to reside in Tanjore itself and to do the work of Collector, would be seriously threatened. The Board of Revenue also states that the Collector can, if necessary, rent a second house at Tanjore, as he very ~~app~~ often finds it necessary to do so even now, and that as this second house at Tanjore need not be a large one, the aggregate cost to the Collector of keeping both the houses would probably

---

No.

From

Dated 189 .

~~FOR ORDERS.~~

probably not be so much as the rent of a large house at Tanjore built by the Public Works department.

Orders are requested.

Attention is solicited to the notes under G.O. No. 525 d. 7.7.90 and G.O. No. 348 d. 20.4.1891.

C.G. 9/3

C.A.
7 Mar. 96.

FOR ORDERS.

Cur. 1739/96.

Re: removal of the Collector's residence to Tanjore.

The Hon. Mr. Grose. C. I. E.
The Hon. Mr. Bliss C. I. E.
H. E. the Governor.

OLSE 2
2770/96

C. 10/3.
R 16/3

Reference on C.
No. 2238/Rev of 95

Tanjore Collector's Office
Camp. 12th February 1896.

From. G. Stokes Esquire.
Collector of Tanjore.

To. The Secretary to the Commissioners of
Land Revenue
Madras

Sir, I have just learnt from Board's Proceedings No. 384 Mis. dated 24th January 1896, Land Revenue, that Government contemplates the construction of a residence for the Collector at Tanjore. I feel it necessary to state that in my opinion this is quite unnecessary and altogether undesirable.

2. The distance from the present Collector's house to the Office site is not much over six miles and I have myself for a year or more driven a longer distance to office while in Madras and I believe many officers now there still do the same

same. I submit that whatever may be the reasons existing for transferring the Collector's *Office* to Tanjore, they in no way apply to his *residence*. Except for his own convenience, I see no reason why the Collector should be compelled to reside in Tanjore. His doing so serves no public purpose or convenience. Any one can see him any day at his Office who wishes to do so on public business. There is a telegraph to Vallam and in a few years, a railway is likely to pass its gate. Vallam is healthy and beautiful and it is a joy to live there instead of in D.P.W. built house, saddled with an enormous rent in the midst of an abandoned quarry which can grow nothing but an ugly scrub though it be, however, the best site available in Tanjore.

3. In Vallam, the Collector awakes

to

to the twittering and chirping of birds and the scent of flowers. In Tanjore, he will awake to scents of a different kind. His rest will be disturbed by whistling engines and when he goes out of his gate, the first sight he will see will be the portals of the District Jail. In Vallam the Collector has some peace and quiet retirement. In Tanjore, he will be pestered with native visitors in and out of season; and I seriously doubt if under the circumstances he will be able to get through his work and live. There may be some to whom the above considerations may fail to appeal. If so, perhaps the consideration that to reside at Vallam will be a saving may bring more consolation.

The D.P.W. are not likely to build a proper house, the rent of which will be less than Rs 250 a month. The rent of Vallam house is Rs 100 and the difference will go far to pay for the extra horse-flesh

required

required. When a Collector goes out into camp, he can leave his family behind him in Vallam practically free from fear of cholera and infectious illness which can never be the case in Tanjore though perhaps I attach too much importance to this consideration after my six years' experience in Salem. I submit that the building of a residence for the Collector at Tanjore needlessly imposes on the state a very heavy charge and burden.

4. Leaving these considerations purely personal to the Collector, and Government, I would urge that the present owner of the Vallam house is entitled to some consideration. He has invested his money and has in doing so, served the state for many years and I submit it is hard without very strong inducement to throw back on his hands a valuable house which must but go to ruin.

I have &c.
(Signed) G. Stokes
Collector

True copy!
Rellan
Ag. Secretary

1176 W

1176 W

OWE.1
2770/56

189 6
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Enclosure No. 1
Current No. 1739

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

Dated 2nd March 1896

No 1029 Mis

18

Full Board

READ Letter from G. Stokes Esquire, Collector, Tanjore
Ref on Car No 2238 Ver dated 12th February 96.
Read also Endorsement of the Acting Under
Secretary to Government Revenue Depart-
ment dated 21st February 1896 Mis No 771 Mis
on Government Order Public Works Department
dated 28th January 1896 No 339 W.

Resolution dated 1st March 1896, Mis No 1029

The Collector's letter will be submitted
for the orders of Government.

2 Mr Rawson's letter requesting Government
to sanction the construction of a residence for
the Collector at Tanjore was forwarded in
original with Board's Proceedings 5805 dated
19th November 1895. Mr Stokes was unaware
of his predecessor's recommendation and was
only apprised of it when Government Order
No 223 dated 18th January 96 transferring the papers
to

the P. W. D was communicated to him. Mr. Stokes now enters a strong protest against any interference with the present arrangements.

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4 It must however be noted that the Collector of Tanjore very often finds it necessary to keep a second house in Tanjore as well as the house at Vallam. Such an arrangement can always be made, if necessary, and there appears to be no reason why the State should incur the heavy cost of constructing a permanent residence there. As the second house at Tanjore need not be a large one the aggregate cost to the Collector would probably not be so much as the rent of a large house at Tanjore built by the Public Works Department

5

5. Since the above proceedings was drafted, the Board has received a copy of Government Order No. 339 W dated 28th January '96 in which Government proposes to give the house, now occupied by the District Judge, to the Collector and to build for the former officer. For the reasons stated above the Board would respectfully suggest a reconsideration of these orders.

(True Extract)

Acting Secretary.

To
The Secretary to Government R. D. with copy of Collector's letter.
The Collector of Tanjore with copy of G. O. P. W. D.

4 Cw

41

~~Revenue~~ {1896.} ~~Department.~~

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

To

The Secretary to Govt

Rev Deptt.

~~Current Number~~ 1739.

No 1705 W of 11-7-95 ✓
" 2345 W " 21-9-95 ✓
" 142 W " 14-1-96 ✓
" 339 W " 28-1-96 ✓

SECY. GOVT. MADRAS
24 MAR 96
REV. DEPT.

Recd. 4/3

Proceedings, dated 2 — 3. 1896,

No. 1029 Mis. ~~Routine.~~ Enclosures. 1

Subject.

Submg to Govt. letter from the Collr. of Tanjore reporting that it is unnecessary to construct a residence for the Collr. at Tanjore and requesting Government to reconsider G. O. 339 W / 28-1-96

P. T. O.

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771 / 21-2-96 — 339 W / 28-1-96

P. W. CURRENT No. 2770

Enls 3

Accd: 18-3-96

Endt. misc. No 1075

Transferred to the Public Works Department with the Hon. Members' notes.

Gibson.
Secy. to Govt.

Forwarded;

V.R.
16 mar 96.

Fort St. George
17 March 1896}

No 1705 W of 11-7-95 ✓
" 2345 W " 21-9-95 ✓
" 142 W " 14-1-96 ✓
" 339 W " 28-1-96
" 163 E C - 23-3-96
+ file.