M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2407 — Press / Mis.

242 243

Dated 14 — 12 — 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

Memorandum from the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 19th November 1860, *No.* 665.

The Commander-in-Chief has the honor to submit to Government, the within letter from the Officer Commanding Centre Division, with enclosure from the Officer Commanding 43rd Regiment Light Infantry, bringing to notice the very great expense entailed upon young Officers doing duty with the European Regiment in Fort Saint George, owing to the want of accommodation for them in the Fort.

2. Lieutenant General Sir Patrick Grant desires to bring this matter under the special consideration of Government, and strongly recommends that young Officers who, on first arrival, may be ordered to do duty with the European Regiment located in Fort Saint George, may be allowed " Conveyance Allowance" of Rupees 20-10-6 or the difference between Ensigns half and full batta until reported qualified to command a Company if not provided with public quarters in the Fort ; so as to obviate the necessity of paying for a conveyance to take them to and from their Drill.

3. The young Officers appointed to do duty with the 43rd Light Infantry, might be sent up country : but the same difficulty of providing quarters obtains at out-stations as well as in Fort Saint George.

From the Officer Commanding Centre Division, Madras, 15th November 1860, *No.* 307 ; *to the Adjutant General of the Army.*

I have the honor to forward for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Primrose, Commanding H. M.'s 43rd Regiment, number and date as per margin,* relative to the debt for Messing of young Officers of the Indian Service attached to the Regiment.

* *No.* 755, 14*th November* 1860.

2. I agree with Lieutenant Colonel Primrose's opinion as to causes of the expensive position in which these young Officers are placed, and after a strict inquiry into the system of Messing, I can assure His Excellency that it is conducted on a most economical scale. I need not add that I could not suggest that they should be permitted to withdraw themselves from the Mess ; it would be most injurious to their future habits as well as attended with the certainty, that habits of expense would be incurred far beyond what on account of Messing is at present but a limited demand on their means.

3. If any building within the limits or vicinity of the Fort could be found, it would be most desirable that these young Officers should be placed in it.

From the Officer Commanding H. M.'s 43rd Light Infantry, Fort Saint George, 14th November 1860, *No.* 755 ; *to the Brigade Major Centre Division, Fort Saint George.*

The orders issued from the Horse Guards relative to the payment of the Officers' Mess Bills are very stringent. Reports of any defaulters have, at certain periods, to be made. That for the inspection lately made of the Regiment under my Command, has already been transmitted—this report refers only to Officers of the Regiment, but there are other Officers attached for the purpose of being instructed in their Drill and duties, in accordance with General Orders.

2. There are circumstances connected with these young Officers, which I have the honor to request you will be pleased to submit for the consideration of the Major General Commanding.

3. There are now seven attached,—the number varies—at one time there were eleven. They are with pleasure, admitted as members of the Mess and enjoy all its privileges without paying any subscriptions.

4. I regret to say some of them are constantly in debt to the Mess man, and to the Wine Fund. I have endeavored by kind admonition to impress on them the evils resulting from contracting debts, on their first entrance into the Army especially—and I feel convinced that these admonitions have not been thrown away, but I am anxious for their sakes that you should be aware of the difficulties they have to contend with. It is a well known fact that expenses of

every kind in Madras, have, of late years, very considerably increased, and the pay of a young Officer, with the strictest economy, is but sufficient for his maintenance, even under favorable circumstances.

5. The young Officers attached to the 43rd are laboring under very great disadvantages. The accommodation in the Fort is of so limited a nature that all the Officers belonging to the Regiment cannot be provided with separate quarters. The consequence is that any who may be attached, have to incur the heavy expense of lodgings in Town, and at such a distance from the Fort that it becomes absolutely necessary for them to keep a conveyance of some kind to take them backwards and forwards to all Drills, Parades and other duties.

6. If quarters could be allocated to them, all these absolutely necessary expenses might be avoided, and the debts to the Mess would, with well conducted young gentlemen, not be incurred.

7. I believe it is the intention that the house occupied by the Revenue Board, is at some period to be given over as a Mess house ; when that now appropriated for this purpose will be available for Officers' quarters.

8. If the Major General will be pleased to use his influence in the proper quarter, I think the work might be hastened, and the young Officers who are the subject of this letter, and the service also, would be materially benefitted.

With Report of the Military Auditor General, 24th November 1860, *A.*

ORDER, No. 4444, *7th December* 1860.

The Governor in Council observes that as it is understood that Public Quarters in the Fort will be shortly available for the young Officers doing duty with the European Regiment in Garrison, it does not appear advisable to request the Government of India to sanction any special allowances for them of the description contemplated in the foregoing correspondence.

2. His Honor however desires it may be intimated to the Chief Engineer, through the Department Public Works, that he confidently expects the arrangements for the removal of the Revenue Board Office to Chepauk will be completed and the present Office made available for Officers Quarters *within three months*, from the date of this order.

3. Pending the removal of the Revenue Board Office, as contemplated in the preceding paragraph, the Governor in Council directs that the Cadets' Quarters in the Fort, be made available for the accommodation of the young Officers doing duty with Her Majesty's 43rd Regiment, and authorises Hotel accommodation being provided by the Barrack Master at the Public expense, for such Gentlemen Cadets as may arrive during the interval.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
" Department Public Works.
" Barrack Master.
" Military Auditor General.
" Accountant General.
" Brigade Major Fort Saint George.
" Quarter Master General.
" Fort Adjutant Fort Saint George.
" Revenue Department, for information. With 3 Spare Copies

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

Revenue 1860 Depart.
Pro: of Govt for Decr

No. 2938

Proceedings of the Madras
Govt in the Military Dept

Dated 7th
Rec'd 14th } Decr 1860
No. 4444

Desire that ar-
rangements for the
removal of the Revenue
Board Office to Chepauk
may be completed
and the present Office
made available for
Officers Quarters
within three months.

No 242 & 243.

No 2407 14th December
With an order

No 2407

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Board
of Revenue for information

I D S

Fort St George
14th Decr 1860

Copy to the Board of Revenue with proc No 4444 Encl No 14

10/12/60