M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 474 Press Mis.

5f-60

Dated 5-3-1960

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th March 1863.

No. 59. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1863, No. 783 :—

Read the following letter from R. W. NORFOR, Esq., Superintendent of Stamps, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th January 1863, No. 578 of Fasli 1272.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of Government, and Order No. 2,610, 15th December 1862, upon the subject of a permanent location for the Stamp Office, and respecting the building now occupied as such, forwarded to me by the Board on the 18th December for full report.

2. In execution of these directions, I have to report as regards the present Stamp Office, that it is so centrally placed, that no other situation as good can be pointed out except that of the old Bank premises on the North Beach, or any of the pieces of ground built and unbuilt upon as per margin, on which an Office might be constructed. At the same time the present building is so limited in extent that it has many inconveniences, and it has been impossible hitherto to effect the very requisite division between the Store, Stamping, and Packing Departments, or to convert any part into a safe strong room for the stock of Stamps.

Timber Depôt, shortly to be emptied.
Granary, much available space.
Abercrombie's Battery, space available.

3. I have just completed some small alterations sanctioned by the Board, which by making two terraced godowns accessible from the main building will enable me for the future to separate the Packing from the Stamping and Store Rooms, and so remedy one part of the evil previously complained of. That which is now requisite is a strong room, and upon this point I had seen the agents of the owner of the premises, who were willing to make any necessary additions and to advance funds for the purpose within reasonable limits, on account of the owner. I have also seen the owner, Mr. Hall, at Ootacamund during the holidays, and have ascertained from him that his means being limited, he is unwilling to incur a debt on the premises, and therefore declines laying out money on them, but agrees to any thing that I may find necessary, and that Government may wish to carry out, in the way of improvement, at its own expense.

4. Following this I have had prepared estimates, which I have the honor to enclose, for the construction of a strong room in the yard of the building, the only ground space available. The room would be very solidly built with an arched roof, and double door, one of sheet iron, and the other iron bars closing with strong bolts. The room would be secure from theft, and to a great extent from fire, it would from its position be readily accessible for the removal of its contents on any emergency, and it would have this additional advantage that it would be in full view, and in close proximity to the guard, whom I propose quartering in a wide entrance from the front street to the yard, and in a wide verandah within it. This arrangement will also make available for Office purposes, the present Guard Room which has been complained of as too small and ill-ventilated, and likewise the present Store Room.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Bricklayer's estimate for building strong room	547	8	0
Double door of sheet and of bar Iron	105	0	0

It is not usual to construct strong rooms outside buildings, but the advantages of doing so in this case, in the centre yard, are manifest; there is also so little space within the main building that none can conveniently be spared for the purpose.

5. The addition of such a strong room will enable me to conduct the duties of the Office with safety and expedition, the outlay being small, it will not I hope be objectionable to Government, and it is perhaps at the same time as much as can prudently be expended upon a building that is open to objections, and which at a future day it may be desirable to give up. I have asked Colonel Orr regarding a door for the strong room, and he has shown me a model of one which he has lately put up at the Bank of Madras, to the strong room for the Currency Notes; the cost would be about Rupees 400. It is an excellent door, but owing to its cost is hardly to be recommended, except it were for use in a permanent Office, the property of Government.

6. In respect to a permanent building, I have made some inquiries regarding the old Bank, it can be rented for Rupees 251 monthly, and there is a rumour that it may eventually be sold. Should Government be disposed to occupy the premises, with an intention of buying as early as possible, the rental would as usual be a guide to the purchase value, which should not be more than Rupees 25,000, and might be made lower. The premises are in every way suitable for a Stamp Office.

7. Should Government contemplate building, there is ample space available in the Commissariat Granary, and on the other sites mentioned previously in this report, and should Government desire to have a new building estimated for, I shall if required submit a sketch of a plan that would be suitable to the requirements of the Department.

8. I trust that I may be excused for suggesting that in providing a permanent locality for the Stamp Office, a sufficiently imposing appearance may not be undeserving of consideration in purchasing or constructing. Respect for new institutions is apt in the Native mind to be influenced much by the outward show of the appliances for working them, and a moderately imposing exterior to the Central Office might not be without its advantages. This if considered worthy of regard could be attained either by the purchase of the old Bank, or in the construction of a new Office.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Estimates.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government with reference to their Proceedings in the Revenue Department quoted by the Superintendent. In consideration of the valuable nature and extent of the Stock in the Superintendent's custody, the Board consider it desirable that the strong room proposed by him to be erected in the yard of the present building with the consent of the owner, and at the cost of Government should be built with the least possible delay, unless the Government are disposed to take the old Bank premises for public purposes, and the Superintendent's Department could be accommodated there at an early date. The Board presume that the Government would wish the work in any case to be carried out by the Department Public Works.

2. The Board however deem it very undesirable that so important an Office should be for any length of time lodged in a hired private building, and as Government have called on them for a definite proposition on the subject, they would suggest that the purchase of the old Bank buildings on the beach at a reasonable price for the accommodation of the Stamp, and other Public Department similarly situated (as they understand the Telegraph Office to be) would be good economy in the end.

3. Probably Rupees 25,000 would be a fair price to offer the Bank, considering that some expenditure will be needed to fit up the building for the special purposes. The situation is all that could be desired.

4. The Board have already in their Proceedings dated 6th February 1863, expressed their opinion that the bulk of the Adhesive Stamps might with advantage be lodged in the Treasury vaults. They doubt whether the measure could without inconvenience be extended further.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 60. ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1863, No. 474.

1. The old Bank being required for other public purposes and no other suitable building being available, a new Office must of necessity be built. The Board will place themselves in communication with the Chief Engineer in view to the necessary plans and estimates being prepared without delay. A reference will meanwhile be made to the Military Department in order to ascertain whether sufficient space for the Office can be allotted in any of the sites mentioned by Mr. Norfor.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th March 1863.

2. The improvements proposed to the new building (with the exception of the iron door) are sanctioned, and orders will issue from the Department Public Works for the immediate execution of the work either by the Presidency Engineer or on contract, as may appear most expedient. An iron door of the kind made at the Mint and mentioned in paragraph 5 of Mr. Norfor's letter is sanctioned. It will be removed to the new Office when built and liberty to do this should be obtained from the proprietor of the present Office.

(Signed.) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

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An iron door of the kind made at the Mint & mentioned in para 5 of Mr Norton's letter is sanctioned. It will be removed to the new Office when built and a ~~this~~ leave to do this should be obtained from the proprietor of the present office. J.D.S.

The Officer in Charge Public Buildings Office
with Drawings
3 — Stock Yard &c
2 — Fire Communications
1 — Wall Paper &c
1 — Office

5th March 1883

No: 15 Dec 1/62 & 268-269
" 23 Feby/63 " 330-331

Rev. 1863. Department.
Pros: of Govt for allowce

No. 352.

From Captain H L
Penderyal R E Offr
Supt Engr & Dunes
D/ 22 May/63 C.A. 1223.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 9th February 1863.
Despatched 9
Received 10th

2 Encls. Rec'd

No. 783.

Rec: fr Govt in Mily Dep: of 14th April
1863 C No 797 in Rev:

Submitting a letter from the Superintendent of Stamps on the subject of a permanent location for his Office, and suggesting the purchase of the old Bank buildings on the Beach for the accommodation of the Stamp and other Departments similarly situated.

1259 to 60.

Rec'd 10th March