M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 869 Press Mis.

222.223

Dated 18 : 8 : 19 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th May 1863.

No. 222. Read the following letter from E. E. MERRALL, Esq., Civil Engineer, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coonoor, 6th May 1863:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to enclose for your inspection a bill which I received from Mr. Smith, the landlord of the Travellers' Bungalow Hotel at Coonoor, and a similar document from the servant of the same gentleman for refreshments at the Travellers' Bungalow at Coimbatore.

2. The accommodation at both places is of the most common-place character, and the charges are as high, as indeed higher than the first Hotels in Madras.

3. What would be thought in England of paying 3*s.* for a plain breakfast, and 4*s.* for a plain dinner, exclusive of drink; the tariff at the Railway Stations is about one-half of this.

4. If enquiry were made, I believe it would be ascertained that Mr. Smith has nearly doubled his charges* since he got possession of the Travellers' Bungalows, and this solely because he, by his occupancy of the Travellers' Bungalows, compels every traveller to come to his establishment, whether they choose or no.

* Mr. Wilson has done the same, but his Hotel is a private affair; his former prices are enclosed.—E. E. M.

5. I can hardly think it right on the part of Government to let the public Bungalows to a private speculator without some guarantee that he would supply travellers with refreshments at a reasonable cost. If a poor Subaltern, with his family, were compelled by sickness to visit the Hills, how could he afford to pay the enormous sum of Rupees 5 per day for each person.

No. 223. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1863, No. 864.

1. The Government have given up the public Bungalow at Coonoor because they consider that at so large a station the wants of travellers will be best supplied by private agency. They cannot consent to regulate the renter's charges, the price of almost every article of consumption and the wages of servants are high on the Neilgherries, and it would be impossible for Government even if they had the right, to determine what would be a proper charge for the accommodation, &c., afforded.

2. The Government believe that the comfort of travellers is better secured by the present arrangement than by retaining the Bungalows under the management of their own Officers, and certainly complaints have been much less frequent of late.

3. Mr. Merrall's letter is clearly not on Her Majesty's service, and it will therefore be sent to the Postmaster General for recovery of the postage charged on it.

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

The pet Lee no necessity for interfering in this matter - and cannot admit that in such a place as Connor it is the duty of the State to provide accomodation for travellers - or to regulate the charges.

Pro. 8th January/63 A67+68
& 13th August/62 A1143+44
6th June/62 A 85+86.

Revenue 1863 Vol 15
Pro: of Govt for May.
N. 1081

From E. E. Morrall
Esq Civil Engr

Dated 6th May/63
Recd 9th May/63.

E-3.

Submitting for inspection a Bill from Mr Smith Landlord of the Travellers' Bungalow Hotel at Coonoor, and for reasons stated thinks that it is not right on the part of Govt to let the Public Bungalows to a private speculator.

Rejd Letter Dr Chalmers sent to the Post Bag Cent 18 May/63.

No 222.

Revenue 1863 Vol 15
Pro: of Govt for May.
N. 1081

Submitting for inspection a Bill from Mr Smith, Landlord of the Travellers' Bungalow Hotel at Coonoor, and for reasons stated thinks that it is not right on the part of Govt to let the Public Bungalows to a private speculator.

S. G. No 364 — 18 May

Revenue Department.

N. 864.

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 18th May 1863.

Read the following letter from Mr E. E. Morrall, Civil Engineer.

Submitting for inspection a Bill from Mr Smith Landlord of the Travellers' Bungalow Hotel at Coonoor, and for reasons stated thinks that it is not right on the part of Govt to let the Public Bungalows to a private speculator.

(Here enter 6th May 1863 No f)

The Govt have given up the Public Bungalows at Coonoor because they consider that at so large a station the wants of travellers will be best supplied by private agency. They cannot consent to regulate the rents charged — the price of almost every article of consumption and the wages of servants are high on the Neilgherries and

and it would be impossible for Govt even if they had the right to determine what would be a proper charge for the accommodation afforded.

We Govt believe that the comfort of Travellers is better secured by the present arrangement than by retaining the Bungalows under the management of their own officers and certainly complaints have been much less frequent of late.

Mr Merrals letter is clearly not on Her Majesty's Service and it will therefore be sent to the Post Master General for recovery of the postage charged on it.

Copy to Mr Merrals Civil Surgeon
Post Master Genl
with Ajl Letter Paster
& Envelopes

Revenue 1863 Dep.t
Pro: of Govt. for May.

No. 864.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 18th May 1863.

No. 222 & 223.

Mr. C. E. Merrall's
letter stating that it is
not right on the part of
Government to let the
Travellers Bungalow
at Conoor to a private
Speculation without
some guarantee, dis:
proved off.