

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 603	Press ~~Mis.~~
327.328	
Dated	18-3-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th March 1865.*

No. 317. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd February 1865, No. 1,061.

Read again letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 10th January 1865; No. 7, recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 17th January 1865, No. 281.

Read also the following letters:—

From G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 19th January 1865, No. 10.

1. With reference to Government Order, dated the 13th instant, No. 51, on a letter from the Officer Commanding Malabar and Canara, complaining of the "enormously extortionate" charges at the Calicut Bungalow rented as an Hotel, on which subject I am directed to report through the Board, I have the honor to observe that though Brigadier General Babington did write to me about eight months ago, if I remember right, complaining in general (though strong) terms of the charges of the Bungalow, I am not aware of any single complaint having been made at my office by travellers either of exorbitant charges, or want of attention.

2. I have heard, not officially, that on several occasions young officers have given rather sudden and extensive orders for dinners for four or six, and have complained a good deal of the charges, and of the wines on the following days; but for ordinary fare there was a Schedule fixed, the rates in which were not exorbitant.

3. The Board will have learned, however, by my letter of the 10th instant, No. 7, that I proposed some modification in the terms of the lease for the future, which will give a greater hold on the lessee.

I forward the Schedule of charges which I proposed should obtain, with certain rules I had drawn up to obviate as far as possible complaint for the future.

4. After receipt of Brigadier General Babington's former letter, I made some inquiries fully intending not to renew the lease of the Bungalow if I found just ground of complaint. I found none, and I was led to believe that the convenience of the public is certainly better met by the Bungalow being retained as an Hotel, than by its being continued as an ordinary Travellers' Bungalow.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Scale of diet and charges for Mr. Gay's Hotel at Calicut.

From the same Officer, dated Calicut, 21st January 1865, No. 13.

1. Adverting to Board's Proceedings dated 17th instant, received this day, I have the honor to state that copy of proposed lease was despatched to the Board yesterday.

2. The provision in paragraph 2 of my letter to the Board of the 10th instant, was deemed desirable to meet the case of complaints such as those answered in my letter of the 19th instant, No. 10.

1. Resolved that the letters recorded above be submitted for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council, with reference to the Order of Government, dated 13th January 1865, No. 51.

2. This Order gave cover to a letter from Brigadier-General Babington, Commanding Malabar and Canara, complaining of the extortionate charges made by the person to whom the public Bungalow at Calicut had been rented, and of the consequent inconvenience which Officers of the service and their families as well as others suffered.

3. In the Order dated 11th July 1862, No. 1,515, His Excellency in Council was pleased to sanction the renting of this Bungalow to Mr. Gay, experimentally, and on the Collector's reporting that Mr. Gay's management had given general satisfaction, sanction was eventually given to rent

the Bungalow to him, as an Hotel, for a period of two years, at a monthly rent of Rupees 15.*

* Government Order, 2nd December 1862, No. 2,521.

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25. 10. 1865

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th March 1865.*

4. In the first letter recorded above, the Collector reported that Mr. Gay's lease had expired, and he recommended that a new lease should be given to him on somewhat different terms, for a provision was to be made enabling travellers to occupy a room in the Hotel, on payment of the usual Bungalow fee, with the power of providing themselves with refreshments and other necessaries independent of Mr. Gay.

5. With his second letter, Mr. Ballard submits the rules under which he would propose to renew the lease, and among these the provision just referred to has been included as well as a requirement to sell provisions at certain fixed charges, and to provide board and lodging at a fixed rate per diem.

6. Mr. Ballard states that he has made every inquiry into the matter, and is of opinion that the public have no good grounds of complaint against Mr. Gay. He also believes that the terms of lease proposed by him will obviate, as far as possible, any cause of complaint for the future.

7. The Board are, however, of opinion that the middle course proposed by Mr. Ballard, under which the house rented by Mr. Gay would be partly Hotel and partly public Bungalow, and under which Mr. Gay would be required to sell at fixed prices, is decidedly objectionable. If the travellers visiting Calicut are so numerous as to make it both profitable and desirable to substitute an Hotel for a public Bungalow, it seems to the Board that the lease should be continued to Mr. Gay on the old terms, unless better grounds exist than have been put forward to show that his management has not been satisfactory to the public.

8. If, on the other hand, good reasons could be brought forward to prove that Mr. Ballard was incorrect in his opinion that the convenience of the public will be better met by having the Bungalow as an Hotel than by retaining it as a public Bungalow, then the Board would be averse to renewing the lease.

9. On the whole, the Board are of opinion that the safest course to adopt, in view to the public convenience, will be to renew the lease to Mr. Gay, on the same terms as before, for a period of six months, on the condition that a book is kept and submitted monthly to the Collector, in which every traveller shall be requested to record his opinion on the accommodation provided and on the charges made, and that a printed notice be placed in every room requesting travellers to make these entries.

No. 318.

ORDER THEREON, 18th March 1865, No. 603.

Local Funds.

1. The Government concur with the Collector that the convenience of the public will be better met by letting the Bungalow as an Hotel, than by keeping it up as an ordinary Travellers' Bungalow.

2. No other restriction is necessary than fixing a moderate scale for refreshments, such as that forwarded by the Collector.

3. The rent should not be reduced below its present amount, 15 Rupees per mensem. Government should retain the power of ejecting the lessee, on a month's clear notice, if he does not, in their opinion, give satisfaction to the public, and he should be bound to restore the buildings in the same good order as they may be in when let.

4. On these conditions Mr. Gay can have the Bungalow to the end of April 1866, which will be a more convenient term than that proposed by the Board.

(True Extract.)

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin

have Secretary to Government.

No. 281.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th January 1865.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 10th January 1865, No. 7:—

1. The lease of the Calicut Travellers' Bungalow to Mr. Gay, for an hotel expired on the 30th November 1864. As he has applied for the building for another year from the 1st January 1865, I request sanction for complying with his application. The plan has advantages and disadvantages. On the whole the former preponderate; but a few alterations in the terms of lease are desirable.

2. One of the conditions of lease should be that travellers, desirous of providing themselves with refreshments, must be allowed to occupy certain rooms appointed, on payment of the Bungalow fees, provided the said rooms are not actually occupied, and that one room must at any time be either occupied on these terms, or be available for occupation upon them, should travellers arrive, and desire so to occupy it.

3. This provision may to some extent affect Mr. Gay's profits. I have also deemed it necessary to fix a schedule of charges. I beg, therefore, to recommend that the rent at which the Bungalow is now let, viz., Rupees 15, be reduced to Rupees 5. This will pay any ordinary expenses of repairs to the building. The cost of establishment is saved to Government, and the convenience to the public will be considerable.

1. The Collector will be requested to submit copy of the lease which he proposes to grant, and to state how far Mr. Gay's management has hitherto been satisfactory to the public.

2. It is presumed that paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter is intended to apply to cases of travellers who do not desire to avail themselves of Mr. Gay's services in the supply of refreshments, and the Board wish to know why this special provision is deemed necessary.

3. As at present informed the Board deem it objectionable.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. Wright.

below its present
amount - 15 R.
resolutions for
should retain the
power of ejecting
the lessee on a
year the clear & free
if he does not in
the opinion of the
satisfactor to the
public it should
be found that the
the buildings
in the same good
order as they may
be in when let.

On these ^{conditions} terms
Mr. Fay can live
the being able to
the end of the
April 1865 - which
will be a more
convenient term
than that proposed
on the 18th

1865

in the Board of Commissioners

1865

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Revenue 1865-1866
No. of 1865-1866

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From the 1865-1866
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of 1865-1866

Ordering that the
Bills be taken
be continued as with the
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auditors.

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