M.R.O. 1—32,600—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3124 Press ~~Mis.~~

229-231.

Dated 15-12-1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th December 1868.

Read the following :—

No. 229. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1868, No. 6,939.

Read the following letter from the Quarter Master General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 15th July 1868, No. 152-5,577.

1. With reference to the annexed copies of letters from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, and the Collector of Coimbatore, to the address of the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Southern Division, I am directed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to request that Government will be pleased to take into early consideration the question of transferring the public bungalow at Mettapolliem to the Military Department.

2. The details of Invalids which are continually passing to and from the Convalescent Depôt at Wellington are now located in tents at Mettapolliem; and should it be considered inexpedient to require Mr. Smith to give up the bungalow, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that it will be requisite to erect a rest-house for the accommodation of the Troops.

3. The arrangement alluded to in this office letter, No. 287-7,841, dated 2nd August 1865, whereby the Soldiers were provided with meals by the above Mr. Smith, when passing through Mettapolliem, came to an end on the 1st May 1867, since which time the Commissariat have provided departmentally for Soldiers at Mettapolliem, in a thatched building erected for the purpose. This building, however, was washed away during the first rains of the season.

From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Southern Division, Trichinopoly, dated 30th May 1868, No. 52.

1. With reference to your letter, No. C., of the 25th instant, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Major-General Commanding the Southern Division, that I deputed Captain Law to proceed to Mettapolliem at once, and report on the subject of the Soldiers' Rest-house at Mettapolliem.

2. It appears from that Officer's report, that the European Rest-house situated in a corner of the public bungalow compound is in fair order, but one leak being discernable on it under heavy rain, and a little tile-shifting, renewing of chunam borders, and inside white-washing being all the repairs it requires. The cook-room, however, is said to be nearly disroofed. I have ordered all these repairs to be undertaken emergently.

3. Captain Law conjectures the building alluded to by Colonel Lacey to be a large mud and thatch building, used for Commissariat purposes, and supposed to have been put up by that Department or by their Contractors, at which Soldiers are stated latterly to have received their rations and to have rested. Much of its thatch is said to have been blown off, and the bamboos of its roof require renewal. But I do not see how such repairs can be undertaken by this Department as it is a cutcha building, not in our returns. Nor is it at all desirable that British Soldiers should be encouraged to rest and take their food in that low locality when there is better accommodation (although for a small number only) at a far healthier site about a thousand yards off.

4. It appears to me that the subject of locating Troops halting at Mettapolliem requires entire reconsideration, and that the present is a most favourable opportunity for effecting an improvement in that respect. The public bungalow at Mettapolliem close to the small rest-house, alluded to in my second paragraph, is situated out of range of that malarious fever, which, to my certain knowledge, infests both banks of the Bowany river not three-quarters of a mile distant, and close to which the present encamping ground is laid out. There is no longer any necessity whatever for maintaining the public bungalow at Mettapolliem, private enterprise having provided ample and superior accommodation for all passing travellers. Reserving, therefore, the original Soldiers' Rest-house for the use of such travellers as cannot afford hotel prices, I would suggest that Government be applied to sanction the transfer of the public bungalow to the Military Department, for use as a rest-house for Convalescent British Troops proceeding to and from the Hills. Its compound is well adapted for the pitching of tents if more accommodation is required than the bungalow can provide, and is capable of indefinite extension at small cost.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Southern Division, dated 23rd June 1868, No. 137.

In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, No. 363, I have the honor to inform you that the public bungalow at Mettapolliem is still under lease to Mr. Smith, and, according to the terms of the lease, six months' notice is required to enable him to give up the bungalow. The subject of the future transfer of the bungalow will be referred to the Board of Revenue.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. STANDEN, Major,
Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General,
Southern Division.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) A. DRURY, Major,
Deputy Quarter Master General.

Referred to the Revenue Department, with a request that should there be no objection to the measure the public bungalow at Mettapolliem may be transferred to the Military Department for the purpose stated in the foregoing correspondence.

21*st July* 1868.

(Signed) C. S. ELLIOT, Major,
Officiating Deputy Secretary to Government.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

22*nd July* 1868.

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Referred to the Collector of Coimbatore, who is requested to inform the Board whether the Public Bungalow at Mettapolliem, leased to Mr. Smith, is much frequented by travellers, and should on that account be retained.

2. Mr. Wedderburn will state also if Mr. Smith continues to pay the same rent as that fixed by the Board in their Proceedings, dated 12th February 1863, No. 840, namely, Rupees 20 per month.

No. 230. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th November 1868, No. 7,836.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 30th September 1868, No. 6,939.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1868, No. 274.

1. In reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1868, No. 6,939, I have the honor to state that in a letter, dated 6th instant, I requested Mr. Smith to furnish me with a Statement shewing the number of travellers that halted at the Mettapolliem public bungalow, during the year ending 30th June 1868, as no Government Peon is kept, or return made to the Collector.

2. Mr. Smith has not replied to my letter. On a former occasion, 21st November 1866, he replied that he kept no return of travellers.

3. I have learned from several Officers of Departments in this District, that the bungalow is not frequented by travellers, and on several occasions I have seen no evidence of occupation.

4. Mr. Smith was not punctual in his payments. I had to address him twice during the last six months on the subject. He has, however, paid up to date.

5. The very excellent accommodation and entertainment provided for travellers at the Carrying Company's Hotel, renders the retention of a Government bungalow no longer essential at Mettapolliem.

The Board do not concur in the opinion expressed by the Collector and Superintending Engineer as to the advisability of giving up the travellers' bungalow at Mettapolliem.

2. They would propose as an alternative that the portion of the bungalow compound adjoining the rest-house should be fenced off and kept for pitching tents for troops in case of the space afforded by the rest-house being insufficient.

3. It is true that at present good accommodation for travellers is afforded by a building in connection with the Carrying Company; but it must be borne in mind that this satisfactory result is in a measure due to the competition caused by the rival establishment maintained at the travellers' bungalow, and might at any time be changed for the worse.

4. Moreover, a monopoly of the accommodation available at Mettapolliem would place it in the power of any Company holding it to monopolize the conveyance of passengers from Coimbatore to the Hills, by refusing to allow parties not using their vehicles to put up, and prices might thus be run up to an exorbitant rate.

5. The Board think it highly undesirable that the public should be placed so wholly at the mercy of a Company, and would on this ground maintain the bungalow for travellers.

6. The Bungalow Fund receives Rupees 240 per annum for the bungalow. If it be made over to the Military Department, the Board presume that that Department will make good this sum.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th December 1868.

No. 231. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1868, No. 3,124.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to sanction the transfer of the public bungalow at Mettapolliem to the Military Department, and the necessary notice should at once be issued to Mr. Smith, who at present rents the building as an hotel.

2. If the fears of the Board, as expressed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of their Proceedings, should be realized, a second hotel or rest-house will doubtless be opened in order to secure a share of the profits.

3. As the bungalow is a Government building, and is required for the use of a Government Department, no claim can be made for rent on behalf of the Bungalow Fund.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.
" the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Metapolliem Bungalow
should be let without
charge

Revenue Department

2480

Memo. on Nos. 8507 & 8557 for orders.

Letter from Board of Revenue to Collector of Coimbatore dated 15th May 1862, the Board of Revenue are pleased to sanction that the Court should withdraw from the obligation they had hitherto assumed of providing accommodation for travellers at Metapollium the traffic thus returned to the public encourage payment to the establishment of ferry boats by private agency, and the Collector be directed to report on the subject on the 30th of the ensuing month, the Commissioner submitted to the Board for their reply to this reference stating economies that the Metapollium Bungalow should be withdrawn without change

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 15th.

Recd. *Read.*

G. O., 15th December 1868, No. 3,124.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 229-231.

Mettapollium Bungalow.—Passing orders with reference to its transfer to the Military Department.

charge for four months experimentally to Mr Smith who had applied for the same, for conversion into an Hotel. This proposal was sanctioned by Govt in June 1862.

G.O. 6th June 1862 No 1249.

On the expiration of the four months, the lease of the Bungalow was continued to Mr Smith at a monthly rent of Rs 20; the lease being terminable by Govt on six months' notice and by Mr Smith on three months' notice.

G.O. 13th August 1862 No 1709.
Bro: Bd of Rev 12th July 1863 No 840.
G.O. 30th April —"— 747.
—"— 21st July —"— 1858.

The papers now before Govt relate to a proposal made in July last by the Quarter Master General at the suggestion of Colonel Walker Supg Engr 7th Division for the transfer of this Bungalow to the Military Department to use as a Rest House for the convalescent soldiers proceeding to or from the Hills, who it is stated, are now located in tents at Metapolliem.

Current No 2,460.

Colonel Walker states that there is no longer any necessity for maintaining the Metapolliem Bungalow, the private enterprise having provided better accommodation for travellers; that the Building is situated out of range of the malarious fever which infests both banks of the Bowdy and close to which the present encamping ground is laid out, and that its compound which adjoins of the pitching of tents if more convenient than the Bungalow could be provided is capable of indefinite extension at small cost. Colonel Walker would reserve the original Soldiers' Rest House for such travellers as cannot afford Hotel prices.

The Collr of Coimbatore, to whom these papers were referred by the Revenue Board, states, in reply to their enquiries, that the Bungalow is not frequented by travellers & that Mr Smith the lessee though not punctual in his payments, has

* The office of the Rest House situated in a corner of the Bungalow compound referred to in para 2 of Col Walker's letter.

Current No 3,505.—

paid up to date; and he is of opinion that the very excellent accomodation and entertainment provided for travellers at the Carrying Co's Hotel, renders the retention of the Bungalow no longer necessary.

The Board however are not in favor of giving up the Bungalow. They remark that the good accommodation at the Carrying Co's building is a measure due to the competition of the rival establishment at the Travellers' Bungalow, and that it might at any time be changed for the worse. They further observe that a monopoly of the accommodation available at Metapollium would enable any company holding it to monopolize the conveyance of passengers, by refusing to allow parties not using their vehicles to put up, and that prices might thus be run up to an exorbitant rate.

The Board think it highly undesirable that the public should be placed so wholly at the mercy of a Company, & would therefore maintain the Bungalow.

The Board propose as an alternative, that the portion of the Bungalow compound, adjoining the Rest House, should be fenced off & kept for pitching tents for troops in case of the Rest House being insufficient.

In the event of the Bungalow being made over to the Military Department, the Board presume that that Department will make good the sum, viz^t Rs. 240 per annum, derived by the Bungalow fund for the building.

The Govt are bound to provide accommodation for soldiers proceeding on service from the Cantonment & consequently necessity exists for the convenience of the travelling public. I would therefore transfer the Bungalow to the Military department at the request of the Q: Master General. — If the sale of the Carrying Co's Hotel should be carried out, & a substantial house will be constructed & some other place, we ought to secure a share of profits. WDL

I would give the Bungalow to the Rest House

Yours most truly
N.

100/11

Memo

Proposed transfer of the Pub. Bungalow at Metrapollium to the Military Dept, to be used as a Rest House for Troops.

No 3505. Dt. 3124.

15th December 1860.

The Rt Honble the Govr in Council resolves to sanction the transfer of the public bungalow at Metrapollium to the Military Dept, and the necessary notice thereof at once be issued to Mr Smith, who at present rents the building as an hotel.

If the fears of the Bd as expressed in para 4 & 5 of their Proc should be realized, a second hotel or rest house will doubtless be opened in order to secure a share of the profits.

As the bungalow is a pucka building, and is required for the use of a Govt Dept, no claim can be made for rent on behalf of the Bungalow Fund

Copies to the Military Dept & Bd of Revenue

W.H.

Revenue 1868 Dept.

No. 3124

Proceedings of the
Madras Government

Dated 15 - December 68

229 @ 231.