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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	19-12-1878	197 .

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

14th December 1878, No. 6917.

Barracks and Buildings.

Read the following papers :—

No. 501. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 18th March 1878, No. 1993.*

I have the honor, by order, to report as follows for the information of Government :—

Proceedings of Madras Government, Military Department, 5th February 1872, No. 451.
Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th August 1872, No. 1858.

2. In 1872, the old Medical Stores in the Fort at Vizagapatam were, by order of Government, converted into quarters [illegible] warrant officers.

3. It will be observed that, in reporting on the proposal (Proceedings of Madras Government, Military Department, 5th February 1872, No. 451), His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief stated that he had no objection to it, provided that quarters in every respect equal to what the medical warrant officers were entitled to, were provided.

4. When the quarters had been altered, the Apothecary attached to the Civil Department at Vizagapatam did not consider his suitable and gave up his claim to rent.—(Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Works Department, 14th April 1875, No. 1022).

5. Recently, the Officer Commanding Northern District applied for permission to place the Pension Office in these quarters, and forwarded Proceedings of a Committee who reported that the building was not suited for a dwelling.—(See letter No. 25, dated 8th February 1878, and Proceedings of Committee, enclosed).

6. Enquiry was then made whether sanction to use the building as a Pension Office would give the Apothecary a claim to house-rent. The Officer Commanding Northern District replies that he presumes it would, but that as the quarters have been pronounced unfit for a dwelling house, they can no longer be said to be available for occupation as quarters.—(See letter, No. 49, dated 4th March 1878, enclosed).

7. Before sanctioning the use of the building as a Pension Pay Office, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief considers it right to place these facts before Government and await the orders of Government thereon, as the Apothecary will probably prefer a claim for compensation for quarters as soon as the building in question is occupied as an office.

No. 502. *With report from the Controller of Mily. Accounts, 9th April 1878, B.*

No. 2337.

* Letter from the Quartermaster-General, No. 1993, dated 18th March 1878, with three enclosures.
Report of the Controller of Military Accounts, B, dated 9th April 1878.
Note by His Grace the Governor.
(Requested to be returned).

Referred* to the Public Works Department, for the information desired by His Grace the Governor.

OOTACAMUND,
10th May 1878.

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 503. *Memorandum from Colonel E. A. FOORD, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 24th May* 1878, *No.* 2287.

The Secretary has the honor to return the file of papers referred to him under Military Department endorsement, No. 2337 of the 10th May 1878, and to make the following remarks:—

Plans to illustrate the estimate for turning part of the old Vizagapatam Barracks into Apothecary's quarters were submitted to Government about the middle of 1872, by the Range Officer, Captain Beatty, R.E., through his Superintending Engineer, Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, R.E.

2. Government, when sanctioning these plans, were aware that the ventilation was somewhat defective, but probably considered that the system of ventilation by tubes proposed by Captain Beatty sufficiently met the case.

3. The work was carried out in accordance with the sanctioned plans And estimate. There can be no doubt that it answered to what Government had intended. The amount of accommodation provided was one-fourth as large again as that laid down in the standard plan. The quarters, although not very private, were commodious and fairly comfortable, but the Apothecary evidently took a dislike to them from the beginning, chiefly because of their being open and no doubt noisy, and he petitioned Government to give him house allowance. *Then* it was the drainage which was found fault with; *now* it is the bad light, and insufficient ventilation, which are proffered as causes which render the place unfit to be lived in.

4. Government rejected Mr. Lears' petition in G.O., No. 2263, of the 15th August 1874.

5. In September of the same year, Mr. Lears tried to induce Government to re-consider that order; this time basing his request upon an opinion of the Civil Surgeon as to the continuously-swampy nature of the ground in which the building stands.

6. A plan, showing the levels of the ground, conclusively refuted this allegation, and in G.O., No. 3382, dated 2nd December 1874, Government re-affirmed their previous decision.

7. Again in April of the following year, Mr. Lears claimed, without success, compensation in lieu of camp equipage, on the plea that he had foregone the privilege of occupying public quarters.

8. It now seems that a Station Committee, assembled under the orders of the Brigadier-General in Command of the Northern District, has reported that the quarters are "unsuited for family quarters being very much exposed" and the windows "small and closely barred." The decision that the quarters are unsuited for family quarters runs counter to the opinion of men perfectly competent to judge—of Captain Beatty, who proposed to turn the buildings into Apothecary's quarters, of his Superintending Engineer, Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, and of Captain Hindle. It is not plain how it was arrived at.

9. It is submitted that another Committee, including the District Engineer, should be called upon for a report. And that not till they have distinctly and on satisfactory grounds recorded an opinion that the quarters are unsuitable, should the claim for compensation which the Apothecary, now on one score, now on another, has been urging for years past, be listened to.

No. 2986.

* Letter from the Quartermaster-General, No. 1993, dated 18th March 1878, with three enclosures.
Report of the Controller of Military Accounts, B, dated 9th April 1878.
Memorandum from the Public Works Department, No. 2287, dated 24th May 1878, with nine enclosures.
Note by His Grace the Governor, dated 28th May 1878.
(The complete file of papers is sent for reference, requested to be returned.)

Forwarded* to the Public Works Department, for the further information desired by His Grace the Governor.

OOTACAMUND,
14th June 1878.

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 504. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 24th June* 1878, *No.* 404.

Forwarded, with a request that the orders of Government on paragraph 7 of this office letter, No. 1993, of the 18th March 1878, may be communicated.

From Brigadier-General E. F. BURTON, Commanding Northern District, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated Waltair, 10th June 1878, No. 106.

I have the honor to request a reply to letter, No. 49, dated 4th March 1878, from Head Quarters of this District, which was in reply to your letter, No. 1274, dated 21st February 1878.

2. I am anxious for a reply, as the Pension Pay Office at Vizagapatam has been twice broken open lately, and I have been obliged to order a sentry to be posted over it. The condemned Apothecary's quarters to which it is proposed to move the Pension Pay Office is close to the guard of European Infantry Veteran Company, and a separate sentry would not be required.

No. 505. *From Major H. W. WOOD, R. E., District Engineer, Vizagapatam, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, Madras; dated Waltair, 9th July* 1878, *No.* 783.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 2623, dated 15th June, calling on me for a report as to what is necessary to render the Apothecary's quarters in the Vizagapatam Fort suitable for occupation, I have the honor to state as follows:—

2. The quarters in question are situated on the ground floor of a large building whose upper story is occupied by the garrison school. They are in the centre of the building, and on one side is a similar quarter, which is now occupied by the Commissariat Office; while on the other side is the garrison guard room.

3. Although the back and front verandahs of the quarters are entirely cut off from the rest of the building by cross walls, all passers-by—and of these there are many—can look right into the rooms, and this want of privacy is, I venture to think, the real reason why Apothecaries object to occupy them.

4. The quarters themselves are by no means bad ones under every other aspect than that of privacy; while this objection could be sensibly remedied by surrounding with a breast wall a piece of ground in front and rear of the centre of the building. The ventilation and deficiency of light complained of could

also to a very great extent be remedied by replacing with doors the existent windows, which are rather small and closely barred. An approximate estimate for effecting these changes, and amounting to Rupees 550, is submitted with this letter.

No. 3249.

Referred, with previous correspondence, to the Military Department.

2. The proposed alterations are approved in the Public Works Department,

22*nd July* 1878. (Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Military Department, with papers in original.

No. 3732.

Referred to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with advertence to the Quartermaster-General's letter, No. 1993, dated 18th March 1878, and endorsement, No. 404 of 24th June 1878.

OOTACAMUND,
24*th July* 1878. (Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.

No. 506. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department;* &c.

In returning correspondence referred to the Commander-in-Chief with your No. 3732, dated 24th July 1878, I have the honor, by order, to forward letter from the Officer Commanding Vizagapatam and Waltair, No. 183, dated 14th instant, with enclosure, reporting that, whilst the alterations proposed by the District Engineer to the quarters intended for the Apothecary of the Garrison Hospital at Vizagapatam would no doubt improve the building, it would still be not suited for family quarters, in consequence of its position.

2. The Acting Commander of the Forces desires me to add that, under the circumstances, he does not recommend the expenditure of Rupees 550 in making alterations which would not satisfactorily meet the end wished for.

No. 507. *To the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 22nd October 1878, No. 5590.*

No. 508. *From H. ST. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Military Department, Ootacamund; dated Vizianagram, 4th November 1878, No. 1671.*

I have the honor to return the enclosures of your letter, No. 5590, dated 22nd ultimo.

2. The real objection to the building, whose suitability for Apothecaries' quarters is discussed in these papers, is the impossibility of securing privacy therein.

3. The building is situate upon the green within the so-called Fort of Vizagapatam. The parchery lines are a few yards to the north-east, the open space to the south-west is the playground of the young and the resort of all the European

veterans, their families, relations and dependants, and of the loungers of the seaport.

4. The quarters would be somewhat dark and damp, but well ventilated and spacious enough. The tenants of the parchery lines, which are divided from the building only by a road, are noisy, and, some of them, disreputable.

5. Mr. Lears has a family, and I think a man with a family would prefer (as he has done for some years) to reside elsewhere on a diminished income: as quarters for a bachelor, the rooms would be less likely to be objected to.

6. The alteration proposed would, however, make the rooms darker than they now are, and I do not think they would be reasonably suitable for the residence of a man, with or without a family.

No. 509. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1878, No. 6917.

In consideration of the foregoing report from the Collector of the District, the Revenue Department will be requested to replace the building in question at the disposal of the Military authorities.

2. The Civil Apothecary's claim to house rent will, if advanced, be disposed of in the Public Works Department.

3. With reference to the proposed appropriation of the building as a Pension Pay Office, it is observed that free accommodation is not admissible for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel,

To the Quartermaster-General, with four enclosures.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department, with copy of a note by the Honorable W. Hudleston, and file of papers with list.
" Controller of Military Accounts.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Returns Dept
No 5279
Genl. of 1878 Returns.

MILITARY.

THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 1878.

Sent, 16—76

G.O., 146th December 1878, No. 6017.

S.
Mil.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 501—509.

Declining to sanction the appropriation of the Civil Architect's quarters as Transportation as a Depot Pay Office, and requesting that the public stores may be placed at the disposal of the Military authorities.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.
19 Dec 78.