M.R.O. 14–5,450–22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2621 Press Mis.

101-102

Dated 6 — 11 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th November 1867.

No. 101. -Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th October 1867, No. 6,969.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1867, No. 268 :—

1. In reply to Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, and their Order thereon, dated 10th September 1867, No. 2,121, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Etienne purchased the land alluded to in paragraph 1 of the Order on 13th February 1856 at public auction in the Joint Magistrate's Office at Ootacamund, which was then held by Colonel Logan.

2. It will be observed by paragraph 1 of my letter that Colonel Walker has laid out on the land 750 Rupees, and this sum I am aware has been expended on the 10·87 acre lot now held by him. This lot in fact consists of the steep face of a gorge and of a flat piece of land at the bottom of it, intended, I believe, for a garden.

3. To obtain access to this flat land, a road had to be constructed along the steep face, and in making it, the money above alluded to was chiefly expended. Under these circumstances, it is not to be expected that Colonel Walker would forego the possession of the land except on repayment of the money laid out by him, a proposition I cannot recommend Government to entertain.

4. With reference to the last paragraph of the Government Order, I certainly would not have recommended the transfer to Colonel Walker of so extensive a block of land, had it all been suited for building sites. The fact is, that from the formation of the land, there is but one house-site on it, and that is situated on its highest point. The block forms the extreme end of a spur of land, V shaped, with a hollow on each side. The approach will be from the hollow, and as the sides are abrupt and steep, the road will require to be run some distance and on an easy gradient to enable a carriage to get up to the site.

5. The land below the site is so steep and rugged that it is altogether unsuited for building purposes, and will most probably be planted out hereafter; but this is a matter of speculation, as there is a great want of water about the locality except in the hollow. All the land near Coonoor fitted for building sites has passed into private hands or is held on Puttah by Burghers. Colonel Walker was induced to apply for the block of land under reference, simply because he had laid out so much money on the only piece of land now in his possession. When he found that a mistake had been made, and that a portion of Mr. Etienne's land had been sold to him, he concluded that Government would prefer to give him other land to repaying the money he had laid out, and he accordingly looked out to see in what way he could best manage, and he accordingly chose the land under reference. Viewed, however, under the most favorable circumstances, I myself do not think much of it, for the soil is poor, and the construction of roads will be expensive. The usual assessment will of course have to be paid by Colonel Walker.

6. A rough sketch, shewing the position of the old and proposed allotments relatively to the rest of the station, is forwarded.

7. Colonel Walker will probably have to construct a road to reach the site along the red dotted line on the plan.

Enclosure No. 1.—Sketch.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th November 1867.

Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order, under date 10th September 1867, No. 2,121.

No. 102. ORDER THEREON, 6th November 1867, No. 2,621.

Miscellaneous.

1. Under the circumstances stated, the Government sanction the grant of the 31-acre block to Colonel Walker free of sale, but subject to assessment, in lieu of the Acres 12·98 block of which he has been deprived.

2. The Board will instruct all Collectors to transmit, in future, notice of the intended sale of land described as lying contiguous to, or in the vicinity of, ground the property of individuals named, to each of those individuals or to the reputed proprietor of such adjacent land, so as not to leave to chance what should beyond doubt or cavil be made known to neighbouring owners.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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DEPARTMENT.

No. 2953

~~From~~ Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 25th October 1867.

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Stevens' explanation seems too clear to be impugned. The error is the error of the Special assistant Collector, whose main-duty it is to look to, revise and dispose of applications such as that from Col: Walker which has caused present embarrassment. How with we shall get out of them cheerfully by complying with the Collectors recom: to limit the ground to Col: Walker is willing to accept for Mr Stevens 10.87 acres. It is not a bad part of that

ordered & the Contractors Surveyor Major and their correspondence would have been avoided.

The rule I propose, if approved & the Govt. may be applied to sales of land on the Sherwaroys Railways & elsewhere where buildings are or may hereafter be in demand.

31 Oct.

N.

to have been reserved as absolutely to Govt. plantation purposes for which ample space & still remain available.

I would instruct the Collector to be careful in future to transmit a notice of an intended sale of land described as lying contiguous to or in the vicinity of ground the property of individuals named, - to each of those individuals or to the reputed proprietors thereof; and not leave to the chance perusal of a "Kittysherry Spectator" or "Coimbatore District Gazette" what should, beyond doubt or cavil, be made known to neighbouring owners.

Had this course been adopted in the present case, Mr Shenne would naturally have protested against interference with what he had bought at a sale

Rec'd 10 September 1867
No 154. 155

Pen: 1867. Department.
Bd of Govt for Revn

No 2953.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

From the Bd of Rev
Q 19 March/70 Pn 891

Dated 25th October 1867.

Rec'd 29 do —
Rep 30 do
C.I. Sketch. Obs

No. 6,969.

Submitting to Government letter from Collector of Coimbatore furnishing information regarding the land proposed to be granted to Colonel Walker in lieu of lands claimed by Mr Etienne.

No 2621. 6 Nov

No 101-102

Rec'd 30 Oct 1867 & 2 Nov