

Revenue (189) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2016

DATED 7th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Calling for a further report in re the
occupation as play grounds of the
Esplanade near the High Court Buildings,
Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (189⁸) Department.

CURRENT No. 2619

From

The Board of Revenue,
Land Revenue,
Madras.

No. 903 Misc.

Dated

50th March 1898

Received 1/4

Registered 2/4

Enclosures 13

Spare copies

Order

SUBJECT.

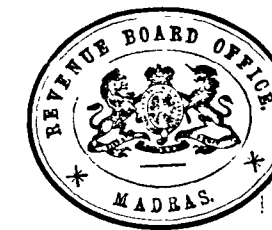
Submitting to Govt. with remarks,
the reports called for re: the occupation
as play grounds of the esplanade near the
High Court Buildings, Madras and also on
the applications made by the St. Mary's
College and the Telegraph Department for
allotment of land therein.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Mr	5797	Rev.	11/11/97
Mr	5751	Rev.	10/11/97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	65-19, 27 =		
	644-45		
	4-11-98		



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

No.903 Misc., dated 30th March 1898.

Read the following :-

1. Government Order, Revenue Department, No.5797 Misc., dated 11th November 1897.

And the following Reference thereon dated 13th November 1897.

Referred to the Collector of Madras who is requested to submit a full report on the matters dealt with in para 2 of the order.

2. Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Misc.No.5951, dated 13th November 1897.

And the following Reference thereon dated 22nd November 1897.

Referred to the Collector of Madras for early remarks.

3. ^{sent of} ~~Letter from~~ the Collector of Madras, Ref.No.996/G & B dated 10th March 1898.

4. Also ^{sent of} ~~Letter from~~ the Collector of Madras, Ref.No.997 G & B, dated 15th March 1898.

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Resolution

In reporting on an application from the *Favourite* club for a piece of land in the Madras Esplanade for purposes of recreation, the then Collector of Madras Mr.Thomson, pointed out that the parcelling out of the Esplanade near the High Court Buildings into a number of play grounds for certain

institutions was a public inconvenience and suggested that such exclusive rights might be discontinued. In its Proceedings No. 5948 dated 19th October 1897, the Board observed that although there was much force in the objection urged by the Collector, the grant then proposed to the Favorite Club was merely temporary and could be cancelled without compensation at any moment and that it would not interfere with any scheme which might be taken in hand for the improvement of the locality. The Government then called for a full report as to the several persons or corporate bodies who are at present using the land round the High Court Buildings as play grounds and enquired whether accommodation could be found for them elsewhere (G.O. No. 5797 Misc., dated 11th November 1897). The Collector of Madras was requested to report on the matter.

2. From the Deputy Collector's report which has been submitted in reply, it will be seen that the various portions of the esplanade including that adjoining the High Court Buildings, are now occupied by the different institutions noted in the margin, and that none of these institutions can be moved elsewhere without causing inconvenience to some other institution.

3. In its order Mis. No. 5951, dated 18th November 1897 Government referred to the Board for remarks two applications received through the Government of India, the one from the Principal, St. Mary's College for a play-ground, and the other from the Superintendent of Telegraphs for an extension of the recreation ground already allotted to the Telegraph Department. The Collector of Madras, to whom these applications were forwarded, agrees with his Deputy Collector in considering that it would be inexpedient to allot to these applicants the only portions now left for the use of the smaller clubs, as well as of boys who do not belong to any of the recognised clubs. As remarked by the Deputy Collector the Government

Telegraph Department has already been given as much land as can be granted to it consistently with the claims of other institutions. Moreover the land now applied for is close to the South Indian Railway Line and the grant proposed seems to be open to objection on this score.

4. With regard to the other application, it is observed that the students of St. Mary's College have already been using a portion of the ground opposite to the Pachaiyappa's College, and they may continue to use the same, so long as the Military authorities do not object. Some ground must be reserved for the use of the general public, and it is therefore represented by the Deputy Collector that no separate grant is desirable in the case of these students. The Board concurs in these views.

(True Copies & Extract)

Reelin

Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with 2 letters and 11 enclosures.

Md. R. H.

11:34. V.C. 5/12/98
 From The Principal,
 St. Mary's College,
 Madras.
 To J. R. Coombes, Esq.,
 Deputy Collector
 of Madras.

In reply to your communication No. 3098
 I have the honour to inform you that the
 plot of ground 225 x 200 North of the Coorg
 Brijet. Club is applied for exclusively of
 the ground in the Esplanade opposite
 Pachayappaiah's institutions, which land
 the Military Authorities were unwilling
 to grant to St. Mary's as they desire the
 same to be reserved solely for public
 use. Trusting to obtain a speedy
 sanction of the above ground.

I have the honour
 to be
 Approved
 J. J. Hombay. Your Obedient Servant
 Principal. pro J. G. Hood
 The Principal

Recd B.C. 903
 30-3-98 (C.No 2619)

Note.

In reporting on an application from
 the Favourite Club, Madras, for a piece of
 land in the Esplanade for recreation purposes,
 the Collector of Madras (Mr. Thomson) remarked
 (vide para 2 of his letter of 9 October 1897
 stitched into p. 8 of 11 November 1897
 No 5797) that the parcelling out of the
 Esplanade near the High Court buildings
 into a number of playgrounds for certain
 institutions & allowing it to be in a wretched
 condition was a disgrace to the town of
 Madras and suggested that the present
 occupations should be put an end to
 and the ground laid out so as to be in
 harmony with the building it surrounds.
 The Board of Revenue was requested in
 para 2 of p. 8 of 11 November 1897, No 5797 to
 submit a full report as to the several
 persons or corporate bodies who are at
 present using the land round the High
 Court buildings as play grounds & whether
 accommodation could be found for them
 elsewhere. From the Dy Collector's report
 of 28 January 98 it will be seen that
 the various portions of the Esplanade in the

ca 27/4/98

2/

at adjoining the High Court buildings
are now occupied by the different
institutions noted below:-

- (a) Near the High Court buildings.
- (1) The Christian College (gymnasium & playground)
 - (2) The Central Telegraph office
 - (3) The Ford Telegraph Dept
 - (4) The Favorite club
 - (5) The Goring Cricket club
- (b) Opposite to the Pachayappa's College
- (1) The Hindu Literary Union club
 - (2) The Northern Circars James club
 - (3) Play ground of the Pachayappa's & St. Mary's Colleges.
- (c) Opposite to the Memorial Hall
- (1) The Young men's Christian Association
 - (2) The United club

~~As it is reported that none of these
institutions can be moved elsewhere
without causing inconvenience to some
other institution the grounds already
mentioned need not be resumed.~~

2. The Government of India forwarded
in November last the correspondence relative
to the applications of the Principal of
St. Mary's College & the Supt of Telegraphs
Madras Dn, for plots plots of land
the esplanade near the High Court for
use as recreation ground and requested

Page 11
This is the 2nd anti draft
I shall wish in so
have restored it, but
please see at end.
M
13/1/38

that they might be favoured with the
views of this Government on the subject.
In No. 18 November 97 No 5954 these
applications were referred to the Board
of Revenue for remarks. The Dy Collector
of Madras who has been consulted does
not recommend the grant of the lands
applied for. He observes (vide his letter of 31
January 1898) "The Telegraph club
has as much as it should have consented
with the claims of others who resort to this
esplanade for recreation. This esplanade forms
a play ground for all the youths of South
& Black Town. A few clubs have very
nearly monopolised all the available
space so that if the remaining portion
is also to be given away there will be no
room for the smaller clubs and for the
hundreds of boys who are too poor & unable
to belong to clubs holding recreation grounds
in the esplanade. Some of the clubs have
gone to great expense in erecting gymnasiums
& tennis courts & a skating rink. A great
deal of money is spent in conserving &
beautifying their respective grounds. These
clubs most naturally would like those
spots to be left under their control, but
I see no reason why the small plot now
used as a general recreation ground should

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be handed over to any particular Recreation Club. Some of these clubs do nothing to keep their grounds in order, notably the "Coorg Club". Beyond putting up a board showing that it belongs to the Coorg Recreation Club & that trespassers will be prosecuted, nothing has been done to it. It would seem as if it were an easy way of reserving the use of any particular plot of play ground for the exclusive use of a handful of students. A few years ago it used to be first come & first served but now members of clubs which hold recreation grounds have first claim to the exclusion of others who should have an equal right to the Esplanade as a play ground.

2. For the same reason I see objection to granting the requests of St. Mary's Club. I consider that the remaining plot of ground on this Esplanade should be reserved exclusively for public use. Bishop Corrie's Grammar School is a much larger institution than St. Mary's. I learn from enquiries that the students of the former are content to take their chance of playing football or cricket in any spot available at the time but I do not see why merely because the

5.
Headmaster has not formally chosen to ask for a plot of ground these boys should be deprived of their only playground. Further the small batches of boys with a single set of cricketing materials who regularly resort to the Esplanade for practice will be noted out if all the available land is given away to the large clubs. As already reported there is no ground in the vicinity to which these clubs could be removed & it is very necessary that some ground should be reserved for the use of the general public.

The Collector of Madras & the Board of Revenue concur in these views. As regards the application of the Dept. of Telegraphs, the Board of Revenue considers that, apart from the fact that the Govt. Telegraph Dept. has already been given as much land as can be granted to it consistently with the claims of other institutions, the land now applied for is close to the South Indian Railway line & that the grant proposed seems to be open to objection on this score. With regard to the other applications the Board observes that the students of the St. Mary's College have already been using a portion of the ground opposite to

the Pachaiyappa College & that they
may continue to use the same so long
as the Military authorities do not object.
Submitted that the above views may
be concurred in & the Govt. of India
informed accordingly. It seems clear
that future applications for plots of
land on the Esplanade should be
refused.

Quite correct
S.P.

C.D.P.

10/11/98

Secy.

It is submitted that

Mr Thomson's remarks (Letter No Ref in Cn 255 8415 987 & 9.10.97)

have much force. The current

contains it is submitted

no adequate report on

the matter referred to

the last clause of

G.O. 5257 of 11.11.97 (B)

As whether accommodation

could be found for

these clubs elsewhere.

It is submitted that

there is no reason

whatever why these

clubs should be given

rent free recreation

grounds about the precincts

of the High Court.

The S.P. Mr. in his report
assumed cannot be
found elsewhere: & presumably
the Bd. endorses this

S.P.

10/11/98

It is not desirable that
they sh^d. pay: they w^d.
imagine this gave them
higher rights than they have.
The clubs are mere tenants
at will

S.P.

More shown on
the plans
where the papers
below seem all
highly objection
the being close
to the High Court.

1

The value of, & taste for,
athletic exercises is
well established. The
Students are well enough
off to be made to pay
for their club grounds,
somewhere else.

But all the grounds
are probably not equal
objectionable. It would
be well, I submit, to
get a map, showing
the situation of all
these grounds & the
various public buildings
adjoining. The most
objectionable grounds
might then be cancelled
(no compensation ^{on eviction} is a
condition of all the
plans) or rather India
may be asked to cancel
them.

It is submitted that
the present grounds should
be objected to. The plot
required for St Mary's College
(which the Bd. recommend)
is near the High Court.

W.L.

13/12/98

P.T.O.

Hm.

The extension of the Tel. Bt. Plot may be refused : or the assignment of a separate plot to the "S. Mays" Club. The plot of India may be so informed.

No further action seems necessary at present.

[Handwritten signature]

Question whether there is any other ground that might be assigned, it seems more of an importance. If course there is some ground that might be assigned, but it is far away, and as we are not to the X. Mays College, or Madras College. It is much better to defer the information until we have more information of the place before we can say to the Bt. of India.

27/1/98

Secretary

Please see draft below.

[Handwritten signature]
4/5/98
Secy to

I admit the fact of the Club's argument that a suitable portion of the esplanade should not be monopolized by clubs; but I admit something more definite. The Club, as far as clubs have very nearly monopolized all the available space on the esplanade. What is the Government's intention? The Government desires to have definite information as to the extent of the available space, and the extent monopolized. The Deputy Collector of Madras also remarks that some of the clubs, notably the Coorg Club, do nothing to keep their grounds in order. There is no doubt that, if the clubs are instructed to maintain what is necessary for keeping these grounds in order, they will do so rather than forfeit their privilege. The collector should in consultation with the Executive Engineer, the esplanade is under the control of the Military Dept. (vide No. 650 of 25.9.98). Hence the portion within brackets has been inserted.

Read Ward's Proceedings No.

903 Mis, d/30th March 1898 (C.No. 2619 of 1898).

570

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G. O. Misc. No. no: 2016 of 7th May 1898.

In para 1 of his letter dated 31st January 1898, No. 3098/C the Deputy Collector of Madras remarks that a few clubs have very nearly monopolized all the available space on the esplanade. The Government desires to have definite information as to the extent of the available space, and the extent monopolized.

2. The Deputy Collector of Madras also remarks that some of the clubs, notably the Coorg Club, do nothing to keep their grounds in order. There is no doubt that, if the clubs are instructed to maintain what is necessary for keeping these

then allotments to a tidy state in order, they will do so rather than forfeit their privilege. The collector should in consultation with the Executive Engineer,

The esplanade is under the control of the Military Dept. (vide No. 650 of 25.9.98). Hence the portion within brackets has been inserted.

Madras Division, Military Works, address

the clubs concerned *on the subject* as to the steps to

be taken by them to prevent the grounds

from being in a *slowly* ~~disorderly~~ condition, and

to inform them that in default of the *privilege* ~~privilege~~ during the period

will be resumed *permitted*.

3. It would appear that the ground

immediately round the High Court, of

which there is *seems to be a considerable extent* a ~~great deal~~ not monopolized,

a slowly condition is in disorder. The Board of Revenue

is requested to ascertain and report what

should be done to keep it in order.

W
6518
8/27/58
from orders.

(To the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue) with ends. 1, 2 & 3.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189 ,

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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