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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 266Press
Mis.Dated 18-4

1887.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from H. G. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 8th June 1886, No. 949 :—

In 1883 the Native Infantry Regiment was withdrawn from Vizagapatam, and the town, as a military station, was abandoned.

2. In 1884 the Superintending Engineer, on my recommendation, moved Government to hand over to the municipality the ground on which the lines stood.

3. Government, however, in G.O., dated 2nd April 1884, No. 900 W., Public Works Department, communicated with Board's Proceedings, dated 30th idem, Mis. No. 3613, ordered that the site be retained by Government in view of probable requirements in connection with the proposed State Railway from Vizagapatam to Raipur and other matters.

4. The railway project has since been abandoned. Meanwhile, the site has become a standing nuisance by people using it as a latrine. The town of Vizagapatam is overcrowded and greatly needs extension on sanitary as well as other grounds. The Vizagapatam Municipal Council have again applied that the land might be handed over to them in view to its being let out for building purposes. A copy of the letter received from the chairman is enclosed, which describes in detail the difficulties under which the town is now placed owing to want of sufficient space.

5. The regimental huts which stood on the site have been dismantled and the materials sold by the Public Works Department, but the Municipal Council have expressed their readiness to raise and level the ground at their own cost.

6. I have the honor, under the circumstances, to request that the Board will be pleased to recommend to Government that the application of the Municipal Council may be granted and the site handed over to them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From M.R.Ry. K. PURUSHOTTAM, Chairman, Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 27th May 1886, No. 67.

I have the honor to invite your kind attention to my letter, No. 220, dated 19th February 1884, in which I have communicated to Mr. Johnson, in reply to his inquiry made at the instance of the Public Works Department, the desire and readiness of the municipality to take over the ground lately occupied by the regimental lines.

2. The Government, however, in their Proceedings, No. 900, Public Works, dated 2nd April 1884, directed that the land be retained under the charge of the Revenue Department, as it might probably be required for purposes connected with the Vizagapatam and Raipur State Railway then under contemplation.

3. Now that the railway project has been abandoned or indefinitely postponed, I have the honor, with the sanction of the council, to request that the land in question might be handed over to the municipality.

4. The site is now used as a place of public resort for people to answer calls of nature, and has therefore become a standing public nuisance. The daring child-murder which has lately occurred was perpetrated at this locality.

5. You are aware that many parts of the town are so far overcrowded as to render all hope of assistance impossible when houses take fire. At about 1 A.M. on the night of 24th March 1886 many houses took fire in Satipeta, situated at the eastern extremity of T. Ramamurti Pantulu's street. Myself and some policemen at once proceeded to the spot, but, owing to the crowded nature of the locality, all our endeavours to check the spread of the conflagration were futile. One could hardly venture into the so-called street without endangering his life. The consequence was that no less than thirty-four houses took fire. Such instances are of frequent occurrence.

Further, these crowded localities are the hotbeds of small-pox almost every year. When either this epidemic or cholera breaks out in these parts, it is next to impossible to check its progress. The houses being thickly overcrowded, the contagion very easily spreads, baffling all our earnest efforts to arrest its progress. It is therefore absolutely necessary that people must be induced, when opportunities offer, such as when houses are destroyed by fire, to remove to more open parts of the town and to build there, the old sites being purchased by the municipality and kept vacant where necessary. The councillors are quite alive to the importance of improving the town in this direction and are quite willing to do all that lies in their power to effect it, but the great obstacle in their way is want of space. You are perfectly aware that there is no vacant land available for extension of the town, with the exception of the block now applied for. It is true that if the swamp could be improved as far as the causeway road, a large extent would become available for building purposes, but it is a work of time, and I hope I am not far wrong when I say that, with the limited resources of the municipality, it would take half a century more before this most desirable improvement could be expected to come within the range of practicability. The land is very low and is subject to submersion every rainy season. To raise this land so as to become fit to build on, requires an amount of capital which it is far beyond the power of the municipality to provide in the near future.

6. At all events it is quite out of the question until the already-projected schemes for the building of the bridge across the backwater and for the improvement of the water-supply are carried out, and the loans that have to be raised for these two purposes are paid off.

7. In the foregoing circumstances, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to accord your strong support to this application, and obtain for the municipality the grant of the land lately occupied by the regimental lines. It is unquestionably Government property, and the history of its acquisition is fully given in my former letter quoted in the first paragraph.

Reference on the above, dated 30th June 1886.

Before submitting this application to Government, the Board desire to be informed of the area and value of the site proposed to be transferred to the municipality in view to see if the sanction of the Government of India will be necessary to the alienation referred to (*vide* paragraph 9 of Government of India Resolution printed in G.O., dated 19th June 1872, No. 82, and communicated with Board's Proceedings, dated 16th September 1876, No. 2360).

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam.

READ—the following letter from H. G. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vizianagrum, 4th September 1886, No. 1537:—

Adverting to Board's reference, dated the 30th June last, General Register No. 3034, I have the honor to report that the area of the regimental lines at Vizagapatam therein referred to is $18\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and that the value thereof is estimated at Rs. 2,000.

Reference on the above, dated 28th September 1886.

The Collector is requested to state why the Municipal Councillors should not be called upon to pay the value of the land, and whether it may not be marked out into plots suitable for house-sites and sold by auction subject to quit-rent (Board's Proceedings, dated 13th November 1884, No. 3860).

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam, with copy of
Board's Proceedings, No. 3860, dated 13th November 1884.

READ—the following letter from M. R. Ry. K. PURUSHOTTAM, Chairman, Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 20th December 1886, No. 176:—

With reference to your endorsement No. 759, dated 11th October 1886, on Revenue Board's reference on General Register No. 4609 of 1886, I have the honor to

state that the municipality cannot at present afford to buy the land lately occupied by the regimental lines from the Government. You are aware that the project to construct an iron pontoon bridge across the backwater at a cost of Rs. 90,000 is just put in hand, and that in order to meet their half share of its cost the Municipal Councillors are obliged to borrow Rs. 30,000 from His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagrum, paying the remaining Rs. 15,000 from the current revenues of 1886-87 and 1887-88. It will take six years (1888-89 to 1893-94) before this debt is cleared, and until then the municipality will not be in a position to buy the land in question.

2. You are further aware that the municipality is anxious to improve the water-supply of the town, and it will require about two lakhs of rupees for this purpose. This amount too will have to be raised by a loan, and it will take many more years before that debt is cleared.

3. It is therefore out of the question for this municipality to buy the land now applied for.

4. Moreover, I do not see on what principle the Revenue Board deem it fit to call upon the municipality to pay for the land. The Government have decided that all lands required by the Municipal or Local Fund Boards for public purposes should be given them free of charge. Accordingly, when *zaminadari* or *inam* lands are taken up for public purposes by these boards, Government are granting compensation to the owners of these lands by reduction of their *peisheush* or quit-rents without taking the value of the lands from local boards. When Government are pleased to procure for these boards, free of charge, lands belonging to others, it seems anomalous that they should call upon the boards to pay for lands which belong to Government themselves.

5. Government have cast upon local bodies the charges of middle-class education which used to be borne until lately by Provincial funds. It is therefore but just that they should give the local bodies, free of charge, such lands as are required by them for public purposes.

6. As regards the alternative suggestion of the Revenue Board that the land should be marked out into suitable sites and sold by public auction subject to payment of quit-rent, I beg to state that such a course is likely to defeat the very object for which the land is proposed to be applied.

**Vide* my letter, No. 67, dated 27th May 1886. The municipality propose* to keep this land as a reserve, and whenever houses take fire in congested parts of the town, they intend to prohibit rebuilding at such places, and to give the owners of burnt houses sites at the regimental lines.

7. Now if, as the Revenue Board propose, the land is put up to auction, the whole of it would in all probability be purchased by one or two wealthy citizens, such as Raja Gajapatirow or Mr. A. V. Narsingarow, to whom nearly half the town already belongs, and the improvements proposed to be made in the town as stated above can never be effected. It is needless for me to enlarge on the desirability of relieving the congested localities of the town.

8. Under the foregoing circumstances, the councillors request and trust that you will be pleased to represent again to the Board of Revenue the peculiar circumstances of this municipality and obtain for it the free grant of the land in question.

9. I beg to take this opportunity of bringing again to your notice that the land is overgrown with croton and other noxious vegetation, affording shelter to people committing nuisance.

Endorsement by H. G. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 30th December 1886, No. 995.

Submitted for the favorable consideration of the Board of Revenue, with advertence to their reference on General Register No. 4659 of 1886, dated the 28th September 1886.

2. The object of the municipality in applying for the land is the improvement of the town and not gain to the municipality. The land is uneven, sandy and rocky, and is useful for no other purpose than building houses when no other site is available. It

is at present overgrown with croton and other noxious vegetation. Unless, therefore, it is cleared and improved, persons of moderate means cannot afford to buy sites, and then only when a number of persons can agree together to build a number of houses at the same time. If, therefore, it is put up to auction, it is sure to fall into the hands of some wealthy individual, and to remain unavailable for the extension of the town.

3. Considering the peculiar situation of the town, which is locked between the sea and the swamp, its insanitary condition owing to the thickness of population and the smallness of area, and the need there is for improvement, it is earnestly requested that the Board will be pleased to grant the land free to the municipality on condition of its improving it at its own cost and utilizing it for the extension of the town.

RESOLUTION—dated 1st February 1887, No. 169.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Under the circumstances reported, the Board consider that the site of the old regimental lines may be handed over to the municipality free of cost for the improvement of the town in the manner indicated.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Exd. J. Hourious.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1887, No. 169 :—

Read—the following letter from H. G. TURNE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 8th June 1886, No. 949 :—

In 1883 the Native Infantry Regiment was withdrawn from Vizagapatam, and the town, as a military station, was abandoned.

2. In 1884 the Superintending Engineer, on my recommendation, moved Government to hand over to the municipality the ground on which the lines stood.

3. Government, however, in G.O., dated 2nd April 1884, No. 900-W., Public Works Department, communicated with Board's Proceedings, dated 30th idem, Mis. No. 3613, ordered that the site be retained by Government in view of probable requirements in connection with the proposed State Railway from Vizagapatam to Raipur and other matters.

4. The railway project has since been abandoned. Meanwhile, the site has become a standing nuisance by people using it as a latrine. The town of Vizagapatam is overcrowded and greatly needs extension on sanitary as well as other grounds. The Vizagapatam Municipal Council have again applied that the land might be handed over to them in view to its being let out for building purposes. A copy of the letter received from the chairman is enclosed, which describes in detail the difficulties under which the town is now placed owing to want of sufficient space.

5. The regimental huts which stood on the site have been dismantled and the materials sold by the Public Works Department, but the Municipal Council have expressed their readiness to raise and level the ground at their own cost.

6. I have the honor, under the circumstances, to request that the Board will be pleased to recommend to Government that the application of the Municipal Council may be granted and the site handed over to them.

ENCLOSURE.

From M.R.Ry. K. PURUSHOTTAM, Chairman, Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 27th May 1886, No. 67.

I have the honor to invite your kind attention to my letter No. 220, dated 19th February 1884, in which I have communicated to Mr. Johnson, in reply to his inquiry made at the instance of the Public Works Department, the desire and readiness of the municipality to take over the ground lately occupied by the regimental lines.

2. The Government, however, in their Proceedings, No. 900, Public Works, dated 2nd April 1884, directed that the land be retained under the charge of the Revenue Department, as it might probably be required for purposes connected with the Vizagapatam and Raipur State Railway then under contemplation.

3. Now that the railway project has been abandoned or indefinitely postponed, I have the honor, with the sanction of the council, to request that the land in question might be handed over to the municipality.

4. The site is now used as a place of public resort for people to answer calls of nature, and has therefore become a standing public nuisance. The daring child-murder which has lately occurred, was perpetrated at this locality.

5. You are aware that many parts of the town are so far overcrowded as to render all hope of assistance impossible when houses take fire. At about 1 A.M. on the night of 24th March 1886, many houses took fire in Satipeta, situated at the eastern extremity of T. Ramamurti Pantulu's street. Myself and some policemen at once proceeded to the spot, but, owing to the crowded nature of the locality, all our endeavours to check the spread of the conflagration were futile. One could hardly venture into the so-called street without endangering his life. The consequence was that no less than thirty-four houses took fire. Such instances are of frequent occurrence. Further, these crowded localities are the hot beds of small-pox almost every year. When either this epidemic or cholera breaks out in these parts, it is next to impossible to check its progress. The houses being thickly overcrowded, the contagion very easily spreads, baffling all our earnest efforts to arrest its progress. It is therefore absolutely necessary that people must be induced, when opportunities offer, such as when houses are destroyed by fire, to remove to more open parts of the town and to build there, the old sites being purchased by the municipality and kept vacant where necessary. The councillors are quite alive to the importance of improving the town in this direction and are quite willing to do all that lies in their power to effect it, but the great obstacle in their way is want of space. You are perfectly aware that there is no vacant land available for extension of the town, with the exception of the block now applied for. It is true that if the swamp could be improved as far as the causeway road, a large extent would become available for building purposes, but it is a work of time, and I hope I am not far wrong when I say that, with the limited resources of the municipality, it would take half a century more before this most desirable improvement could be expected to come within the range of practicability. The land is very low and is subject to submersion every rainy season. To raise this land so as to become fit to build on, requires an amount of capital which it is far beyond the power of the municipality to provide in the near future.

6. At all events it is quite out of the question until the already-projected schemes for the building of the bridge across the backwater and for the improvement of the water-supply are carried out, and the loans that have to be raised for these two purposes are paid off.

7. In the foregoing circumstances, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to accord your strong support to this application, and obtain for the municipality the grant of the land lately occupied by the regimental lines. It is unquestionably Government property, and the history of its acquisition is fully given in my former letter quoted in the first paragraph.

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Before submitting this application to Government, the Board desire to be informed of the area and value of the site proposed to be transferred to the municipality in view to see if the sanction of the Government of India will be necessary to the alienation referred to (*vide* paragraph 9 of Government of India Resolution printed in G.O., dated 19th June 1872, No. 82, and communicated with Board's Proceedings, dated 16th September 1876, No. 2360.

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Read—also the following letter from H. G. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vizianagrum, 4th September 1886, No. 1537:—

Adverting to Board's reference, dated the 30th June last, General Register No. 3664, I have the honor to report that the area of the regimental lines at Vizagapatam therein referred to is 18½ acres, and that the value thereof is estimated at Rs. 2,000.

Reference on the above, dated 28th September 1886.

The Collector is requested to state why the Municipal Councillors should not be called upon to pay the value of the land, and whether it may not be marked out into

plots suitable for house-sites and sold by auction subject to quit-rent (Board's Proceedings, dated 13th November 1884, No. 3860).

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Vizagapatam, with copy of
Board's Proceedings, No. 3860, dated 18th November 1884.

Read—also the following letter from M.R. Ry. K. PURUSHOTTAM, Chairman, Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 20th December 1886, No. 176:—

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2. You are further aware that the municipality is anxious to improve the water-supply of the town, and it will require about two lakhs of rupees for this purpose. This amount too will have to be raised by a loan and it will take many more years before that debt is cleared.

3. It is therefore out of the question for the municipality to buy the land now applied for.

4. Moreover, I do not see on what principle the Revenue Board deem it fit to call upon the municipality to pay for the land. The Government have decided that all lands required by the Municipal or Local Fund Boards for public purposes should be given them free of charge. Accordingly, when *amudari* or *inam* lands are taken up for public purposes by these boards, Government are granting compensation to the owners of these lands by reduction of their *peecha* or quit-rents without taking the value of the lands from local boards. When Government are pleased to procure for these boards, free of charge, lands belonging to others, it seems anomalous that they should call upon the boards to pay for lands which belong to Government themselves.

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6. As regards the alternative suggestion of the Revenue Board that the land should be marked out into suitable sites and sold by public auction subject to payment of quit-rent, I beg to state that such a course is likely to defeat the very object for which the land is proposed to be applied.

* *Vide* my letter No. 67, dated 27th May 1886. The municipality propose to keep this land as a reserve, and whenever houses take fire in congested parts of the town, they intend to prohibit rebuilding at such places, and to give the owners of burnt houses sites at the regimental lines.

7. Now if, as the Revenue Board propose, the land is put up to auction, the whole of it would in all probability be purchased by one or two wealthy citizens, such as Raja Gajapatirow or Mr. A. V. Narsingarow, to whom nearly half the town already belongs, and the improvements proposed to be made in the town as stated above can never be effected. It is needless for me to enlarge on the desirability of relieving the congested localities of the town.

8. Under the foregoing circumstances, the councillors request and trust that you will be pleased to represent again to the Board of Revenue the peculiar circumstances of this municipality and obtain for it the free grant of the land in question.

9. I beg to take this opportunity of bringing again to your notice that the land is overgrown with croton and other noxious vegetation, affording shelter to people committing nuisance.

Endorsement by H. G. TURNER Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 30th December 1886, No. 995.

Submitted for the favorable consideration of the Board of Revenue, with advertence to their reference on General Register No. 4659 of 1886, dated the 28th September 1886.

2. The object of the municipality in applying for the land is the improvement of the town and not gain to the municipality. The land is uneven, sandy and rocky, and is useful for no other purpose than building houses when no other site is available. It is at present overgrown with croton and other noxious vegetation. Unless, therefore, it is cleared and improved, persons of moderate means cannot afford to buy sites, and then only when a number of persons can agree together to build a number of houses at the same time. If, therefore, it is put up to auction, it is sure to fall into the hands of some wealthy individual, and to remain unavailable for the extension of the town.

3. Considering the peculiar situation of the town, which is locked between the sea and the swamp, its insanitary condition owing to the thickness of population and the smallness of area, and the need there is for improvement, it is earnestly requested that the Board will be pleased to grant the land free to the municipality on condition of its improving it at its own cost and utilizing it for the extension of the town.

Resolution—dated 1st February 1887, No. 169.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Under the circumstances reported, the Board consider that the site of the old regimental lines may be handed over to the municipality free of cost for the improvement of the town in the manner indicated.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.

ORDER—dated 14th April 1887, No. 366, Revenue.

Land Revenue, No. 35.

Sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

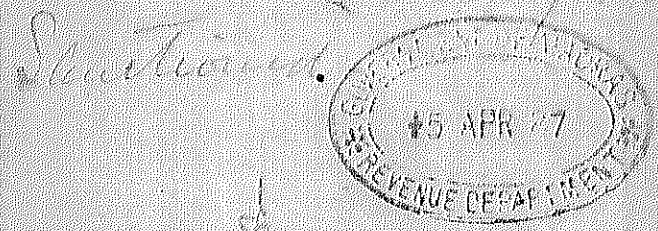
(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue,
the Local and Municipal Department,
the Public Works Department, Railway Branch.

Exd. W. H. French.

80 Copies.

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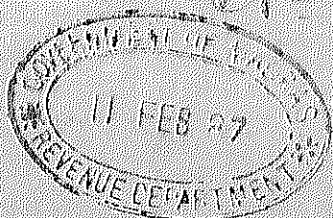


REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1887.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.



Printed February 11th.

Proceedings, 1st February 1887, No. 169.

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Handwritten notes:
 Under para 9 of the Re-
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 372 of 1887, a grant of land for
 construction of host schools,
 hospitals, dispensaries or other
 public works at the cost of re-
 venue funds, where
 the cost does not exceed Rs 3,000
 complete fee of the
 The purpose of the
 case seems to come
 under this definition,
 value of the land
 estimated at Rs 2,000
 therefore within the money

Submitting to Government Collector's pro-
 posal to hand over the site of the old regimental
 lines at Vizagapatam to the municipality free of
 cost for the improvement of the town.

Handwritten note:
 With order

B. 111

Original

Govt. of (1887) Madras.

REVENUE.

29-1-21 ✓
27-1-29 ✓
12-6-39 ✓

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 14th April 1887, No. 366.

APRIL.

Site of the old Regimental Lines at
Vizagapatam.

The grant of — to the municipality free of
cost for the improvement of the town, sanctioned.