

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Indivial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>(one)</i>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
<i>46-47.</i>	
Dated <i>2-8-19</i>	<i>19</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3rd August 1858.

No. 46. Read the following Extract Minutes Consultation in the Public Works Department, dated 24th July 1858, No. 1441.

Communicating para. 21 of Extract Minutes Consultation in the Military Department, dated 10th Ultimo, No. 2060, with the Commander-in-Chief's letter therein referred to, respecting the site of the proposed Central Jail near Madras. (Vide Public Works Consultation, 27th July 1858, Nos. 48 and 49.)

No. 47.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1041; dated 2nd August 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Military.

No. 1441.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 24th July 1858.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department dated 10th June 1858, No. 2060.

Read the following Papers.

From the Quarter Master General.	(Here enter 23rd December 1857 No. 598.)	
Extract Mins. Cons. Public Works Department...	12th February 1858	248.
From the Quarter Master General....	2nd March	102.
Extract Mins. Cons. Public Works Department...	19th do.	494.
Extract do. do.	22nd do.	512.
Extract do. do.	19th April	723.
From the Quarter Master General... ..	29th do.	66
		219.
From do.	3rd May	73
		224.

Minutes by the President and Honorable W. Elliot, dated 14th, 18th, and 27th May 1858.

1. The Governor in Council observes that in a General Estimate for the proposed Cantonment at Avady framed on the standard plans, the Chief Engineer states the probable cost of the whole will be 22 lacs.

2. Such estimates are however usually greatly exceeded, and in the present case it will not be excessive to estimate the actual expenditure to be incurred at lacs 30.

3. Before the Government can recommend the outlay of so large a sum of money, it behoves it to consider carefully, whether the establishment of the proposed Cantonment is necessary or desirable.

4. Better arrangements than that at present existing might probably be made for the health and comfort of the Troops in Garrison, and for the usual Military exercises and discipline, but while admitting that these objects are worthy of much consideration, the Governor in Council cannot but look to the specific purposes for which Troops are required at Madras.

5. These are he considers, 1st, to maintain and defend the Military position of Fort Saint George; 2nd, to protect and over-awe the Town of Madras; and 3rd, in case of need to support the Civil Authorities.

6. The Governor in Council is aware that his opinion on this, a Military question, does not coincide with that of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for whose judgment he entertains the greatest respect, but after full reflection on the subject, he cannot see that the above mentioned purposes could be satisfactorily fulfilled by Troops stationed at Avady.

7. This opinion might be supported on general grounds, but the occurrences of the past 12 months have led to a fuller appreciation of our actual position in this country, and to the necessity of being prepared not only against external enemies, but also against the possible Mutiny of the Native Troops or revolt of the Population.

8. Fort Saint George, therefore, the Governor in Council is strongly of opinion, should at all times be garrisoned by a complete Regiment of European Infantry, and a Company of European Artillery.

9. There can, he considers, be no question but that Officers and men should be located, when practicable, in the position which they may have to hold and defend. Were a portion to be quartered in Fort Saint George and a portion in a somewhat distant Cantonment,

either a sudden attack from the Sea, or a combined Mutiny of the Native Troops and revolt of the Population, might place the parties so separated in most perilous predicaments, more especially if, (and late events have shewn that the people are fully aware of the facility with which such means of communication are interrupted,) the Railway and Telegraph should be rendered unserviceable. The Governor in Council would therefore, keep the European Troops as much as possible together, in order that they may be subjected to the smallest extent, to the hazard of being harassed by any sudden outbreak of Mutineers.

10. That the accommodation within the Fort for the Troops above enumerated is not at present ample, the Governor in Council admits, and though he observes that Officers recently arriving from England do not consider the Barracks so very objectionable, as the copy of a Report from the Surgeon of Her Majesty's 44th herewith recorded will shew, yet he is of opinion that to render the men as healthy and comfortable as Government would desire to see its Troops, considerable changes in the nature and amount of accommodation must be effected. These he considers to be feasible, the expense would be nothing in comparison with that of the contemplated Cantonment at Avady, and in a short time, when arrangements shall have been effected for removing many of the Offices to Chepauk, space will be found for the erection of either new or additional Barracks.

11. With regard to Native Troops, the Governor in Council is of opinion that late events have decided the question as to the advisability or otherwise of massing such, except on active service.

12. He will not however urge his views on that point, as apart from these it is evident that for the furnishing the necessary guards, and for the performance of the usual duties at Madras well and efficiently, and without harassing and over-working the men to a serious extent, two Regiments of N. I. have hitherto been found generally insufficient; because, of the two returned from, foreign service; the latter is weak in numbers, and the other recently the effects of climate; the former is from the severe work entailed on it, not generally in that good condition and Military efficiency, in which a Regiment for foreign service should, if possible, be embarked.

13. His Lordship in Council therefore considers it necessary, that notwithstanding the Sapper Militia is maintained and the numerical strength of Regiments kept up, 2 Regular Native Regiments should be stationed at the Presidency and form part of the Garrison Command of Madras.

14. The Governor in Council admits, that if the Native Troops stationed at Madras suffered in respect to the state of their health in the localities which they now inhabit, it would be desirable or even necessary to remove them. But this on referring to the printed Returns prepared and issued by the Medical Board, will not be found to be the case. By these Returns, giving the average for the 12 years between 1842-1855 and for the single year 1855-56, it will be seen that the Presidency has an advantage over the average, in almost every respect both as regards Europeans and Natives.

15. He is of opinion, therefore, that notwithstanding the site is in some respects objectionable, the Perambore Lines which have been but lately built at an expense of 60,000 Rupees should be occupied by one of the two Regiments of N. I., and that by a further outlay for levelling the ground, filling up holes, and by a careful attention to sanitary rules, these Lines may be rendered perfectly wholesome and healthy.

16. There remains then but one Regiment to be provided with quarters; the Vepery Lines the Governor in Council believes to be very bad, and in addition to his objections to continue a Regiment on that site on sanitary grounds, he is also of opinion that one Regiment being already stationed in the North-west and the Sapper Militia and Invalid Battalion on the North-west; the Town-Major therefore, in communication with the Garrison-Engineer is directed to make further enquiries, in order to the procuring of ground in that direction, sufficient for the Lines of one Native Infantry Regiment.

17. The Governor in Council is of opinion, that the Troops, wherever stationed, if intended for duty in Fort Saint George and the Presidency, should be under the immediate Command of the Governor.

18. For the above reasons, on account also of the enormous outlay estimated, the present state of the imperial finances and the increasing demands on them for Barrack accommodation throughout India, the Governor in Council while admitting that there are some advantages in the proposed scheme, though counterbalanced as he thinks by the loss of others of greater importance, cannot recommend so large an expenditure.

19. It is not probable that more than one European Regiment will ever be stationed in Madras; that the Governor in Council has shewn should be in the Fort, where there are already Barracks; additional Barracks therefore at Avady would be unnecessary.

20. He remarks that the experiment of massing Native Regiments was some years since made at Palaveram, but that after the Cantonment was built it was abandoned.

21. The Commander-in-Chief's letter regarding the site of the Central Gaol is communicated to the Department Public Works.

22. All the Medical Reports connected with Native Troops doing duty at the Presidency, attribute, the Governor in Council observes, much of the ill-health that does prevail amongst them, to the indifferent and bad diet on which they are obliged to live; the same Reports describe the men as being after a short sojourn at Madras reduced in bodily vigor, pinched in their circumstances, and anxiously looking for a march, to escape from a place where confessedly every article necessary to their existence, is dearer than at any other station. A mere change of locality or a new Cantonment would not alter this condition of things, whereby the health of the Troops in Garrison is seriously impaired. The Governor in Council considers that this evil must be remedied, and that the only manner in which such remedy can be found, is by granting batta to all Native Troops while serving within the limits of the Garrison of Fort Saint George; this opinion will be communicated to the Supreme Government and the Court of Directors.

(Signed) W. H. WAPSHARE, Major,
Acting Dy. Secretary to Government.

Letter from Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 29th April 1858, No. 219.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to request you will be so good as to beg the attention of Government to the annexed copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, on the subject of the proposed Cantonment at Avady, and submit His Excellency's request for a decision thereon.

Letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officer in charge of the Central Office of Public Works; to Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army, dated 20th April 1858, No. 9165.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 1076, dated 19th Instant, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer to Government, dated 5th Ultimo No. 7868, accompanying the general estimates for the Cantonment at Avady, amounting to Rupees (22,00,000) twenty-two lacs. No orders have been subsequently received on the subject, and of course nothing has been done towards commencing the works.

2. With respect to the estimates for the Vellore Barracks, some delay has occurred consequent on Lieutenant Mayne's transfer to Bangalore and other unavoidable circumstances; but the Acting District Engineer has received orders to submit the papers by the end of the current month, which will now be repeated; but without the special orders of Government the buildings cannot be commenced.

Letter from Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 3rd May 1858, No. ⁷³/₂₂₄.

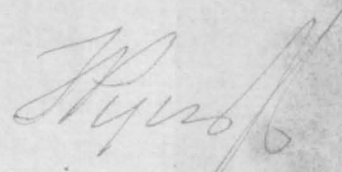
SIR,

With reference to the Resolution of Government of 22nd Ultimo, received for the disposal of a Military consideration involved in the selection of a site for the Central Prison, especially with its erection on the Red-Hills; having submitted the same to the Commander-in-Chief, I am directed by His Excellency to say, that he begs to remind Government how very frequently he has urged, that all Central Jails, Treasuries, &c. should be invariably placed within reach of immediate Military protection. If the new Cantonment at Avady, the Commander-in-Chief observes, (so often recommended) is formed, he thinks the Red-Hills will be a very suitable position for a Central Jail, otherwise, the site is too far removed from Military protection.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer, with reference to Colonel Faber's letter dated 5th March last, No. 7868.

2. Para. 21 of the above Extract with the Commander-in-Chief's letter therein referred to, respecting the site of the proposed Central Jail near Madras, will be communicated to the Judicial Department with reference to para. 2 of the Order in that Department dated 28th April 1858, No. 548.

(A true Extract.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Engineer.

„ Judicial Department.

Recd 27/5

24th May 1852. at 576.

24th 10th Aug 53.

13-8-08

At 22. 8th June 53 August
Federal 1852. accept

Great American Frontier.
tion in the Middle North
accept 1851

24th
27th July 53.

1852.
25th Jan copy.

Communicating for a 21st
time in the building before
31st Dec 1850. with the
Comm. in. Chief's letter showing
reference to, respecting the
also of the proposed
Central Jail near the D. 1.

18th May
In the Records

For the Record
24th May 1853

41877