

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	904	Press
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Dated	2-7	1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

904
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
from 2nd to 8th July 1859.*

No. 1. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor of Vizagapatam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 17th June 1859, No. 306.

1. Captain Owen, Commanding Sebundies at Nursepatam, has reported to me that on the 3rd of the current month, the new Hospital building was struck by lightning and that three of the Sebundies were knocked down by the fluid.

2. The injury sustained by the building is reported as trifling to all appearance, but the District Engineer will be called upon to report on this point, meanwhile Captain Owen urges the necessity of putting up a lightning conductor to guard against a similar accident for the future.

3. Contiguous to the Barrack Hospital there is a small Magazine to which is attached an ordinary lightning conductor but the roof of the Hospital is higher than the point of the conductor, and to this circumstance the recent accident may reasonably be ascribed. Captain Owen is of opinion that a separate conductor is necessary and he applies for sanction for the erection of one to be attached to the Barracks.

4. The expediency and value of lightning conductors is, I believe, in the present day a "*vevata quæstio*" but however this may be, I am not disposed to concur with Captain Owen, that a separate conductor is necessary for the Barrack buildings, while there is one within 100 yards of them, and all that appears to me necessary is to lengthen the conductor now attached to the Magazine to a height some 10 or 12 feet above the extreme point of the roof of the adjoining buildings, but it seems that lightning is attracted at Nursepatam, more than elsewhere, though the causes are unknown, and the Government may be of opinion that a fresh conductor is required in view to the more certain preservation of the buildings against a recurrence of similar damage.

5. I have thought it might not be uninteresting to Government to see Captain Owen's account of the accident and accordingly have enclosed a copy of his communication.

From Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golcondah Sebundy Corps; to C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, dated Nursepatam, 13th June 1859.

On the 3rd of the present month, between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the eastern end of the near Hospital tiled building was struck by lightning in three places, and a report of the circumstance was duly made to the District Engineer that he might, if he thought proper, cause an inspection of the building to be made to ascertain the amount of damage done.

I have myself inspected the spot, and although the outward injury appears trifling, it is possible that the internal part of the masonry walls may be weakened by the shock sustained.

The place of exit of the electric fluid in the masonry work over the two doors of the building has a most singular appearance.

Over one door the fluid has passed through in two places, leaving in one instance a small aperture as if bored with a gimblet, in other an orifice of much larger dimensions.

Over the second door struck, a small round orifice is alone apparent, but in both cases the fluid has passed down the wooden frame work of door, splintering the wood work near the iron hinges.

Three persons were struck down by the shock; one, the sentry, on duty at his post, in verandah of Hospital: another the orderly Naigue who was standing in centre of Surgery room, and the third a camp follower, who was at a little distance from the sentry.

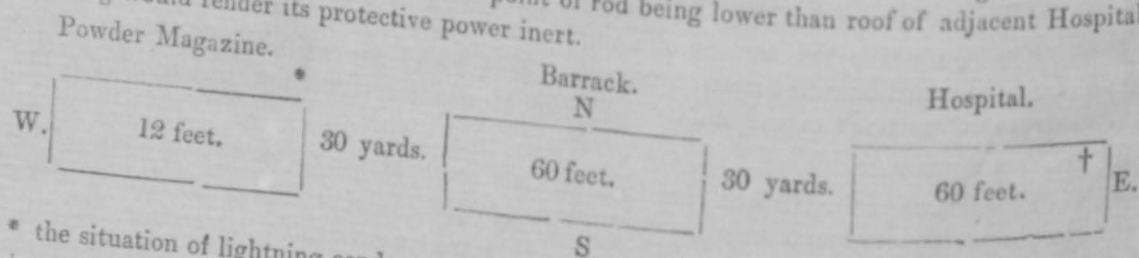
311 *W. G. Owen*

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The Apothecary quickly arrived on the spot and succeeded in restoring the 3 persons.
All three were insensible, 2 recovered during the day, but the 3rd not until the following day, one of them is still under treatment in the Hospital.

2. My principal object in addressing you, is to ask whether you would be pleased to obtain the sanction of Government that a lightning conductor may be affixed to the eastern end of the Hospital building.

Your are aware that the three buildings as hereunder, are situated on the highest, and consequently most exposed spot, at Nursapatam, they are at about 30 yards apart, facing to the south, the ground has a natural slope from north to south, and from east to west—the Magazine at the western extremity has a lightning conductor, but the height of the Hospital building considered that the rod of lightning conductor, affords any protection to buildings, other than in its immediate vicinity, the fact of point of rod being lower than roof of adjacent Hospital building would render its protective power inert.



* the situation of lightning conductor.

† was the point struck:—the wind was blowing strongly from W. N. W. so that the electric cloud must have passed close by the lightning conductor immediately before the Hospital building was struck.

3. If it is considered that the present lightning conductor at Magazine lengthened, so as to be raised to a height above the Hospital building would have sufficient protecting influence (the distance is about 100 yards) of course it would be the cheaper plan.

4. Though I would advocate a *separate* lightning conductor if you should see fit to recommend it.

It may be unusual to grant lightning conductors for ordinary public buildings, but in the present instance it might be the means of saving life and property hereafter:—Lightning is always very vivid, and frequent, at this spot during the monsoon weather.

Only 3 years ago a fine mango tree at about 100 yards south of the present Magazine was struck by lightning.

I have the honor to request your favorable consideration of the case represented.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE.
Agent to the Governor.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1859, No. 904.

Communicated to the Department Public Works where the question relative to the erection of a lightning conductor to protect the Barracks at Nursepatam will be considered.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

not be uninteresting to Government
to see Captain Owen's account of the
accident and accordingly have en-
closed a copy of his communication.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Charles Read
Agent to the Gov.

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including "J. Griffin" and "A. H. C."]

Recd Oct 8 July

1859.
Juiciat Kaptit

From the Agent to the
Governor of
the Territory of
Washington
Dated 11 June
Received 24 3 1859

No 306
Enclature 1

No 1237

No 1053.

Encos Copy of the
letter regarding the
of the following
by the Governor of
the Territory of
Washington
Dated 11 June
Received 24 3 1859

With an Order.

No.

Govt will receive receipt of the
repar of the ~~Obiect Engraving~~
as to the extent of the
estimated by the ~~Boards~~
at ~~Washington~~
Order, taken 27 July 1859 & 1860
concerned with the

SPM. when the front
relates to the section of a
lighting conductor to
protect the structure
from fire and be

The Govt. Agent,
Washington.
Chief of the Department
of the Interior
August 1859