

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1845	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 22-11-19-1866	

223-224

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd November 1866.*

No. 223. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, dated 15th November 1866, No. 3955.

Communicating Minute of the President in Council, respecting the Mysore Central Jail at Bangalore. } (Vide Proceedings, Military Department, dated 15th November 1866, Nos. 285 & 286.)

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1866, No. 1845.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following :—

MINUTE BY THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.

I. Sir William Denison embodied his views respecting the eventual settlement of the Military Establishments at Bangalore, in a Minute dated June 28th, 1865, and his proposals were subsequently communicated by an Order of Council to the Commander-in-Chief, who intimated his full concurrence in the wishes of the Governor in the letter addressed by the Quarter Master General, to Government, under date of July 20th, 1865.

The arrangements thus sanctioned by the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief were as follows :—

(1.) To move the British Cavalry Regiment and two Field Batteries of Artillery into the new barracks on the old race course.

(2.) To move the British Infantry Regiment into the vacated Cavalry Barracks.

(3.) To construct a series of subterranean tanks for storing the roof drainage of the buildings on the old race course, leaving the projected aqueduct from the Ulsoor tank as the subsidiary source of supply.

(4.) To provide a fresh set of buildings for the mess and recreation rooms of the Serjeants of Artillery and Cavalry, the existing buildings for these purposes being appropriated as barracks for the Cavalry.

(5.) To appropriate the vacated buildings now belonging to the Field Batteries of Artillery to the wants of the Ordnance Department, with the addition of new Magazines and stores, and such defences as may be deemed necessary, the present Arsenal being at an inconvenient distance from the soldiers' quarters.

(6.) To convert the vacated barracks of the British Infantry Regiments into stores for the Commissariat Department.

(7.) To provide a new hospital for the British Infantry Regiment, either in connection with the old Cavalry Barracks appropriated to the Infantry, or in connection with the new Cavalry and Artillery Hospital on the race course.

(8.) To construct a new central Military Prison for the whole of the Presidency forces south of Secunderabad, that station being already furnished with a good Military Prison.

The Commander-in-Chief in stating his approval of the contemplated arrangements, added the suggestion that they should be carried out in the preceding Order.

II. Such having a year ago been the course projected, and approved with reference to the prosecution of the Military buildings at Bangalore, it becomes important to record the progress which has been made in the execution of the scheme referred to, and to recommend such modifications as experience and reflection have suggested in the interval which has elapsed.

I shall first note the state of the several works as I found them on my recent inspection at Bangalore.

(1.) The British Cavalry Regiment has not been moved from its old quarters in the town to the new barracks on the race course. As far as the barracks are concerned the transfer might be effected; but the hospital, family quarters, and the accessory buildings connected with sanitation, conservancy and recreation are still incomplete, and no provision has been made or sanctioned for

drainage or stabling. Nor are the new buildings at the old Cavalry Barracks, destined for the eventual accommodation of the British Infantry Regiment, completed. The Cavalry Regiment could not yet be completely and comfortably transferred to the race course, and the Infantry Regiment could not be completely and comfortably transferred to the old Cavalry Barracks; they remain therefore in *statu quo*, with this exception, that a portion of the Infantry Regiment and some of its sick have been lodged in the future Cavalry Barracks on the race course, as a temporary arrangement.

(2.) The British Infantry Regiment remains in its old quarters, (destined for the Commissariat) with the exception of that portion of it which, as stated above, has been temporarily located in the future Cavalry Barracks on the race course.

(3.) No steps have been taken with a view to the construction of the subterranean tanks for roof-water, recommended by Sir William Denison as the chief source of water supply. The works and machinery requisite for raising and purifying the water from the Ulsoor tank, regarded by the late Governor as the subsidiary source, are advanced nearly to completion. The machinery operates to the satisfaction of the Engineer Officer, and the pipes destined to convey the water raised by the engine across the valley to the Military Establishments on the other side are on the way from England.

(4.) The mess and recreation rooms destined for the Serjeants of Artillery and Cavalry, whose present accommodation for those purposes will be appropriated as Cavalry Barracks, are in course of erection.

(5.) No commencement has been made in the conversion of the quarters belonging to the two Batteries of Field Artillery to Ordnance purposes. These quarters are still occupied by the Artillery, whose future quarters on the race course, in connection with the British Cavalry Regiment, are not yet completed.

(6.) The British Infantry Regiment being still stationed in its old condemned quarters in the town, those quarters have of course, not been given up to the Commissariat Department. Considerable progress has, however, been made in the construction of the bakery in the middle of the Infantry Barrack yard, which will form a principal feature of the future Commissariat Establishment. The barracks, though mean and half ruinous are, however, fortunately very healthy at present.

(7.) No new hospital has been commenced or designed for the European Infantry Regiment, either in connection with its projected quarters at the old Cavalry Barracks in the town, or in connection with the new Cavalry Hospital on the race course. As the matter now stands, however, the new Infantry Hospital would (though no definitive orders have, I believe, been issued) be constructed near the future regimental quarters and not at the race course. The decision of the Commander-in-Chief and the Government having been given in that sense against the opinion of the Sanitary Commission, but in harmony with the views of the Committee of Military and Medical Officers convoked at Bangalore in May 1865.

(8.) No measures have been embraced for the construction of a General Military Prison at Bangalore.

III. The progress made in the projected arrangements at Bangalore during the past year, may not by the above account appear to be very satisfactory, but it must be remembered that the limited appropriations made by Government have

been scattered over a variety of subordinate buildings, which, though individually apparently insignificant, are all important and indispensable parts of a great whole. The group of regimental buildings moves slowly, but surely and satisfactorily to completion. I see nothing to blame and little to regret in the course pursued under the sanction of Government by the Executive Engineer who, as he assures me, will exhaust all the funds at his disposal in the present year, and who would spend more if he had more. The outlay on the bakery might perhaps have been deferred, and the funds appropriated to this purpose might have been applied to the more expeditious settlement of the troops in their respective definitive quarters, but the bakery is itself a desirable and economical undertaking. I am certainly under the impression that some of the buildings are designed with an unnecessary degree of solidity, but this costly and durable method of construction is consistent with the standard plans now in force, and the prescription of sanitary authority.

IV. I now proceed to offer some suggestions with a view to the vigorous prosecution of the most necessary works in the ensuing year, specifying the projects which, in my humble judgment, might be deferred, and those on which our attention and expenditure should be concentrated.

I propose to strike out of present consideration four of the objects contemplated by Sir William Denison's recommendations. (1.)—The construction of subterranean tanks for storing roof-water. (2.)—All works connected with the conversion of the Artillery quarters to Ordnance purposes. (3.)—All works connected with the conversion of the old Infantry quarters to Commissariat purposes, except the prosecution of the bakery. (4.)—The proposed Central Military Prison.

(1.) The project of storing roof-water in subterranean tanks for drinking and cooking purposes, is a most commendable one. I adhere to all that Sir William Denison and Sir Gaspard LeMarchant have said on the subject. There is nothing more remarkable than the neglect in storing roof-water which prevails in this Presidency, in most parts of which the rain fall on the roof of a habitation with its dependencies would supply the inmates with sufficient water of the finest quality for personal consumption throughout the year. I do not in the least undervalue the expedient, nor do I discourage its eventual adoption, but I think that in the meantime the first object should be the completion of the supply works for the Ulsoor tank. The water of the Ulsoor reservoir has been improved by the exclusion of the town sewerage which formerly defiled it, but which is now conveyed below the tank to the country beyond. The machinery is ready, the filtering basins are nearly completed, the pipes are shortly expected. The water supply thus furnished will be brought not only to the plateau of the old race course, but to all the Military Establishment of the Madras Government at Bangalore. The quality of the water is tolerable for every purpose, and the quantity sufficient for all. It would be a pity to defer a project so comprehensive, so well understood, and so far advanced, for a scheme, novel in this country, and only of local and partial application, such as that of the subterranean tanks for roof-water. Should the water of the Ulsoor tank prove unsatisfactory in quality for drinking, or insufficient in quantity, it will be opened to Government to revert to the project of subterranean tanks in connection with the hospital and barracks, with the view of obtaining a superior quality for drinking purposes and an auxiliary supply for all. It has, I know, been urged that the prosecution of the Ulsoor water works is a wasteful undertaking for the Mysore

Government, and the Municipal Authorities of Bangalore have set on foot another scheme for introducing tank water from the country for the use of the Mysore Establishments and the civil population. It is urged that two schemes of water supply are extravagant, and that the Madras Engineer and the Mysore Engineer might combine their plans and bring, by a single aqueduct, sufficient water for the various establishments of Madras and Mysore, as well as for the towns people, sharing the cost and the proceeds in an equitable manner. I am far from asserting that this might not have been, in the first instance, desirable. It is probable that the whole rain fall on the available area in the neighbourhood might have been concentrated in a single reservoir or chain of reservoirs, and that a single water channel might have been led to the city adequate for every purpose. But this plan was not adopted at the proper time. The Madras Government has expended a considerable sum on the works at the Ulsoor tank, they are almost ready for operation, they are sufficient for the use of our establishments. The expedient is a simple one and a direct one. The negotiation of an arrangement at this stage, with the Government of Mysore and with the Municipality of Bangalore, with conflicting opinions and interests, and controversial Engineers would be a complicated matter, and might produce delay and perhaps eventual embarrassments. I would advise that we should deal promptly and apart with our own wants, and leave the Government of Mysore and the Municipal Authorities to settle separately for their own troops and their own people. It may not be the best solution in principle, we may regret that a wiser and more economical combination was not contrived before, but it is a practical solution which suits our necessities and which we can apply at once.

(2.) The Artillery quarters cannot be converted into a Military Arsenal until the two Batteries are established in their new barracks on the race course. The Arsenal cannot be commenced until the quarters are evacuated, but I would not be in a hurry to commence the new Arsenal. The object is no doubt most desirable, but it can wait. It would be probably deemed desirable that every accommodation and appliance for the health and convenience of the Cavalry and Artillery on the race course and of the Infantry in the old Cavalry Barracks, should be matured before provision is made for lodging stores and ammunition which are now safely, though inconveniently, placed in the old native Fort.

(3.) The same argument applies to the conversion of the Infantry Barrack to Commissariat purposes. The work cannot be commenced till the troops are out, and if the resources at the command of Government are not sufficient for the energetic prosecution of all the objects in view at once, the repair of old repositories, and the construction of new ones should surely be postponed until every provision has been made for the welfare of the soldier, his family and his horse.

(4.) The necessity for a Central Military Prison at Bangalore is not demonstrated to me. Breaches of Military discipline are, I presume, dealt with in the Regimental Prisons. For serious criminal offences there are the jails of the country. There cannot surely be a pressing necessity for a large and expensive penal establishment exclusively appropriated to Military Criminals, when the European wards at Madras are half empty, and the admirable jail at Ootacamund with thirty-two cells has only eight inmates. Before undertaking the construction of a Central Military Prison at Bangalore, are there not many wants connected with the moral and sanitary condition of the soldier and his dependents at Bellary, Madras, the Mount, Poonamallee, and in other places which ought to be supplied?

V. If the views which I have here submitted, with reference to the postponement or elimination of four of the measures recommended by Sir William Denison, be deemed judicious, there remain two projects which it is desirable to complete in the most efficient manner with the least possible delay. These are, (1.)—the transfer of the Cavalry and the two Batteries to the race course, (2.)—the transfer of the Infantry to the Cavalry Barrack, and these two measures embrace and imply two others separately specified by Sir William Denison, namely the construction of new mess and recreation rooms for Non-Commissioned Officers, and the erection of a new hospital for the Infantry Regiment.

(1.) The transfer of the Cavalry Regiment and of the two Batteries to the race course is the capital object in view, and the transfer of the Cavalry is most necessary as it is the basis of all the other arrangements. It ought not in my opinion to be attempted until every thing is ready for the accommodation of the men, their families and their horses. The barracks are complete or nearly so, the hospital, the latrines, the kitchens, the recreation buildings, the family quarters, and other subsidiary buildings are all sanctioned or in course of erection. But there are two essential particulars in which nothing has been settled. No plans have been adopted for stabling the horses, and none for the drainage of the plateau. These objects were no doubt contemplated by Sir William Denison, though they are not distinctly urged in his Minute of last year. They are both urgently recommended alike by the Sanitary Commission and by the Bangalore Committee in their respective reports. They are now urged by the Commander-in-Chief, the Sanitary Commissioner, and the local Commanding Officers.

Plans of stables for 440 horses based on the standard design of the Supreme Government have been long under the consideration of the Quarter Master General and the Executive Engineer, and in the form definitively submitted, these stables are estimated to cost Rupees 1,25,000 in the aggregate, or 285 Rupees per horse, without any provision for saddle-rooms or other subsidiary buildings. The projected cost was deemed unreasonable by the Commander-in-Chief who would be satisfied with a cheap and unpretending description of structure for this purpose. In a letter addressed to me by His Excellency, he makes use of the following expressions, in which I entirely concur.

"All I desire for the Cavalry is *shelter*, a sound, cheap covering, such as Colonel Cooke will explain to you. I wish to protect the health of the men as well as of the horses, both of which are now exposed to all the deteriorating effects of a trying climate, in scorching heat or heavy rain. In fact, I consider, the building of cover or stables, as an immense sanitary object, both for men and horses."

Bearing the views of the Commander-in-Chief in mind, and availing myself of the presence of the Quarter Master General at Bangalore during my recent visit, I inspected the stables of the Zillahdar Force, which were constructed at the rate of Rupees 64 per horse, and with the assistance of Mr. Gow, the architect of these stables, I have prepared two simple

* NOTE.—This plan has been subjected by the Commander-in-Chief to further revision, and a contractor has been found ready to execute it with palmyra instead of teak, and some other modifications for the sum of Rupees 42,070, being at the rate of Rupees 94 for 446 horses. I strongly recommend the immediate adoption and execution of this plan as an emergent work.

plans of stabling which would cost about Rupees 140 per horse,* and which I have left in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief. It may be regretted that they are so much more costly than the stables of the Mysore Cavalry, but they are of a superior character, affording a more perfect shelter to the horse, to the

(Signed) N.

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soldier, and to the Inspecting Officer; nor must it be forgotten that the rate of wages and the value of materials have both advanced since the Zillahdar stables were erected. The question of stabling will be brought under the consideration of Government by the Commander-in-Chief, who will urge the immediate execution of the project as an indispensable condition of the transfer of the Cavalry Regiment to the race course. The views of His Excellency on this subject are supported by those of General Haines, of Colonel Dickson, of Colonel Mein and of Mr. Thacker, all of whom I consulted on this subject. Mr. Thacker enforced the necessity of shelter, not only with reference to the preservation of the health and efficiency of the horse, but with a view also to the economy of his food, a subject on which I intend to elicit the opinion of Mr. Thacker hereafter in a more formal manner. Since I have witnessed the system of picketing the valuable horses of the Cavalry and Artillery in the open air, I have been strongly impressed with the obnoxious and wasteful character of this practice. I agree with the Commander-in-Chief in deprecating the transfer of the Cavalry to their new quarters without bringing their horses under cover. The same considerations apply with equal cogency to the horses of the Artillery, and after the transfer of the Cavalry, the erection of stables for the two Batteries should be pushed on as an indispensable preliminary to the permanent settlement of that Force on the plateau.

No plan for the drainage of the race course, with its various edifices and numerous population, has as yet been perfected; but the question is now under the consideration of the Executive Engineer and his Subordinates. I would not make the transfer of the troops absolutely conditional on the completion of this work, but the work is an essential one, and should be undertaken both with deliberation and energy. The rain fall on the area of the plateau, the roof-water of the buildings projected on the soil, and the amount of fluid discharged by the aqueduct from the Ulsoor tank, and contaminated by the various purposes to which it is applied, will form a considerable aggregate which it is most essential to remove from the vicinity of the habitations. How far this volume of water can be employed in carrying off the solid parts of the sewage as well as the liquid portions, is a question for the Engineers to decide. I am disposed to concur with the Sanitary Commissioner in believing that the whole of the sewage from the latrines and other repositories should be cleared away in covered drains by the water supply. The fall of the ground on all sides but one, is very favorable for this purpose, and as the contents of the drains would thus become of a highly fertilizing quality they could be advantageously expended upon the meadow ground at a judicious distance. The sewage would find its way back to the plateau in the form of hay.

(2.) As soon as the transfer of the Cavalry Regiment to the race course has been effected, the Infantry Regiment will find spacious and salubrious quarters in the vacated buildings which by that time will be expanded by the additional barracks now well advanced. Some portions of the buildings on the old site being perhaps retained for a time as family quarters. The only matter in connection with this change, which is still unsettled and which requires immediate decision, is the site of the new Infantry Hospital.

The Sanitary Commission advised the race course. The Bangalore Committee contended for the vicinity of the barracks, urging the distances and the disadvantages of a divided management. The Commander-in-Chief and the Government have cast their votes along with the Committee. No definitive orders have

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however been given, and I venture once more to recommend the subject to the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief. My own impressions were, I confess, in the first instance against the Sanitary Commission. It seemed natural and desirable that the Regimental Hospital should be placed in close conjunction with the Regiment for the convenience of the Surgeon, for the convenience of the Commanding Officer, in the interest of general discipline and supervision, and in order to avoid the transport of the patient, perhaps suffering from an acute or painful disease or injury. The site of the old Cavalry Barracks might not be deemed at present very favorable for a hospital. It is not far from a portion of the native town and the Ulsoor tank, while the regimental horse lines, the sick horse lines, and a variety of old and tainted buildings and drains connected with the former quarters of the Infantry Regiment, might combine to produce at certain seasons and with certain winds, malarious influences. The transfer of the Cavalry Regiment with its accessories, the removal of superannuated structures, and the improvement of the tank and the drainage, would however go far to counteract any danger of this sort. There seemed to be many arguments for building the Regimental Hospital at the site of the barracks, and no valid objection against it. My recent enquiries on the spot have however led me to alter my opinion. I learned that some patients belonging to the 16th Lancers, whose cases were found to be obstinate or retrogressive in the hospital at the Cavalry Barracks, had been removed without difficulty or suffering, to the race course where they were found to recover rapidly in the purer air of that locality. Deputy Inspector General Mackenzie considered this experiment to be decisive in favor of uniting all the Regimental Hospitals at the race course. General Haines, Dr. Inglis, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Macbeth, and the Sanitary Commissioner were all of the same opinion.

I was assured that no embarrassment would be experienced in dealing with casual cases of indisposition in a sick room at the regimental quarters, or in the transport of graver cases to the race course. Should the Commander-in-Chief and the Government eventually determine in favor of concentrating all the hospital accommodation for the European Troops on the race course, it will probably be found necessary to give the group of hospital buildings the character of a General Hospital, and to construct quarters for an English Medical Officer in connection with them.

VI. Before closing these remarks, I must advert to a question affecting the future water supply of the British Troops at Bangalore, which may require some action on the part of Government. Two tanks, as I am informed, are appropriated to the use of the Cantonment at Bangalore, by prescriptive usage, if not by positive grant or right; the Sumpengy tank and the Ulsoor tank. The former is not made use of. The latter contains the whole supply available for the Military establishments of this Government in the town and on the race course. The drainage towards these tanks from the adjacent country is being appropriated by the Mysore Engineer in the formation of a chain of reservoirs contiguous to the present "Miller's tank" from which it is his intention to supply the Mysore Establishments and the population of the town. The sources of the Lumpengy tank have been already directed to the new works, and a portion of one of the feeding valleys of the Ulsoor tank has also been appropriated. Of the Sumpengy tank it is not necessary to speak, that reservoir being of no importance or utility whatever, but it is absolutely essential to guard against any diminution of the water flow to the Ulsoor tank on which the Madras Government have bestowed such a large expendi-

ture. Major Sankey has projected certain dams and water channels on the Dodocondah valley, the main feeding basin of this tank by which a large portion of the rain fall would be cut off from its natural out-fall and be conveyed aside to the new Mysore reservoirs. The officer referred to alleges, in justification of his project. 1st—that the water supply flowing to the Ulsoor tank would still remain amply adequate to the wants of the Madras Establishments, and, 2ndly—that if it be found necessary, to replenish the tank from other sources, such sources exist beyond the Light Cavalry parade ground on either side of the Madras Railway, and that from this area of rain fall, an abundant supply of water might be led to the Ulsoor tank at a very insignificant cost.

It would be altogether repugnant to the sentiments of the Madras Government to keep for their exclusive use a source of water supply available for the wants of the Mysore Government, if their own wants can be made good from other sources equally pure and abundant. It would not be expedient, however, to give up the existing source of supply without having first secured a sufficient indemnity for the concession, and if the Mysore Government finds it convenient to appropriate to their necessities a portion of the rain fall which now runs gratuitously and naturally to the main reservoir of the Madras Government, the Government of Mysore are, in my opinion, bound to defray the charge of conveying the compensating supply from the new source to that reservoir.

I propose therefore that a communication be addressed to the Mysore Government referring to the prejudice which would be caused to the Ulsoor tank by the works contemplated by Major Sankey, and pointing out that the Government of Madras will expect that before such works are carried into effect, an amount of water supply, fully corresponding to the quantity about to be abstracted, shall be directed to the tank at the charge of the Mysore Government.

VII. In conclusion, I think it right to add the expression of my gratification in the general air of welfare and progress exhibited at Bangalore under a Civil and Military administration directed by able officers, heartily co-operating for the common good. Among the various improvements of which this flourishing station is the scene, there is none which I witnessed with more satisfaction than the formation of the new Lines for the Madras Sappers, under the direction of Colonel Hill. In these Lines the general character of Native quarters has been preserved with ample provision for ventilation, drainage and shade, while the local materials have been used so as to produce, without ornament, an agreeable and tasteful effect. The Lines designed by Colonel Hill will, when completed, afford a model for the habitations of the whole Native Army.

In like manner the Mysore Central Jail at Bangalore may present a pattern for the penal establishments of the Madras Presidency and a school for those to whom they are entrusted.

(Signed) NAPIER.

OOTACAMUND, 16th October 1866.

ORDER, No. 3955, 15th November 1866.

Resolved that the foregoing Minute by the Right Honorable the President on the Military Establishments at Bangalore be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief and Department of Public Works, the principal points brought to notice connected with the buildings, drainage, and water supply, &c., will be considered in the latter Department; but Government wish to be favored, as early as possible, with

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's views on the subject of the site of the new Infantry Hospital, adverted to in clause (2) of paragraph V of His Lordship's Minute, in view to final orders being passed on that particular question.

2. The plan for the provision of stabling for the 16th Lancers having been approved in the Military Department* has been transferred to the Department Public Works for disposal,—on which Department also the application to be made to the Mysore Government on the question affecting the future water supply to the Ulsoor tank will devolve.

3. The concluding paragraph of the Minute, adverting to the Mysore Central Jail at Bangalore, will be communicated to the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Macmillan Colonel,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

.. Public Works Department.
.. Judicial Department. *with 5 spare copies*
.. Adjutant General, ...
.. Controller of Military Accounts, ... } for information.
.. Sanitary Commissioner, ...
.. Principal Inspector General Medical Department,

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

Date of 27 Nov.

General M. M. McKim

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