M.R.O. 1—82400—23-11-50

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political (Trade) DEPARTMENT.

Commercial

G.O. No. 1384	Press Mis.
13-14	
Dated 26 " 27	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 1st December 1857.

No. 13. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 31st October 1857, No. 3800.

Read the following letter from Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government, of Fort Saint George, dated 11th September 1857, No. 4373.

SIR,

In continuation of my No. 3136 of the 14th July last, I am now desired to dispose of the question of the conversion of the Infantry Barracks at Bangalore into an Arsenal in lieu of the present one reported to be situated in a dangerous locality, submitted, together with an Estimate of the cost of the same, amounting to Company's Rupees fifty-six thousand, one hundred and forty, with Secretary Colonel Browne's letter No. 1976 of the 16th June last, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India.

Company's Rupees 56,140.

2. It was gathered from the 3rd para. of Colonel Browne's letter that the whole scheme could not be carried out until after the completion of the new Dragoon Barracks, and that no part of it could be effected immediately, and it was accordingly desired in my previous letter No. 3136, that an effort should be at once made to place the existing Arsenal in as complete security from the sudden attack of an unorganized mob, as the nature of the case would permit and certain general suggestions with reference thereto, were made.

3. The further information since obtained, has satisfied the Supreme Government that the old native Fort in which the Arsenal is at present placed, is altogether unsuited to be retained permanently as a place of defence, being in a very dilapidated state and commanded by heights in the vicinity. It is distant also from the Cantonments, and the approach to it lies through a large pettah which reaches up to its very gates—whatever immediate arrangements, therefore, be made for its present security, Magazine Buildings must, it is admitted, be provided in some other locality, and that as soon as practicable.

4. It has been proposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, that the old European Infantry Barracks shall be converted into an Arsenal with a Magazine, and it is considered by His Excellency that there will be abundant space in these buildings for the Commissariat Stores also.

5. These Barracks have the advantages of being situated in the proximity of the rest of the Cantonments and of accessibility to the Troops. They certainly appear far better suited for Magazine Store Rooms than for the purpose for which they were originally designed, viz., for occupation by European Soldiers—indeed it is difficult to conceive how such a design for Barracks could ever have been adopted.

6. The principal objections to their adaptation for Magazine purposes are (1st) the unnecessarily large vacant area enclosed by them; and (2nd) the (consequently) extensive periphery, which is not well calculated to be enclosed by any defensive work—capable at least of being held by a small garrison—an object which, it may be observed, the Supreme Government is desirous shall be kept in view in all future constructions of this kind.

7. Whether the site, in reference to its command, is an eligible one for a small Fort or strong place of refuge, there is no information before this Government.

8. The Estimate is devoid of a specification or even general description of the work to be done, though a tolerable idea may be formed of this from the distinguishing colors on the plan.

9. The Government of Madras has recommended the proposed arrangement for sanction—and the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council is disposed to grant it; a complete plan that would accord more with the views of the Government on the subject of fortified Magazines, being, it is feared, out of the question just now—on account of the much longer time that must necessarily elapse before it can be constructed.

10. At the same time, I am to state that, should it be considered quite free from risk after the measures suggested in my previous letter and such others as may have appeared desirable to

those on the spot, have been carried out, to leave the Arsenal in its present place until a plan for a fortified Arsenal to serve as a place of refuge can be prepared, sanctioned and built; the Supreme Government would consider it on the whole a preferable arrangement.

11. The Estimate and Plans are herewith returned.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief, for His Excellency's observations on para. 10.

30*th September* 1857.

From Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 21st October 1857, No. 457.

SIR,

I am directed to request you will be good enough to submit to Government the accompanying letter from General Beresford, Commanding Mysore Division, on the subject of the conversion of the Old European Infantry Barracks into an Arsenal and place of refuge and defence together with a Plan of the Cantonment shewing the proposed new arrangements in its various parts (which it is requested may be eventually returned) and a Plan of the intended arrangements for the conversion of the Old European Infantry Barracks as above stated, His Excellency desires me to say that he entirely approves of all General Beresford's proposals and very earnestly recommends that they may be immediately sanctioned and commenced upon.

From the Officer Commanding Mysore Division; to Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George, dated Bangalore, 7th October 1857.

SIR,

From Quarter Master General's Office, Madras No. 2519.
From Colonel Baker, No. 4373.

I lose no time in complying with the order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief communicated in your letter, bearing reference to one from Colonel Baker, both as per margin.

I am somewhat prepared to reply to this inquiry by possessing a Map, I send to you of this Cantonment, with its projected buildings and improvements marked upon it: a work completed, as I trust His Excellency will admit in a very masterly and instructive manner by Colonel Green, the able and experienced Superintending Engineer of Mysore. I never propose any work here without previous conference with him, feeling sure of meeting the greatest ability, combined with the utmost desire to assist, you will observe that his map contemplates the conversion of the old Infantry Barracks into an Arsenal, and it has enabled me to meet the requirement of the Supreme Government, that such buildings should be fortified and secured.

I would here take leave to bring to His Excellency's recollection, the isolated and peculiar position of the area occupied by the present old Infantry Barracks. It is surrounded by four broad public roads, and retired within their margins, sufficiently to allow of a high wall outside the entire ranges and 15 feet from them. It is evident therefore that small fortified towers, at each of the four angles, projecting somewhat outside these containing walls, would give a flanking and cross fire down every face—across the road at the lower or north face runs the Cantonment Bazar, composed of mud houses, which would be scattered into dust by a few discharges of 6 pounders. The wall of the present Lancer (the future Infantry) Barracks runs parallel to the entire eastern side of this area and the round* towers at its angles, give further protection along this face. A subterraneous tunnel under the road would give safe and speedy communication for all purposes. The south front open to the parade, will have its outer wall and flanking towers also at each angle. And the west side will have besides its own regular forts and wall, the protection of the defences of the future Office block. I mean the building sanctioned by the Madras Government for the Public Offices, Main Guard, Picquet &c. Colonel Green and I, have concurred in proposing that one Expense Magazine for 1,000 Barrels of powder of 90 lbs. each, shall be built in the upper of the three squares within this area. We find that it will be as cheap to build three small

* Which can be easily strengthened.

Magazines, as one large, and we propose to do so! There appear to us obvious reasons why this separate allocation of ammunition is desirable. Firstly, if any accident occurs to one Magazine the rest remain for use, while the destruction of the only one would be fatal. Then the inconvenience of position, in case of serious attack: although this site of the new Arsenal is in the centre of the station, it is full a mile and a half from the Artillery Lines and further from the future Dragoon Barracks; and we are both of strong opinion, that the safest place for each of two other Magazines will be, one in the European Infantry Barracks and the other in the future Cavalry Barracks. In England all Magazines are within the Barrack premises. The very nature of the building protect it from danger of fire; it can be well isolated, and most fully protected. The expense Magazine for ordinary times may be that in the Arsenal, and the other or Reserve Magazines need be opened but very rarely, and always under care of sentries. The very position of these Magazines secures their protection, British Soldiers will live around them, and strong hands and brave hearts are better than all other defences. Indeed the defences of the Barracks will protect them also.

I am encouraged by His Excellency to discuss the subject of a place of refuge within the Arsenal. I would beg to observe that the station of Bangalore will be nearly 3 miles from East to West *i. e.* from the future Barracks upon the Race course which Colonel Green has so neatly delineated upon the plan I send to the point beyond General Cubbon's, where the Toomcoor road begins: and about the same breadth from North to South. I hold a very strong opinion in which Colonel Green coincides, that one place of refuge would be insufficient, and if I may venture so to say a very undesirable and unsafe arrangement. Every Barrack is to be protected, and any Barrack held by British Soldiers, will be the natural place of refuge to those who live nearest to it. Those who live close to the distant Barrack, would never pass it, to go by a most dangerous route of perhaps two miles, to this place of refuge in the Arsenal; and why should they? Every Barrack should have its proper defences and according to our plan will have full Reserve Ammunition; and the brave British Soldiers within, will protect those who depend upon them and seek refuge with them.

I respectfully offer these observations and proposals for the Commander-in-Chief's consideration; these Magazines may at once be begun upon, meanwhile we must continue our vigilence upon the Store &c. in the Fort:—we have quartered half of our European Infantry there.

Some Barricades within and Palisades upon "mud walls"! have the imposing effect of repairing the many breaches in the outer walls. I keep a large amount of ammunition in the Lancer Barracks, in the solitary cells not used.

I have intended by the previous statement to show I hold to the opinion, that the area occupied by the present old Infantry Barracks is the best site for a future Arsenal* that its large area in no way prevent its full defence by the means I have explained: and that the European Barracks sanctioned by the Supreme Government, afford safer and more convenient places of temporary refuge and for Reserve Magazines.

* Affording also a very desirable space for Commissariat premises.

With reference to Colonel Baker's observations as to the requirement of specification, such are in course of preparation in communication with (1) Major Miller and Captain Hay (2) Campbell.

(1) Commissariat Officer.
(2) Commissary of Ordnance.

I have already reported to His Excellency all that remains of public works for this station viz., 1st, the arrangement for public Offices at the present MainGuard—I confess I long to have the force to supply a constant Officer's Guard and Picquet* for this Cantonment and a proper place in which to quarter them. A station like Bangalore should never be without such common Military preparation. There only remains the new Cavalry Barracks: the reply received this day by His Excellency's order showing his powerful advocacy of permission to commence them is very encouraging. Every day unemployed from this date, is a loss of precious time—I feel hopeful however now that I may have the gratification to see all these works in full progress. The completion of them will render Bangalore, as well as being the healthiest the most complete station in all India. It may also become a pattern for all Military preparatory arrangement and discipline, if the Major General Commanding only pays common attention to his duty.

* Cavalry and Infantry.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 1st *December* 1857.

The Governor in Council approves of the proposed plan submitted with the foregoing letter, and considers the arrangement for the accommodation of Ordnance and Commissariat Depatrments within one range of defences preferable to any other.

2. His Lordship in Council conceives that the situation of these Barracks (to be converted as proposed and thus become a place of security and refuge) is admirably adapted for the introduction of Cavalier Tower for two or more Guns by which the neighbourhood would be thoroughly commanded and the defences considerably augmented—thus enabling a small garrison to defend the place in cases of emergency—and meeting the views of the Government of India as expressed in Colonel Baker's letter No. 4373, referring to this point in paras. 5 and 6.

3. It is however necessary that the Plans and Estimates for this work including those for the arrangement of the Public Offices should be submitted to the Supreme Government. The Governor in Council therefore desires that they may be prepared and forwarded with the least practicable delay, when this Government will strongly advocate the immediate execution of the work.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Major,
Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, No. 2181; dated 26th November 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, who will be good enough to obtain from the Superintending Engineer of Mysore, the Plans and Estimates called for in para. 3 of the above orders, and forward them to Government as early as practicable.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

(5)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

No. 3800.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 31st October 1857,

Read letter, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, 11*th September* 1857, *No.* 4373; *to the Acting Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.*

In continuation of my No. 3436 of the 14th July last, I am now desired to dispose of the question of the conversion of the Infantry Barracks at Bangalore into an Arsenal in lieu of the present one reported to be situated in a dangerous locality, submitted, together with an Estimate of the cost of the same, amounting to Company's Rupees fifty-six thousand, one hundred and forty, with Secretary Colonel Browne's letter No. 1976 of the 16th June last, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India.

Company's Rupees 56,140.

2. It was gathered from the 3rd para. of Colonel Browne's letter that the whole scheme could not be carried out until after the completion of the new Dragoon Barracks, and that no part of it could be effected immediately, and it was accordingly desired in my previous letter No. 3436, that an effort should be at once made to place the existing Arsenal in as complete security from the sudden attack of an unorganised mob, as the nature of the case would permit and certain general suggestions with reference thereto, were made.

3. The further information since obtained, has satisfied the Supreme Government that the old native Fort in which the Arsenal is at present placed, is altogether unsuited to be retained permanently as a place of defence, being in a very dilapidated state and commanded by heights in the vicinity. It is distant also from the Cantonments, and the approach to it lies through a large pettah which reaches up to its very gates—whatever immediate arrangements, therefore, be made for its present security, Magazine Buildings must, it is admitted, be provided in some other locality, and that as soon as practicable.

4. It has been proposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, that the old European Infantry Barracks shall be converted into an Arsenal with a Magazine, and it is considered by His Excellency that there will be abundant space in these buildings for the Commissariat Stores also.

5. These Barracks have the advantages of being situated in the proximity of the rest of the Cantonments and of accessibility to the Troops. They certainly appear far better suited for Magazine Store Rooms than for the purpose for which they were originally designed, viz., for occupation by European Soldiers—indeed it is difficult to conceive how such a design for Barracks could ever have been adopted.

6. The principal objections to their adaptation for Magazine purposes are (1st) the unnecessarily large vacant area enclosed by them; and (2nd) the (consequently) extensive periphery, which is not well calculated to be enclosed by any defensive work—capable at least of being held by a small garrison—an object which, it may be observed, the Supreme Government is desirous shall be kept in view in all future constructions of this kind.

7. Whether the site, in reference to its command, is an eligible one for a small Fort or strong place of refuge, there is no information before this Government.

8. The Estimate is devoid of a specification or even general description of the work to be done, though a tolerable idea may be formed of this from the distinguishing colors on the plan.

9. The Government of Madras has recommended the proposed arrangement for sanction—and the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council is disposed to grant it; a complete plan that would accord more with the views of the Government on the subject of fortified Magazines, being, it is feared, out of the question just now—on account of the much longer time that must necessarily elapse before it can be constructed.

10. At the same time, I am to state that, should it be considered quite free from risk after the measures suggested in my previous letter and such others as may have appeared desirable to those on the spot, have been carried out, to leave the Arsenal in its present place until a plan for a fortified Arsenal to serve as a place of refuge can be prepared, sanctioned and built; the Supreme Government would consider it on the whole a preferable arrangement.

11. The Estimate and plans are herewith returned.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief, for His Excellency's observations on para. 10.

30th September 1857.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, 21st October 1857, No. 457; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I am directed to request you will be good enough to submit to Government the accompanying letter from General Beresford Commanding Mysore Division, on the subject of the conversion of the Old European Infantry Barracks into an Arsenal and place of refuge and defence together with a Plan of the Cantonment shewing the proposed new arrangements in its various parts (which it is requested may be eventually returned) and a Plan of the intended arrangements for the conversion of the Old European Infantry Barracks as above stated, His Excellency desires me to say that he entirely approves of all General Beresford's proposals and very earnestly recommends that they may be immediately sanctioned and commenced upon.

From the Officer Commanding Mysore Division, Bangalore, 7th October 1857; *to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George.*

From Quarter Master General's Office Madras No. 2519.
From Colonel Baker No. 4373.

I lose no time in complying with the order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief communicated in your letter, bearing reference to one from Colonel Baker, both as per margin.

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* *Affording also a very desirable space for Commissariat premises.*

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(1) *Commissariat Officer.*
(2) *Commissary of Ordnance.*

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* *Cavalry and Infantry.*

The Governor in Council approves of the proposed plan submitted with the foregoing letter—and considers the arrangement for the accommodation of Ordnance and Commissariat Departments within one range of defences preferable to any other.

2. His Lordship in Council conceives that the situation of these Barracks (to be converted as proposed and thus become a place of security and refuge) is admirably adapted for the introduction of a Cavalier Tower for two or more Guns by which the neighbourhood would be thoroughly commanded and the defences considerably augmented—thus enabling a small garrison to defend the place in cases of emergency—and meeting the views of the Government of India as expressed in Colonel Baker's letter No. 4373 referring to this point in paras. 5 and 6.

3. It is however necessary that the plans and Estimates for this work including those for the arrangement of the Public Offices should be submitted to the Supreme Government. The Governor in Council therefore desires that they may be prepared and forwarded with the least practicable delay, when this Government will strongly advocate the immediate execution of the work.

(True Extract and Copies.)

Acting Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General, with a plan.
„ Department Public Works. With 2 Spare Copies
„ Chief Engineer Mysore.

Exd. R. Spears.

Mily. Cons: 16th June 57 No. 1636 to 1665.
" 28th July 57 " 448 @ 150.

Public Dept. 15th Oct. 1857
Rd. to Cons: 21st Do. Do.

No. 2205

Extract Mins: of Cons:
in the Military Dept.

Dated 31st Oct.
Recd 7th Nov. 1857.

No. 3800.

Approving of the proposed plan for the conversion of the Infantry Barracks at Bangalore into an Arsenal, and considering the arrangement for the accommodation of Ordnance and Commissariat Departments within one range of defences, preferable to any other, and desiring that the Plans &c. 2181-26th Sept. and letter and order

No. 13 & 14.

18th Nov.

No. 2181.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, who will be good enough to obtain from the Superintending Engineer of Mysore the Plans and Estimates called for in para 3 of the above orders, and forward them to Government as early as practicable.

Fort St. Geo.
26th Nov. 1857.

and Estimates may be prepared for submission to the Supreme Government.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dis. No. 24