1. Number of pages 22
2. Date of receipt. 3.7.37
3. Initials of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—32,000—22-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

Cons. 12.5.37

G.O. No.	859	Press Mis.
37-38		
Dated	8.5.	1837.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3/7/37

No. 37. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 21st April 1857.

Read the following letter from Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government Military Department, dated 20th April 1857, No. 137.

SIR,

I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to request, you will be so good as to lay before Government the accompanying copy of a letter* from Major General Beresford, Commanding Mysore Division, with His Excellency's earnest recommendation that the subject contained therein may receive early favourable consideration.

* Dated 13th Instant.

Sir Patrick Grant observes that the Major General's clear and convincing arguments, and His Excellency's own experience abundantly satisfy him, that even as a measure of economy, the State would be a gainer by providing covered stalls for the public horses, and the Commander-in-Chief would strongly urge the advisability of at least giving the experiment a fair trial by sanctioning stables for the Horse Artillery and the Regiment of Dragoons at Bangalore, reducing the allowance of gram as proposed, as soon as the horses are placed under shelter.

His Excellency feels that the condition and consequent powers of endurance of the horses will be materially improved, that they will last much longer and be far more equal to hard work, than under the present system, and which is of still greater consequence in every point of view, it cannot be doubted, that, convincingly shewn by General Beresford, the *health of the European soldier will be essentially promoted.* The Commander-in-Chief further remarks that in his recent report on Burmah, he has drawn attention to the superior condition of the public cattle employed in that country. The forage there, His Excellency admits, is excellent, but neither better nor more abundant than at Bangalore, nor is the climate better. It may therefore be fairly assumed, that the high condition of the horses in Burmah arises, at all events in a great measure, from their being in stables.

Letter from Major General M. BERESFORD, Commanding Mysore Division; to Lieutenant General Sir P. GRANT, K. C. B., Commander in Chief, dated 13th April 1857.

SIR,

There is a subject having reference to the interest of the Cavalry Force under my command, upon which I entertain very strong feeling, and which I request permission to submit to the Commander-in-Chief, in the earnest desire that I may be so fortunate as to obtain His Excellency's advocacy of my views.

My object is to endeavor to induce the Government to sanction the construction of covered Stables for the European Cavalry barracks about to be built at Bangalore. I am not without hope, that I can shew, by the following arguments, that this would be a measure of economy.

The climate of Bangalore is deservedly preferred to that of most others in the Madras Presidency, still it has acknowledged disadvantages to man and horse, and which result from exposure to the prevailing weather. At Bangalore we experience part of both monsoons, although the gross amount of rain, being only about 45 inches per annum, on an average of the last 5 years, is less than at many other stations, it is spread over six months of the year. It needs little argument to prove that frequent† wetting and subsequent speedy drying of the skin under a hot sun, must be prejudicial to horses, who have but one cumbly and that thin, hard and scanty for clothing. The misery of wet weather is, I consider, aggravated when they are picketted under trees, the dripping from them both after showers and after the foggy mornings which so frequently occur is manifestly hurtful, while the dirt of leaves and other droppings, greatly add to Line labor. Trees also encourage the various winged insect tormentors of India. The misery these inflict upon horses can only be fully estimated by those who watch the

† In August last year owing to continued wet weather, the horses, in open lines in Bangalore and Oossoor, did not lie down for 20 days.

unceasing restlessness of the poor victims at their pickets; and the loss of flesh and condition resulting therefrom; and who have the sad knowledge of the injuries caused to the legs and feet by the constant stamping upon the pounded gravel floors of the Lines. I confidently assert that this last is the cause of so many horses being cast annually from diseases in those parts. There is however a worse foe than pain. For 8 months of the year a hard and often fierce North East wind sweeps over Bangalore. This will be very severely felt on the elevated and exposed site of the new Barracks. Exposure to it brings rheumatic affections to men as well as horses. There is at the same time a hot sun over-head; and clouds of dust are whirled through the air. These combinations have a most marked effect upon horses not under cover; Kumaree the hopeless disease of the loins often occurs, the healthy action of the skin is interfered with by the pores being closed; and Catarrhs and Cutaneous diseases frequently result. Few horses standing out in Lines escape coughs, when these strong winds prevail, and many contract mange which becomes a habit and incurable, at this very moment there are several obstinate cases of this disease in the Horse Artillery lines at Bangalore, and this Corps has the advantage of the acknowledge superior veterinary skill and unremitting attention of Mr. Western. Many horses are annually cast for incurable mange, and sold for a few Rupees at auction as totally useless. It is within my knowledge that several of these have been permanently cured after being brought into private *covered* stables, in which this disease never originates.

At a recent inspection I made of a Cavalry Regiment, I found that a full fifth of the horses of the Corps had one or more broken knees. Had these accidents occurred when the animal was mounted, there would have been a record of each, as there was not, I am justified in concluding they occurred at their Pickets; and such was the opinion of their Commanding Officer, an experienced Cavalry Officer, horses under the restlessness, I have above described, paw up the gravel, which is composed of sharp pebbles. It is impossible to keep the large area now occupied of each horse, fully littered down, and these accidents naturally occur there.

I do not feel it necessary to discuss the subject of the epedemic diseases which from time to time have occurred amongst the Madras Cavalry Horses. If a large number died in stables at Arcot, similar mortality has occurred in open lines at Bangalore, and I have not seen a horse in or out of stables with the disease called Barsauttee in Mysore.

I have thus disposed of the first part of my argument, viz. that picketting horses of the Cavalry in open lines cause a large expenditure (so to speak) in horseflesh which would be saved by placing them in covered stables.

I proceed now to offer a further calculation of economy, which though not of greater magnitude, is more susceptible of arithmetical proof.

Each horse of the 703 of the European Cavalry Regiment gets a daily ration of 10lbs. 11oz. of gram, while standing in open lines. I am quite sure that no Officer allows for his charger kept in a covered stable, but performing at least equal work as the Troop horse, more than 8lbs. I know that 8lbs. keeps each of my four large Cape horses in the best condition. I am quite sure that if these 703 were in stables, the saving upon each of 2lbs. per diem might be made, this would make a reduction in one year of 689,599lbs. of gram. The equivalent of this in money at the average of 60lbs. for a Rupee, would amount to Rupees 11,493-5-1. By the rough calculation of a competent Engineer, the cost of building covered stables for the new Cavalry Barracks at Bangalore, in place of constructing open lines would not exceed Rupees 60,000.

If my financial calculation be correct, this outlay would be returned in a few years, by the saving resulting from the prolonged service of the horse, and the reduction in the cost of his food. The sheltered animal will also be better qualified for service and marching. I assume it to be generally admitted that the higher a horse's condition the better he stands hard work. It is merely a different mode of expressing "the more power you bring the easier you perform severe labor." I feel justified also in making this assertion, upon the experience I myself have had during my Indian service of eight years, passed between the three Presidencies. I have indeed just now completed a march of four months, during which there were frequent changes

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th May 1857.

of climate and temperature. I had ten horses of my own brought at once out of covered stables and picketted in the open. Each horse did an honest day's work by care and some extra gram not one has suffered. I attribute this to the high quality of their previous condition and health and I assume the same result, under like treatment, may fairly be anticipated for Cavalry horses, when required for marching or service. I have thus concluded my arguments upon the question, as to the advantage to the public in roofed stabling for the quadruped.

There remains even a more important consideration, that which concerns his European rider. The more you can occupy the European Soldier without exposure the healthier and I believe, the happier you make him, the less dependant he is upon the assistance of Natives, the more useful and less costly he becomes to the Government.

You cannot safely put a European to continual labor in Mysore, unless under shelter. The sun, wind and rain are all prejudicial to him, especially when heated by work, but if you give the European Dragoon the security of covered stables, he may groom his horse at all times with advantage to his own health, and the Government he serves, while the same protection will (as I venture to hope I have shewn) prolong the service and improve the qualities of the horse. I am happy to be able to add that Major Campbell the Superintendent of the Remount Establishment at Oossoor whose superior knowledge and management of horses is universally admitted, fully concurs in these views, and is most anxious for their adoption.

The intended construction of the new Barracks at Bangalore affords the most favorable and least expensive opportunity of securing these advantages. I avail myself of it, to bring under His Excellency's consideration the views I have submitted and I conclude in the happy certainty that however His Excellency may decide as to affording, or not, his support to my proposal, he will with his usual generosity towards all who serve under him, give me credit for being actuated by the desire according to my humble abilities to promote the good of the service.

Referred to the Department of Public Works with a view to the submission of estimates for providing covered stalls for the Public Horses at Bangalore, and for a report of the probable expense of providing similar accommodation for the whole of the Public Horses of this establishment.

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Lieutenant Colonel,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, No. 889; dated 8th May 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, with a request that he will obtain and submit to Government estimates for providing covered Stalls for the Public Horses at Bangalore, and also report the probable expense of providing similar accommodation for the whole of the Public Horses of this establishment.

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

M. D.
5

No

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 21st April 1857

Read the following letter

2d Mr. General's Office

No 137

From The Quarter Master General
of the Army

To The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

I am directed by the Commander in Chief to request, you will be so good as to lay before Government the accompanying copy of Letter[x] from Major General Berwford Commanding Mysore Division, with His Excellency's earnest recommendation that the subject contained therein may receive early

[x] dated 13th instant.

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Sir Patrick Grant observes that the Major Generals clear and convincing arguments, and His Excellency's own experience abundantly satisfy him, that even as a measure of economy, the state would be gainer by providing covered stalls for the Public Horses, and the Commander in Chief would strongly urge the advisability of at least giving the experiment a fair trial by sanctioning stables for the Horse Artillery and the Regiment of Dragoons at Bangalore, reducing the allowance of Grain as proposed, as soon as the horses are placed under Shelter.

His Excellency feels that the condition and consequent powers of endurance of the Horses will be materially improved, that they will last much longer and be far more equal to hard work, than under the present system, and which is of still greater consequence in every point of view, it cannot be doubted, that, convincingly shewn by General Beresford, the health of the European Soldier will be essentially promoted. The Commander in Chief further remarks that in his recent report on Burmah, he has drawn attention to the superior condition of the Public Cattle employed in that Country The forage there, His Excellency admits is excellent, but neither better nor more abundant than at Bangalore, nor is the climate better. It may therefore be fairly assumed, that the high condition of the horses in Burmah arises, at all events to a great measure, from their

their being in stables.

I have the honor to be &c.

Fort Saint George } (Signed) F. A. Reid.
20th April 1857 } Quarter Mr. Genl.

13th April 1857.

Sir, There is a subject having reference to the interest of the Cavalry Force under my command, upon which I entertained very strong feeling, and which I request permission to submit to the Commander in Chief, in the earnest desire that I may be so fortunate as to obtain His Excellency's advocacy of my views.

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being cast annually from diseases in those parts. There is however a worse foe than pain. For 8 months of the year a hard and often fierce North East wind, sweeps over Bangalore. This will be very severely felt on the elevated and exposed site of the new Barracks. Exposure to it brings Rheumatic affections to men as well as horses. There is at the same time a hot sun over head, and clouds of dust are whirled through the air. These combinations have a most marked effect upon horses not under cover, & unmarked the hopeless dis- case of the Lungs of few occurs, the healthy action of the skin is interfered with by the pores being closed; and catarrhs and cutaneous diseases frequently result. Few horses standing out in Lines escape coughs, when these strong winds prevail, and many

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" L.J. "

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Excellency's consideration the views I have submitted and I conclude in the happy certainty that however His Excellency may decide as to affording, or not, his support to my proposal, he will with his usual generosity towards all who serve under him, give me credit for being actuated by the desire according to my humble abilities to promote the good of the service.

I have &c.

(Signed) M. Beresford Major Genl.
Comg. the Mysore Division

(True Copy)
(Signed) H. O'Connell Captain
A. Dy. Apl. Genl. 2nd Div. General
of the Army.

Referred to the Department of Public Works with a view to the submission of Estimates for providing covered stalls for

for the Public Horses at Bangalore, and for a report of the probable expense of providing similar accomodation for the whole of the Public Horses of this Establishment.

(Signed) H. Marshall Lt. Col.
Dy. Secretary to Govt.

To
The Department of
Public Works.

2nd
Lm Smith

Public Works Dept
Dated 12th May 1858
Rec'd 13th ditto

No. 852

Copy of a Letter from the Chief Engineer of Mysore to the Military Department.

Dated 21st April 1858
Received 2nd May ditto

From Chief Engr Mysore & Coorg
Cantt 19th April 1858
To Secy to Govt Public Works Dept
Fort St George

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 1184 dated 12th March 1858 requesting a detailed report upon the subject of providing covered stalls for the Public Horses at Bangalore, and also a report upon the probable expense of providing similar accommodation for the whole of the Public Horses of this Establishment.

No. 889

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, with a request that he will obtain and submit to Government Estimates for providing covered stalls for the Public Horses at Bangalore, and also a report the probable expense of providing similar accommodation for the whole of the Public Horses of this Establishment.

Fort St George
8th May 1858

A Copy to the Chief Engr Coorg

Public Works Dept 852 to Com 13th May

Letter from Chief Engr Mysore & Coorg dated 19th April 1858 with Enclosure

Letter from Mr Secy to Govt Public Works Dept dated 12th March 1858

Referring a Letter from the Deputy Mr Genl of the Army, & the enclosure from the Officer Commanding Bangalore Division, on the subject of providing covered Stalls for the Public Horses at Bangalore, for a report of the probable expense of providing similar accommodation for the whole of the Public Horses of this Establishment.

From Military Dept 8th May 1858

Copy to Chief Engr Coorg

Written Orders 8th May

Read 3rd June 1858.