1. Number of pages. 8
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 19-5-57

G.O. No. 946	Press Mis.
52-53	
Dated 11-5-	18-57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

5/7/37

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 19th May 1857.

No. 52. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, in the Military Department, dated 20th April 1857, No. 1272.

Read the following letters.

From Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 12th April 1856, No. 2121.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government reports on the subject of ablution from the Officers Commanding the following Divisions of the Army.

Ablution.
11 Original letters with
12 Enclosures.
1 Special Report.

Saugor Division.
Nagpore Force.
Hyderabad Subsidiary Force.
Northern Division.
Ceded Districts.
Malabar and Canara.
Centre Division.
Mysore Division.
Southern Division.

Dated 5th February 1856, No 83.
„ 12th January „ „ 3.
„ 8th Do. „ „ 9.
„ 26th December 1855 „ 298.
„ 4th January 1856, „ 5.
„ 5th Do „ „ 9.
„ 12th Do. „ „ 8.
„ 7th and 27th March and 2nd April 1856, Nos. 10, 56 & 58
„ 1st January 1856, No. 2050.

Para. 2. These reports have been furnished on the Military Board Circular Order No. XXX, under date the 22nd October 1854, and to save reference the heads under which the information was called for may be conveniently thus enumerated, viz :—

1st. Extent, nature and cost of existing establishments and apparatus for supplying water for wash-houses and plunge baths.

2nd. Average number of men to be supplied with water, shewing separately the number of wash-houses and plunge baths.

3rd. The distance of the sources of water supply.

4th. The cost of raising water, and the most efficient means for attaining this object with reference to the quantity obtainable from wells and other sources of supply.

And 5thly. The quantity required to be furnished for the men and to be daily supplied for the wash-houses and plunge baths.

3. The Brigadier Commanding the Saugor Division forwards two letters; that from the Officer Commanding the Artillery at Saugor reports that the system always adopted at Saugor has been found to fully answer; and contains answers to each of the questions entered in the Military Board's Circular. The cost of ablution at Saugor is about 3 Annas per head per mensem.

4. The other letter is from the Officer Commanding the Detachment of Artillery at Mhow; it contains about the same amount of information and is equally satisfactory, shewing that the cost of ablution is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ Annas per head per mensem.

Dated 1st January 1856, No. 5.

5. The Officer Commanding the Nagpore Subsidiary Force reports that the present system is satisfactory, but he advocates the use of Commissariat Cattle for the carriage of water for the baths and wash-houses of the Horse and Foot Artillery, no details, however, are entered into.

6. The information furnished in the letters from Secunderabad is more detailed and it appears that for the Artillery :—

1st. That the average cost is about 3 Annas per head per mensem for out baths and wash-houses.

2ndly. That the quantity of fresh water supplied daily to the plunge bath is at the rate of about 11 Cubic feet per man, which is certainly ample.

3rdly. That the actual cost of the water is about 24 cubic yards for the Rupee, and,

4thly. That by far the greater part of the benefit is enjoyed by the comparatively few who use the plunge bath.

7th. The Officer Commanding the Northern Division supplies nothing more than a letter from the Officer Commanding the European Veterans at Waltair, stating that there are no wash-houses, nor plunge baths in use with the European Veterans.

8th. The Officer Commanding the Ceded Districts simply states that the water supplied to the Artillery for the purpose of ablution is at the cheapest feasible rate and the present system of its issue is satisfactory.

9. The Officer Commanding Malabar and Canara forwards reports which shew that ablution is ample; but the reports do not enter much into detail, although they are satisfactory.

10. From the Centre Division the accounts are detailed and satisfactory.

From the report of the Officer Commanding the European Infantry Depôt at Saint Thomas' Mount it appears that the daily supply of water for both wash-houses and baths is 10 Cubic feet per head.

2nd. That the cost per head per mensem is about (4-9) 4 Annas, 9 Pice, and

3rdly. That the cost of the water is about 40 Cubic Yards for the Rupee.

From the report of the Officer Commanding the 2nd Battalion of Artillery at the Mount it appears that.

1st. The daily quantity of fresh water supplied per man including both wash-houses and plunge baths is 4½ Cubic feet.

2nd. That the cost per head per mensem is 2½ Annas, and

3rdly. That the cost of the water is 36 Cubic Yards per Rupee.

From the report of the Officer Commanding Palaveram it appears that the cost is Annas 2 Pice 4 per head per mensem. There appears to be an abundant supply of water, but owing to its being returned in the undefined measure "Pots" it is not feasible to say exactly what the quantity per man per diem is.

But for the use of 130 men when 5,000 pots are daily supplied it cannot be thought that this quantity twenty pots per head implies any scarcity of water for washing.

11th. From the Mysore Division. The report of the Officer Commanding Artillery shews that the supply of water to the wash-houses is at the rate of 34 Cubic feet of water per head per diem, and.

2ndly. That the cost is at the rate of 4 Annas per head per mensem. But it is particularly pointed out that there is no plunge bath and the construction of one is strongly recommended.

12th. From the report of the Officer Commanding Her Majesty's 43rd Regiment, the cost appears to be 1 Anna per mensem per head including women and children. The results are stated to be most beneficial.

13. From the Southern Division Reports, it appears that for the Detachment of the 74th Highlanders and the B. Troop Artillery the cost is Annas 4 Pice 4 per man per mensem owing to the quantity supplied daily being only about 1 Cubic foot per man: but even this defective quantity it would seem is not fully used as from an explanation in the Column of remarks, it appears that a considerable portion of the water is used for flushing drains. It is abundantly clear that all the supply of water should be provided for these Detachments, yet strange to say the present system is reported to be the most efficient that could be adopted. The A. Company 2nd Battalion of Artillery is well supplied, the quantity of fresh water provided is at the rate of 27 Cubic feet per head per diem. The rate is Annas 3 Pice 4 per head per mensem and actual cost of the water is 1 Rupee for 140 Cubic Yards. Respecting Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders at Jackatalla and the Detachment of Artillery at Palamcottah the information is not detailed, but there is reason to believe that they are sufficiently well supplied with water for the purpose of ablution.

14. Having thus reviewed the several reports that have reached this Office, as having inherited the functions of the Military Board in respect to the practical measures to be taken for ensuring a copious supply of ablution water for the British Soldiery, I cannot but apprehend that the Government will consider the Statements now submitted unsatisfactory. The uniformity that might have been expected has not been obtained, and equally favorable opinions have been recorded as to the sufficiency and excellence of the system, when the supply really is fully adequate, and when it is plainly defective. Upon the whole perhaps it may be concluded that the subject is a distasteful one, and that to avoid further trouble in a matter which the zealous exertions of the Military Board had made the subject of much correspondence, Officers Commanding have somewhat too hastily pronounced a favorable verdict when the circumstances of the case might have dictated a very different opinion. I had intended to have tabulated the results of these returns, to which I had looked with considerable interest; not only however have they been collected with much difficulty and in some instances after repeated applications, but the results given are so full of discrepancies in every thing but the cost per head per mensem (in which the correspondence of one station with another is often very striking) and especially in the actual value of the water, and the average individual expenditure, that as a useful contribution to Military sanatory statistics, I do not see the value of such a table as might have have been constructed from the ablution returns now submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

15. In conclusion I have only to solicit your attention to Para. 7, regarding the European Veterans at Waltair, and to Para. 11 which points out the absence of a Plunge bath for the use of the Artillery at Bangalore.

Referred for the observations of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief in communication with the Medical Department and to the Commissary General for report as to the expense compared with the former system.

By Order,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st April 1856.

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

From Lieutenant Colonel A. McCALLY, Commissary General; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 31st March 1857, No. 61.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order of Government, referring for my report a communication from the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works, with Abstracts of Reports from Officers Commanding European Corps, shewing the cost of supplying water to European Troops for ablution purposes under Regimental arrangement as exists at present.

Dated 21st April 1856.

2. Having circulated the above communication to the Officers of this Department at outstations, I beg to forward a Statement shewing the expenses incurred in the supply according to the old system under Commissariat arrangement, as well as under Regimental authorities as taken from the reports above alluded to. Some of them appear to be in favor of the Commissariat arrangement, while others are in favor of the new system under Regimental Authorities.

3. As Officers Commanding European Corps appear to be satisfied with the working of the new system under their own arrangement, and as it seems to meet the wants of the men under their command, it may be allowed to continue; but I would take the liberty to suggest that if wells are sunk within a convenient distance of the baths, the cost of filling them with water will be considerably reduced.

Referred for the observations of the Commander-in-Chief.

(By Order.)

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
4th April 1857.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 19th May 1857.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. G. WOODS, Adjutant General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 13th April 1857, No. 376.

SIR,

Relative to the cost and supply of water to European Troops.

With advertence to letter from the Commissary General dated 31st Ultimo, No. 61 referred to the Commander-in-Chief on the 4th Instant, I have the honor by order to state for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that as the Regimental system now in operation for the supply of water to European Troops for ablution purposes &c., is stated to work well and is satisfactory to Commanding Officers, His Excellency considers it would be unadvisable to disturb it.

From Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 15th April 1857, No. 134.

SIR,

Dated 31st March 1857 No. 61.

I have had the honor of submitting to the Commander-in-Chief, copy of Commissary General's letter, and statement of cost of supplying water to Europer Troops for purposes of ablution, under the old and new systems, referred for His Excellency's observation, under the orders of Government dated 4th Instant.

Sir Patrick Grant desires me to say that, as the majority of Commanding Officers are in favor of the existing Regimental system, he considers that it ought to be continued.

The system of supplying European Troops with water for ablutionary purposes under regimental arrangement, having been generally found to work well, the Governor in Council concurs in opinion with the Commander-in-Chief that it would be unadvisable to disturb it.

2. Paras. 7 and 11 of the Chief Engineer's letter, and Para. 3 of the Commissary General's letter above recorded will be referred for consideration in the Department Public Works.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, No. 946; dated 16th May 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer who will call for estimates for the construction of the wash-houses and plunge baths, the want of which is reported in paras. 7 and 11 of that officer's letter of 12th April 1856, and submit them as early as possible for the orders of Government.

2. Colonel Faber's attention is also called to para. 3 of the Commissary General's letter of the 31st March 1857 No. 61, and he is requested to ascertain, by local investigation, what would be the cost of sinking wells in the immediate vicinity of those baths which are now supplied from a distance, and the saving that would be thereby effected in the monthly cost of supplying water.

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

Public Works Dept.

No. 946

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 16th May 1857.
Read the following Extract from the
Minutes of Consultation in the Military
Department.—

Received enter 20th April 1857
No 1272

Ordered to be
communicated to the
Chief Engineer who
will call for Estimates
for the construction of
the wash houses and
plunge baths, the
want

want of which is re-
-ported in paragraph
11 of that Officer's letter
of 12th April 1856, and
submit them as early
as possible for the
orders of Government.

2. Col. Faber's attention is also called to paragraph 3 of the Commissary General's letter of the 31st March last, 1861, and he is requested to ascertain, by local investigation, which would be the cost of sinking wells in the immediate vicinity of those baths which are now supplied from a distance, and the

the saving that would be thereby effected in the monthly cost of the supplying water.

J. Copies to the Chief Engr Divn 18.

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dt. to Govt. 19th May.

No 946.

Extract Minute of Coun.
Dt 16th May 57.

From Chief Engineer Dt.
30 March 57 & No. 763 &c

Requesting the Chief
Engineer to call for Estimates
for the construction of the
wash houses and plunge
baths and to submit them
for the orders of Government.

No 52 & 53.

C 5 Nov 18 11