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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Irrigation works DEPARTMENT.

Cont. 4.8.57

G.O. No. 1977 Press Mis.

Dated 30—7—1957

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 4th August 1857.*

No. 29. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, in the Military Department, dated 3rd July 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 29th June 1857, No. 233.

SIR,

I have the honor, by order of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief to solicit the attention of Government to the following observations, on the subject of conservancy, in order that, that measure, may be carried to completion, or else that the execution of it should be postponed partially or entirely.

2. After many months of tedious and laborious correspondence, with Conservancy Committees at up country stations, I was enabled to submit to Government the report contained in my letter, dated 13th October last, No. 167. The scheme therein expanded and the system therein proposed, were both in conformity with the measures suggested in my letter to Government, dated 6th December 1855, and with the orders of Government in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 4th February 1856, on the above letter.

3. But the orders passed by Government in the P. W. D., dated 22nd January 1857, No. 158, and in Extract Minutes Consultation in the Military Department, dated 27th Idem No. 302, do in so many ways differ from the orders previously passed, as to make it necessary, that a correspondence on many of the topics connected with conservancy should be re-opened with Committees; these making it more difficult than ever, by undoing much that has been done, or by doing it in a different manner, to arrive at a definite stage on the proceedings.

4. The difficulty thus created would not, however, have been shrunk from, had not another circumstance arisen, which made it expedient to pause before a second effort was made to carry out the orders of Government.

5. The circumstance which induced this delay, was the scheme entertained by the Commander-in-Chief and since sanctioned by Government, for the Concentration of the Army by the abolition of detached posts. The execution of these intentions would have, in many cases materially altered, the Plans and estimates and establishments required by some Cantonments, whose limits would have to be enlarged or altered, according to the altered circumstances of the distribution of the Army.

6. In some cases, it is true that no alteration in the Plans and estimates, would have been needed because no alteration in the boundary of such Cantonments was proposed or ordered, but as the whole of the estimates for every Cantonment would have to be included in the forthcoming Budget, it was deemed needless to proceed with only part.

7. If the Government should decide in postponing the Conservancy scheme, the provincial Commander-in-Chief would suggest that the work of repairs to roads &c. in Cantonments, should be carried on as heretofore, by the P. W. D., in communication with the Staff Officer at each station, and that an establishment of Scavengers or water Carts as may be preferred should be allowed for every Cantonment, Garrisoned by Troops of this Presidency.

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Referred to the Department Public Works.

By Order.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
*Secretary to Government.*

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No. 30. ORDER THEREON, No. 1478; dated 30th July 1857.

The object of the Quarter Master General's letter, referred to this department with the foregoing Extract, is to obtain a re-consideration of the orders of Government, dated 22nd January

last, No. 157, prescribing the mode in which Public Works are to be carried out in Military Cantonments, viz. at the suggestion of Conservancy Committees, but under the Executive control of the District Engineers. Colonel Reid submits two points; one, that those instructions are at variance with the earlier orders of the 4th February 1856, passed in the Military Department, thereby causing difficulty and change of practice; the other, that the recently approved plan of concentrating troops will vary the circumstances of many Cantonments, causing perhaps change of plans, limits, &c. It is suggested, that in the event of the Government deciding on the postponement of the Conservancy scheme, the work in Cantonments be carried on as heretofore by the Public Works Department, in communication with the Station Staff Officer.

2. It is hardly necessary to remark that the later orders of the 22nd January last are the result of further consideration; and that the principle on which they are founded must be carried out, to accord with that uniform system on which Public Works are conducted in this Presidency, as well as in order to secure professional supervision. It is not necessary, however, to pass any fresh orders at present, for in para. 9 of Extract Minutes Consultation, 2nd May last, No. 851, the Government called for the opinion of all Officers Commanding Military Cantonments, on an arrangement which had occurred to them, of detaching an intelligent Overseer as the Executive Agent in each Cantonment, in preference to the Station Staff Officer, who cannot be expected in every case to possess that professional knowledge and experience, requisite for the execution of Public Works. Until the replies of Cantonment Commanding Officers are placed before Government, they defer passing orders on the present reference from the Quarter Master General.

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



To the Military Department

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under Date the 3rd July 1857.

Read the following letter
Dr. Mr. General's Office
No. 233
Stamp Rs. 8. (Eight)

The Quarter Master General
of the Army

To Colonel C. A. Browne
Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

I have the honor, by order of the Provincial Commander in Chief, to solicit the attention of Government to the following observations, on the subject of Conservancy, in order that, that measure, may

may be carried to completion, or else that the execution of it should be post-poned partially or entirely.

2 After many months of tedious and laborious correspondence with Conservancy Committees abroad Country Stations, I was enabled to submit to Government the report contained in my letter, dated 13th October last of 1857. The scheme thereon expressed and the system thereon proposed were both in conformity with the measures suggested in my letter to Government dated 6th December 1856 and with the orders of Government in Consultation dated 1st February 1856 on the above letter.

3 But the orders passed by Government in the P.W.D. dated 22nd January 1857 No 158 and in Consult-

Minute

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Municipal Consultation in the Military Department dated 27th Idem No 302, do in no many ways differ from the orders previously passed, as to make it necessary, that a correspondence on many of the topics connected with Conservancy should be resumed with Committees, thus protracting it more difficult than ever, by undoing much that has been done, or by doing it in a different manner, to arrive at a definite stage on the proceedings.

4 The difficulty thus created would not, however, have been a thing of much grave, had not another circumstance arisen, which made it expedient to pause before a second effort was made to carry out the orders of Government.

5 The circumstance alluded to

induced

induced this delay, was the scheme sanctioned by the Commander in Chief and since sanctioned by Government for the concentration of the Army by the abolition of detached posts. The execution of these intentions would have, in many cases materially altered, the Plans and Estimates and Establishments required by some Cantonments, whose limits would appear to be enlarged or altered, according to the altered circumstances of the distribution of the Army.

6 In some cases, it is true that no alteration in the Plans and Estimates, would have been required because no alteration in the boundary of such Cantonments were proposed or ordered, but as the whole of the Estimates for every Cantonment

Cantonment would have to be included in the forthcoming Budget, it was deemed useless to proceed with only part.

7 If the Government should decide in postponing the Conservancy scheme, the Provincial Commander in Chief would suggest that the works of Repairs to Roads &c in Cantonments, should be carried on as heretofore, by the P. W. D. in communication with the Staff Officer at each Station, and that an Establishment of Scavengers or Water Carts as may be preferred should be allowed for every Cantonment, garrisoned by Troops of this Presidency.

Fort William
29th June 1857

(Signed) F. A. Reid
Dr. Mr. General

Referred.

Referred to the Dep't
of Public Works.

By Order

Signed C. A. Briennes Lieut
Secretary to Board

To

The Department Public Works.

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Lieut Pruette

W.D.P.H.D.

No 1478.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 30th July, 1857.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department.

Wednesday 3rd July 1857.

The object of the Quarter Master Genls letter, referred to this dept with the foregoing Extract, is to obtain a reconsideration of the orders of Govt dated 22nd June last, No 1571, prescribing the mode in which public works are to be carried out in Military cantonments, viz at the suggestion of Conservancy Committees, but under the executive control of the District Engrs. Col Reid submits two points; one, that those instructions are at variance with the earlier orders of the 4th Feb/56, passed in the Military dept, thereby causing difficulty and change of practice; the other, that the recently approved plan of concentrating troops will vary

Copy Mil Dept 1857 Dft No 1383

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department

Dated 30th July 1857

No 1478 dated 30th July

Referring a letter from the Quarter Master General of the Army detailing the attack of Cholera at Cawnpore and Allahabad on the 24th July 1857

Copy 2nd Secy to Govt with Dft No 1383 dated 4th August 1857

the circumstances of many Cantonments, causing perhaps change of plans, limits &c. It is suggested, however, that in the event of the Govt deciding on the postponement of the Conservancy scheme, the work in Cantonments be carried on, as heretofore by the Public Works Dept, in communication with the Station Staff officer.

It is hardly necessary to remark that the later orders of the 22nd Jan.y last are the result of further considerations; and the principle on which they are founded must be carried out, to accord with that uniform system on which public works are conducted in this Presidency, as well as in order as well to secure professional supervision. It is not necessary, however, to pass any fresh orders at present, for in the Mins: Cons: 2nd May last, No 857, the Govt called for the opinions of all officers commanding military Cantonments, with an assurance that



had subsequently occurred to them, of detaching an intelligent overseer as the executive agent in each Cantonment, in preference to the station staff officer, who cannot be expected in every case to possess that professional knowledge & experience, requisite for the execution of public works duties. Until the replies of Cantonment commanding officers are placed before Govt, they defer passing fresh orders on the present reference from the Inspector General.

J. G.

3 Copies to the Chief Engr. Bijapur

[illegible] 185 [illegible]

[illegible]

No 14 [illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

Bearing date 15th Sept 57

Bearing date 15th Sept 57

Bearing date 15th Sept 57