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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

11.8.57

G.O. No. 1513 Press ~~Mis.~~

1-2

Dated 5 — 8 — 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 11th August 1857.

No. 1. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 17th July 1857, No. 2359.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Works Department.

Referring a letter from the Chief Engineer concurring in the views of the Garrison Engineer with reference to the sanitory improvements at the Perambore Lines. } (Here enter 8th July 1857, No. 1310.)

The Governor in Council approves of the recommendation for cleansing and deepening the four tanks in the vicinity of the Sepoys' Lines at Perambore.

2. The employment of two Scavengers' Carts and four Scavengers has already been sanctioned for the Lines—Minutes of Consultation No. 1496 5th May 1857.

3. The state of the suburbs at Perambore will be brought under the notice of the Commissioner of Police with a view to measures being taken for the preservation of cleanliness.

4. Compensation is sanctioned for the ground to be relinquished, the Collector of Madras will adjust the amount with reference to the concluding para. of his letter 23rd May 1857.

5. The proposed alterations to the Sepoys' Huts are not needed.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 1515; dated 5th August 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with a request that he will direct the Garrison Engineer to prepare and submit an estimate for the work referred to in para. 1 of the foregoing Extract.

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

No. 2359.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 17th July 1857,

Read the following letters.—From Captain T. Thompson, Town Major, Fort St. George, 28th March 1857, *No.* 1027; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.*

Sir,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1318 of the 1st November 1856, (Public Department) I have the honor to forward to you for submission to Government, a further communication from the Officer Commanding 12th Regiment N. I., regarding the nuisance which still exists in the Lines of that Corps at Perambore.

From Major C. J. Elphinstone, Commanding 12th N. I., Madras 22nd March 1857, *No.* 34; *to the Town Major, Fort Saint George.*

Sir,

It is with much regret I have again to report the admission into Hospital of another Cholera patient this forenoon. Private Musician Lewis was admitted at 1 P. M., and expired at ½ past 6, his son, a little boy, was one of the first who fell a victim to this disease. It appears to be very virulent for of the nine cases reported to me, two only have escaped.

II. If I might be allowed, I would beg to suggest the Regiment being taken off duty at once. As we are to embark on Thursday and our pay is to be disbursed to day, the indulgence would be much appreciated, and the departure of the families greatly facilitated. To get these out of the Lines is our object of importance, for they are very numerous.

III. The men naturally feel alarm at seeing friends and relatives thus suddenly carried off; the more so, as they are aware of the unhealthy locality of the Lines. How it can be otherwise would be a marvel, when one looks around and sees the pools of stagnant water, the filthy cess-pools, the neglected state of the drains, and the whole plain full of pits and holes into which rubbish is thrown, and to which the Villagers in the neighbourhood resort for the purposes of nature.

IV. Since my report on this subject to your address in August last, and notwithstanding the stringent instructions issued by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to the Municipal Authorities and Department of Public Works, little or nothing has been done for the removal of the nuisances then complained of by the Medical Officer and myself.

V. These still exist and as the hot season advances will, unless remedial measures be adopted, of necessity assume a more aggravated form.

P. S.—Private Shiek Surwur, D. Company, was taken ill of Cholera at the Mint guard this morning. At ten o'clock he expired.

Referred to Public Department with advertence to Minutes of Consultation No. 1318, dated 1st November 1856.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
28th March 1857.

(By Order.)

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

From Captain T. Thompson, Town Major, Fort Saint George, 29th May 1857, *No.* 1747; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.*

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor, to forward to you for submission to Government, the accompanying letter from the Acting Garrison Engineer, No. 96 of the 27th ultimo, connected with certain sanitary arrangements recommended by that Officer, in communication with the Officer Commanding 17th Regiment Native Infantry, for the health of the Troops located at the Perambore Lines, as also a letter from the Acting Collector of Madras of the 23rd instant, connected with the Tanks situated in the said Lines, alluded to in the letter from the Acting Garrison Engineer.

From Captain H. W. Rawlins, Officiating Garrison Engineer, Fort St. George, 27th April 1857, *No.* 96 ; *to the Town Major, Fort Saint George.*

Sir,

In obedience to the orders contained in your letter No. 1251 of the 20th instant, forwarding an Extract from a letter received from the Superintending Surgeon and directing me to visit the Perambore Lines, for the purpose of reporting upon the feasibility, as well as the expense of the measures proposed by the Medical Committee, and to suggest any remedies ; I have the honor to report, that I immediately proceeded to Perambore, and in company with the Officer Commanding the Regiment carefully inspected the Lines—The result of that interview, and the suggestions of Major Babington are contained in the accompanying letter.

2. It is quite true that there are several pools or tanks of water in the vicinity of the Lines, which at this hot season of the year, are more or less unpleasant and tainted with impurities—most of them, however, are private property or belong to the neighbouring pagodas ; and the water is daily used by the inhabitants of Perambore for want of better.

3. For several months in the year these tanks are most convenient, and it is only when they are nearly dry that they become objectionable—It would be difficult to obtain a sufficiency of earth to fill them up, and doing so would be as inconvenient to the Sepoys as to the inhabitants ; for there is a great scarcity of water in Perambore, and these tanks are daily used by all classes for ablutionary and domestic purposes, if not actually for drinking.

4. I would therefore respectfully recommend, that the four tanks near the Lines be cleaned out—That their banks be railed off ; and that a peon be placed in charge of each tank, to see that no improper use is made of it—I think 80 Rupees expended on each tank, or 320 for the whole would be sufficient ; and I would place the tanks in future under the responsibility and charge of the Officer Commanding the Regiment.

5. Major Babington states that he has already applied to the Assessment Department for additional Scavengers to keep the suburbs of the Lines clean ; and this I think is the only way in which the object can be effected—The vicinity of the Lines is so densely crowded by the Village inhabitants, that it is in vain to expect it will be better than other parts of Perambore or Vepery, without appointing extra Sweepers ; while the comfort, if not the health of the troops, will undoubtedly be benefitted by such an extra establishment—Four Scavengers and two carts would probably be sufficient, and if they did their duty properly, I think no one could have cause of complaint.

6. With respect to the small size of the huts remarked on by the Committee, I beg to state that each contains an inside clear area of 87½ Square feet, besides a Verandah of 30 and a compound of 150 feet ; or in all 267½ superficial feet ; which is as much if not more than the allotment to the European married Soldiers residing in the Fort—The huts are moreover quite as large as the generality of native houses, and certainly far more comfortable and cleanly.

7. The Native Officers and Sepoys with whom I have often conversed about the houses, while they were under construction, and since their completion have often highly spoken of them ; and it was only a few days ago, that some of the Sepoys of the 17th Regiment declared that the Perambore Lines were better than any they had ever seen before in India—I firmly believe the Sepoys are most satisfied with their houses, and that if they were charged three times the amount of their hutting money, they would gladly pay it in preference to residing in their former habitations.

8. As to the defective ventilation animadverted on by the Committee, and their suggestion "to introduce a small capped chimney in the roof of each hut," I beg to reply that the Sepoys object to the thing as being unusual ; and that Major Babington, myself and many of the Native Officers think it unnecessary. The first act of the Natives would be to fill up the vents, and nullify their use—I know this from experience, for when I superintended building the Lines, I inserted a small hole or window 12 inches by 6 on each side of the doors, thinking the inmates would be glad of a little additional air and light when the door was closed—most of the men, however were strongly averse even to this slight innovation upon their time worn usages ; and declared it was objectionable.—Eventually many of the holes have been closed and continue so to the present day.

9. The Committee I think must have overlooked the fact that the roofs are covered with hollow pantiles, through the interstices of which the air is constantly ascending, and that in reality there is at present considerable ventilation. As directed by you I beg to state that the probable cost of constructing a chimney 8 inches in diameter, would be about 2 Rupees or Rupees 1,706 for the total number of 853 huts.

10. In connection with the locality and salubrity of the Lines, it may perhaps not be thought irrelevant my venturing to remind you of Lieutenant O'Connell's scheme for bringing good wholesome water into the neighbourhood of Perambore, Vepery and Black Town from the Red Hills Tank. It has been calculated that a regular supply of 65,000 Cubic feet per diem could be thus obtained for Rupees 69,000,—and I believe there is no project on record which promises so great a blessing to a vast and crowded population. As to the distribution of the water on its reaching Madras, I would leave that for after consideration. Let it once be brought into the vicinity, and the Natives would thoroughly appreciate the boon, and in a short time wonder how they could have done so long without it ; and I think they would soon come forward to share the expenses of equally dividing it throughout their District.

11. This is constantly exemplified up-country—when once the Government have lead the water near a village or tract of land, the inhabitants often volunteer to dig at their own expense the subsidiary channels, necessary to bring the fertilizing element near to their wants. The same principle would undoubtedly be carried out at Madras. If the Natives saw the water running idly near their streets they would soon estimate its blessing, and would willingly subscribe funds for converting it to a better use.

12. Considering the immense population, there is scarcely a place in the Presidency worse off for water than the neighbourhood of Perambore, and the little procurable there, is brackish and unwholesome ; while at the same time, there is an inexhaustible supply at the Red Hills within a few miles, which the Natives of Madras earnestly covet ; but are too apathetic, and perhaps too poor, to realize at their own expense.

From Major W. K. Babington, Commanding 17th Regiment N. I., Madras, 24th April 1857, *No.* 101 ; *to the Acting Assistant to the Superintending Engineer, Madras.*

Sir,

With reference to the interview I had with you in the Lines of the Regiment under my Command, regarding the report of the Medical Committee assembled on Saturday the 18th instant, I have the honor to report, that I do not conceive the chimnies recommended by the Committee of such vital importance, owing to the roofs of the men's houses being made of opened tiles, and there is consequently ample room for the foul air to escape through the crevices of the tiles, the slopes to the various tanks or reservoirs of water, surrounding the Lines, are certainly anything, but as clean as they might be, however, it appears to me that the dirt and filth in those declivities, has been collecting for some time past, and I have no means of having it cleaned, unless a small sum of money, say about 200 Rupees were placed at my disposal to defray the expense ; and when once properly cleaned, it will be my duty to prevent the like nuisances taking place again ; but I beg here to remark, that it is evident where a number of people are together, there must of necessity be some accumulation of dirt and filth, no matter what precautions are used and the necessity of having the means of transporting this some distance to a place for its reception, must be evident, and at present there is none, however on this subject I have addressed a letter to the proper authority Captain Silver.

From W. E. Cochrane, Esqr. Acting Collector of Madras, 23rd May 1857 ; *to the Town Major.*

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, I have the honor to state that from the enquiries made by my Quit Rent Amildar, it appears that one of the two tanks therein mentioned, the large one is enjoyed commonly by the inhabitants of Venaigapooram, a hamlet attached to Purusewalkam, while the other is merely a ditch found by the removal of the earth, for the purpose of erecting the Sepoys' Lines.

With regard to the former, the inhabitants have delivered a Mahazernamah or agreement to the effect, that they have no means of repairing or clearing the tank, and that the same may be executed by Government.

The latter is situated in the land claimed by one Yagan as held under a Certificate No. 689 for Grounds 3 15 *S. ft.* subject to a Quit Rent of Annas 10, Pice 6, one Mooneapah Gramny has appeared in his behalf, and has given a document to the effect that he has no objection to relinquish the land, and hand it over to Government if they will compensate him for the same it can then be filled up at the expense of Government.

The value of the Ground situated thereabout is from Rupees 28 to Rupees 35 per Ground.

Referred to the Department of Public Works.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
1st *June* 1857.

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

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Works Department, under date the 8th July 1857, No. 1310.

Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. Faber, Chief Engineer; to H. Forbes, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 3rd July 1857, No. 1749.

Sir,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1205, dated 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to inform you, that I quite concur in the advisability and suitableness of the Garrison Engineer's recommendations for the cleansing and deepening the tanks at Perambore, and for keeping clean the Lines of the 17th Madras Native Infantry, by means of Scavengers Carts, &c.

**In letter dated 23rd May* 1857.

2. The Acting Collector of Madras, states* that there is no objection to the tanks being deepened &c. by Government, and that the proprietor of the Ground (Certificate No. 689 for Grounds 3-15 Square feet, subject to a Quit rent of Annas 10-6) in which one of the tanks is situated, will relinquish the land, on compensation being paid by Government.

3. With reference to the subject of ventilation, the objections urged by the Sepahis, against the openings proposed formerly by the Garrison Engineer, at the sides of their doors, do not appear to me to have had reference so much to air, as to the facility of being overlooked, and their privacy invaded, still, considering the objections generally raised by natives, to too much air, and the not unfrequent complaints by prisoners against the ridge ventilators of late introduced to jails, I recommend that Major Babington's wishes, that the roofs of the huts be left entirely alone, be acceded to.

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Department with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation in that Department, dated 1st June 1857.

(A true Extract.)

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

The Governor in Council approves of the recommendation for cleansing and deepening the four tanks in the vicinity of the Sepoys' Lines at Perambore.

2. The employment of two Scavengers' Carts and four Scavengers has already been sanctioned for the Lines—Minutes of Consultation No. 1496 5th May 1857.

3. The state of the suburbs at Perambore will be brought under the notice of the Commissioner of Police with a view to measures being taken for the perservation of cleanliness.

4. Compensation is sanctioned for the ground to be relinquished, the Collector of Madras will adjust the amount with reference to the concluding para. of his letter 23rd May 1857.

5. The proposed alterations to the Sepoys' Huts are not needed.

(True Extract and Copies.)

H. Macmillan Major
Actg. Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Town Major.
„ Commissioner of Police.
„ Collector of Madras.
„ Military Auditor General.
„ Accountant General.
„ Department Public Works. With 2 Spare Copies.
& Civil Auditor

Exd. A. A. DeMonte.

Public Works 1857 Sept.r
Dy to Comm.rs Chief Engr.

No. 1515

Extract from the Minutes of
Com.rs Military Dep.t.

Dy 17.th Aug.t
Rec.d 28.th July 157.
No. 2359.

Approving of the cleaning & deepening the four Tanks in the vicinity of the Sepoys' Lines at Perambore & observing that the employment of two Scavengers' Carts & four Scavengers, has already been sanctioned for the Lines, together with certain plunge tanks on the Stock of the Suburbs & Sanctg compensation for the Ground to be purchased —

Will an order

No. 1515. 5.th Aug.t

No. 1515.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with a request that he will direct the Garrison Engineer to prepare and submit an Estimate for the work referred to in para 1 of the foregoing Extract.

Fort St. George
5.th August 1857.

No. 182.

Copies to the Chief Engr. Disp.h