MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 17th August 1858.

No. 138. Read the following Extract Minutes Consultation in the Military Department, dated 23rd July 1858, No. 1431.

Stating that with reference to para. 5 of E. M. C. in this Department dated 23rd July No. 1431, a reference has been made to the Supreme Government on the question as to how and where accomodation should be provided for Officers of European Regiments. } (Vide Military Consultation, 3rd August 1858, Nos. 124 @ 126.)

No. 139. ORDER THEREON, No. 1655; dated 17th August 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded,

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

2

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Military.

No. 1431.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 23rd July 1858.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 4th May 1858, No. 1567.

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 Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 29th March 1858, No. $\frac{33}{131}$.

SIR,

In enclosing for submission to Government, Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his recent visit to Jackatalla, I am instructed to add the following.

On Saturday the 20th Instant, His Excellency visited Jackatalla, and inspected the whole of the Buildings there, the Commander-in-Chief observes, that altho' too much time has already elapsed since these new Buildings were commenced, there is now a fair prospect of these being completed in a reasonable period from this time.

The Hospital, as Government is aware, has been finished for some time, and is a well constructed, roomy edifice, excellently adapted for the purpose for which it was built.

The Staff Serjeant's Quarters which occupies the East end of the Plateau, on which the Barracks are placed, and contains Staff Serjeant's Quarters, Serjeants' Mess Room, Court Martial Room, Guard Room, Quarter Master's Store Room, &c. is complete, and the various apartments are of the best description.

Nos. 1 and 2 Barracks may be counted also complete, indeed the latter has already been occupied by a portion of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders. Nothing can exceed the excellent arrangements (with one exception to be noticed hereafter) that have been made for the comfort of the Trooqs, and all the Workmanship appears of the best description.

Nos. 3 and 4 Barracks are in a state of forwardness, giving promise of speedy completion, and No. 5 which occupies the West end of the Plateau has been commenced on. The numerous gangs of Workmen employed cannot fail to bring all the buildings rapidly to a conclusion. The Quarters for married men have been commenced, and large parties of Workmen, are here too, busily employed and the whole wears an aspect of stirring bustle, combined with arrangement and regularity that cannot but speedily lead to the desired end. Large gangs of the Hill inhabitants—Burghers, were engaged on all works not requiring especial handi craft.

Several subjects, regarding sites, were brought to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, these were all disposed of on the spot. A defect (above alluded to) in the finish of Nos. 1 and 2 Barracks was very evident, viz., that the Ventilating Windows of the Upper Stories have been made to open on the Terrace, instead of inside the Upper Verandah, which has caused the latter to be of less height, than it otherwise would have been, and in rainy weather, prevents the full use of the Ventilators by admitting rain, if kept open.

There is no doubt but that this arrangement is a very defective one, and it is but due to the Officers employed on the Works to say, that it does not appear in any way attributable to them.

In Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Blocks, the Commander-in-Chief has directed the more correct plan of having the Ventilators under cover of the Verandah, to be carried out.

The subject of the Prison was set aside some time ago, but His Excellency has approved of the accompanying rough sketch, (plan) the Building will be erected at either the East or West end of the Hospital Hill.

The subject of Sewerage has engaged much of Captain Francis' attention, and the Commander-in-Chief has desired me to annex a copy of that Officer's suggestions on the subject, extracted from his letter to the Chief Engineer. Captain Francis' proposed plan, His Excellency consi-

ders worthy a trial, and should it fail, it will be requisite to adopt the more expensive arrangement of the Lake and Culvert, &c., on this head Sir Patrick Grant would beg to bring to the notice of Government the demoralizing effect of charred peat, and which might so easily be tested at Jackatalla. Perhaps the most difficult point satisfactorily to arrange in all Barracks is the Privies, and the keeping them and their neighbourhood free from offensive effluvia. The expence of a trial of the Peat, which has already been used with success in England, would here be but trifling, and His Excellency would strongly urge the use of it at Jackatalla until its effects shall be determined.

The Commander-in-Chief has directed all Officers' temporary Quarters on the Hospital Hill, as well as all other buildings the property of private individuals, to be pulled down and the Hill for the future to be kept quite clear of all but the public Buildings belonging to the Hospital.

In explanation of the case of the Officers' temporary Quarters, His Excellency observes that these Buildings were originally permitted to be erected by the Officers of the Detachment of Her Majesty's 84th Regiment first stationed here, on the condition that they would be liable to removal without remuneration at the expiration of one year; this period was subsequently extended, and as on the arrival of the Wing of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders to relieve the Detachment of Her Majesty's 84th, very few houses had been erected on the compounds that had been marked out, the Officers of the 74th purchased the temporary Quarters at 100 Rupees each Quarter, on the same terms of liability of having them pulled down.

The time is now come, when their removal from the Barrack Hill is a matter of expediency, and His Excellency does not consider that by so doing, any loss is sustained by the proprietors who had their full value in occupancy.

The Commander-in-Chief again recommends to the favorable consideration of Government, the subject of Public Quarters for Officers at this station.

His Excellency is aware that the Honorable Court did not approve of the measure, but the great distances at which Officers would have to live from the men in a necessarily irregular Cantonment as this mountain one is, coupled with the fact that recent circumstances in India have rendered it more than ever expedient, that Officers of European Regiments should be located as near as possible to their Regimental Barracks, it may be that reviewing the matter in this light, sanction to the erection of Officers' Quarters may not be now withheld. The Quarters His Excellency would suggest for a Regiment, should consist of Rooms as follows. For all Officers of one of Her Majesty's Regiments of Foot,

For each Field Officer.
2 Sitting Rooms
1 Bed Room
1 Dressing Room
1 Bath Room

For each Captain.
1 Sitting Room
1 Bed Room
1 Dressing Room
1 Bath Room

For each Subaltern.
1 Bed Room
1 Dressing Room
1 Bath Room

Public Out Offices and Stabling to the extent of one horse for every Officer attached to the Regiment, 2 for Field Officers and 2 for the Adjutant with 4 roomy Coach Houses should be built; His Excellency would recommend the Building by Government of a suitable Mess House, to be erected in the immediate vicinity of the Quarters, and if this should remain in the possession of Government, the usual monthly allowance granted by the latter would be of-course withheld.

There is yet a point of great moment which Sir Patrick Grant mentions in his Minute, that is, the establishment of a Sanitarium in the vicinity of, but perfectly distinct from, the present Barracks.

His Excellency recommends that Upstair Quarters for 400 convalescent Soldiers with a proportion of Quarters for married men should be erected, with all contingent Buildings for such an establishment.

The Commander-in-Chief decided on a site which appeared to him unobjectionable in every way, save the fact of its being at present outside the boundary of the Cantonment, and in possession of the Burghers. His Excellency however, desired Captain Francis to put himself in communication with the Collector of Coimbatore, and he has little doubt but that for a comparatively small sum, (tho' to the Burghers a most liberal one) this very desirable spot of ground might be obtained should Government sanction the measure.

Public Quarters for Officers would be required here too for 1 Field Officer, 4 Captains and 4 Subalterns.

Sick or convalescent men from the following stations would be sent to this Sanitarium, viz.

Bangalore	2	Regiments besides Artillery.
Trichinopoly	1	Regiment.....do.
Cannanore...	1	.....Do.. .....do.
Madras.....	1	.....Do.....do.
Mount.....		do.

or from 5 Regiments of European Soldiers, and from 8 or 9 Troops and Companies of European Artillery, say at the least from 5,000 men the convalescent sick of whom amounting to 400, the Depot would be prepared to receive.

In conclusion, it is most desirable that measures at once be taken towards the erection of a Church. The subject His Excellency is aware is not one which is now for the first time mooted, but he cannot but express his hope that no further time be lost, in discussing the propriety of a measure the desirability of which is admitted at all hands.

Minute by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Ootacamund, 27th March 1858.

In continuation of my Minute of the 11th Instant, I now beg to submit the following observations on the Public Buildings at Jackatalla.

The Barracks at Jackatalla, calculated for the accommodation of a complete Regiment of British Infantry, are of the best description and they are now being rapidly proceeded with by Captain Campbell, the Executive Engineer, under the active superintendence of Captain Francis, District Engineer.

A few Buildings in addition to those already sanctioned are required.

1st. Solitary Cells, with Quarters under the same roof for the Provost Serjeant, together with a small Guard Room.

2nd. A boarded Shed for Shot Drill and other minor punishments.

3rd. A School room.

4th. A Canteen.

5th. A Church with sittings for one thousand persons is quite indispensable. None has yet been sanctioned, but I cannot suppose that a suitable place of Worship will not be provided at a Station where a full Regiment of our countrymen is to be quartered. I am informed that a Missionary Society has offered to contribute Rupees 4,000 towards the erection of a Church at Jackatalla, but it appears to me that it would not consist with the position of Government to accept this aid.

I fixed upon the sites on which those fine Buildings should be, I think erected and pointed them out to Captains Francis and Campbell.

The Quarters of the married Staff Serjeants should each be provided with a Water Closet. It is an outrage on decency to compel respectable females to resort to a Privy under the same roof as that used by the men. There are 12 of these married Quarters and Captain Campbell on a rough guess, estimated the cost of each Water Closet at from £s. 10 to £s. 15.

The Verandahs of the several blocks of Barracks should be raised sufficiently to cover the window at the top of the wall of the Barrack room. In the two most advanced blocks, this window is above the Verandah instead of being under its shelter, and in consequence when rain falls either the window must be closed and ventilation impeded, or the wet beats into the interior of the apartment.

The two blocks on the same line should be so united as to admit of free and ready communication by the upper Verandahs throughout the Buildings; this will give increased facility for defence and be likewise a great convenience in other respects.

I would suggest that Barracks and a Mess-room for the Officers of the Regiment at Jackatalla should be built by Government, house-rent being withheld from the occupants as a fair return for providing them with Quarters. If this measure is adopted, the facilities for rendering the Station thoroughly defensible and secure will be vastly improved.

To complete the defences, Captain Francis proposes to build a Terrace of earth with the outer slope turfed, a parapet to fire over, and round bastions at the Angles to give a flanking fire, on the north side of the Barrack square. Captain Francis has also prepared a plan of a Tower or Cavalier of which I entirely approve—as I likewise do of the suggested Terrace.

The Tower should be erected on the height on which Captain Campbell's house stands. A Tower placed on the spot I selected as a site for it, and armed with two 9 Pdr. Guns and two 24 Pdr. Howitzers, would completely command and defend the Barracks, the Officers' Quarters (if they are sanctioned and built where I would suggest,) the Commissariat Godown and Mills, and every one of the numerous roads by which the Station can be approached by an Enemy in any numbers.

The Magazine and all Ordnance Stores should be placed in the lower part of the Tower. The present Magazine is so damp as to be destructive to the ammunition lodged in it. It should be pulled down.

If the Reservoir about to be formed on the slope behind the Staff Serjeant's range of Barracks, is not found to be equal to containing a sufficient quantity of water, effectually to carry off all sewerage and impurities to such a distance, as must prevent the filth, of Jackatalla from being deposited, where it would prove an unbearable nuisance to the inhabitants of the lower Bazar at Coonor, (about a mile distant in a straight line), I apprehend that it will be necessary to authorise the construction of a large " Culvert" on the plan suggested by Captain Campbell.

Captain Francis is however, very sanguine that the far less expensive Reservoir will fully answer every requirement.

I quite approve of the site Captain Francis has selected for a General Military Prison for Europeans. It is on a high table land 1½ mile distant from the Barracks.

In 1847 (I think it was) a searching investigation in the Bengal Presidency by a mixed Committee of highly experienced Medical and Military Officers, established the fact that the ratio of mortality amongst European Soldiers was full 50 per cent less in the Hills than it had proved in the Plains, and I have shewn in my Minute dated the 11th instant, that the recoveries amongst the Patients sent to the Hill Sanitarium at Ramandroog, amounted to 72-10 per cent. throughout the period from 1848 to 1857 inclusive

On these grounds therefore, I feel that it is my duty most earnestly to recommend that a Convalescent Depot for European Soldiers may be established at Jackatalla, calculated to accommodate at least 400 men, and a due proportion of families.

The Depot should be built on the site of the Burgher Village, South of Captain Francis' house. I am told that the Villagers may be prevailed upon to part with the land willingly on reasonable terms, and it is essential to properly completing the Station that the ground should be purchased, independently of the spot being the best suited for the Depot.

Quarters for the Officers, who must be attached to the Depôt (1 Field Officer, 4 Captains, 4 Subalterns and a Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon would be a suitable proportion) should be erected on the South Spur of the Hill on which Captain Francis' house stands—and, overlooking and within a few hundred feet of the site on which I have suggested that the Depôt Barracks should be built.

Extract from a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, to the Chief Engineer, dated 23rd March 1858, *No.* 80.

7. With regard to Reservoir B. in my letter No. 59, I by no means proposed to abandon it, but having shewn that the balance remaining after the distribution of the sanctioned amounts to the new Water-courses, bridge, &c., was insufficient to build it, I had advocated its postponement until it was proved necessary, whilst recognizing the more perfect system proposed by Captain Campbell in his letter as per margin, it had seemed to me to be excluded by its vast expense, as I reported at the time in forwarding it, and under the then circumstances of the country rendering a cheaper expedient necessary. I considered that it could not effect the health of the Cantonment to pipe the sewerage into the main stream which runs very far below the level of the buildings, and at a considerable horizontal distance, which plan was rendered feasible by the removal of the Coonoor Bazaar, being supplied by a stream brought from the Aravangode Valley ; the Commander-in-Chief agreed with these views, but he desired me to lay the subject again before you, that the Government might consider the whole question with reference to the cost, and now that circumstances are changed, and practicable schemes of improvement for Sanitary purposes are invited by the Government of India in Extract of Minutes of Consultation No. 351, dated 2nd March 1858, an opening appears to be made for bringing the project to a successful issue, I shall threfore now call upon Captain Campbell to send in a revised plan for a conduit of moderate dimensions, from the upper pipe of the Hospital sewerage, to beyond the Coonoor bridge; it would receive in its way all the pipes from the Hospitals and Barrack privies, as well as those of the married Quarters, and might be flushed by raising a low stone Dam across the main stream just above the first pipe, the Culvert starting from the dam, and being provided with a sluice door. The pipe service item of the Barrack Estimate does not provide for pipes from the Barrack privies, neither of-course does it from the new pattern privies attached to the Barrack rooms, to be used only at night, nor for the married or Staff Quarters privies, but these might be provided as shewn in the skeleton plan attached, and the disposable balance 10,430 Rupees remaining in hand as shewn above, might be appropriated to their purposes, for which I request your sanction. When Captain Campbell submits his drawings and Estimate for carrying the sewerage clear of Coonoor, that project must stand on its own merits ; and its cost, whatever that might be, must be sanctioned separately.

No. 149, dated 17th October 1857.

From Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 15th April 1858, No. $\frac{52}{193}$.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 32 of 29th ultimo, enclosing a Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the Cantonment of Jackatalla, I have now the honor, by order of His Excellency to enclose copies of correspondence with Mr. Thomas, Collector of Coimbatore regarding the addition the Commander-in-Chief has thought it desirable to make to the Cantonment, for the purpose of building thereon a Sanitarium for European Troops.

Sir Patrick Grant observes that the valuation of the old Coonoor land, is vastly in excess of what His Excellency had hoped it would be, but nevertheless he considers that it is well worth the while of Government to pay even this high price rather than forego its possession.

In short, the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion, that it is quite invaluable to Government.

7. The Governor in Council approves of the suggestions of the Commander-in-Chief for the defences of the Cantonment of Jackatalla; Plans (and Estimates) on the scale proposed by Captain Francis, and approved of by His Excellency will be called for in the Department Public Works.

8. A report will be called for through the Department Public Works on Captain Francis' suggestions on the subject of the Sewerage of these Barracks.

9. The Governor in Council will adopt the Commander-in-Chief's recommendation with respect to giving a trial to charred peat, but refers the subject to the Director General for report, and for suggestions as to the mode in which such trial should be carried out.

10. A Sanitarium Depôt for 400 Convalescent Soldiers, with a due proportion of Families and Officers as suggested by the Commander-in-Chief, is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, much to be desired.

11. The project will be referred to the Judicial Department, in respect to the purchase of the ground required and to the Department Public Works, with the view of Plans and Estimates being prepared (in conformity with the scale laid down by the Commander-in-Chief) for submission to, and for the sanction of, the Government of India.

12. The Plan by Captain Francis for a Military Prison is referred to the Department Public Works for an Estimate of its probable expense.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) W. H. WAPSHARE, Major,
Acting Dy. Secretary to Government.

Para. 1. Ordered that the above Extract and the papers referred to therein, be communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer.

2. Major Lawford is requested to issue instructions for carrying out at once the orders given by the Commander-in-Chief, respecting the ventilation of certain Blocks of the Jackatalla Barrack-Square, referred to in para. 2 of the above Extract. A Plan and Estimate amounting to Rupees 3,800 lately received from the Officer in charge of the Central Office of Public Works for uniting the Blocks, have been referred to the Military Department in an order dated 7th Instant No. 1301.

3. In para. 3 of the order in the Military Department, Plans and Estimates are required for the undermentioned buildings.

1st. Solitary Cells sufficient for a European Regiment with Quarters under the same roof for the Provost-Serjeant and a small Guard-room.

2nd. A covered shed for shot-Drill, and for other minor punishments.
3rd. A School-Room.
4th. A Canteen.
5th. A Church.

In respect to the Solitary Cells the Chief Engineer has already* been requested to expedite the submission of Supplemental estimates. Major Lawford is requested to include in the estimates, the cost of the additional accommodation now ordered by the Government. An estimate for the Shot-Drill-Shed was submitted by the Chief Engineer in December 1856, and received the sanction of Government in an order n the Military Department dated 15th Idem No. 3267. The work was included in the Budget of 1858-59 (Statement 2, Item No. 14,) The School† Room and Canteen have been provided for in the original estimate of Rupees 15,71,500‡ for the Barrack Project, as seen from the Abstract Statement submitted with the Chief Engineer's letter dated 12th December 1856, No. 8,793. The proposition for erecting a Church at Jackatalla having been negatived in Extract Minutes Consultation in the Ecclesiastical Department, dated 19th‖ February 1858, No. 59, the subject will be taken into consideration in that Department with reference to the orders in the Military Department, under notice.

* Extract Minutes Consultation 24th December 1857, No. 2393. P. 3.

† School and Library... ... ... Rs. 58,450
Canteen and Coffee Room. 37.100

‡ No. 13, Budget for 58-59, Statement 2.

‖ Extract Minutes Consultation 16th March 1858 No. 473, Public Works Department.

4. Major Lawford will issue instructions for constructing at once a water-closet to each of the Staff Serjeants' Quarters as ordered in para. 4, if the work can be performed within the sanctioned amount; but if otherwise, an estimate should be prepared and submitted.

5. The reference alluded to in para. 6 of the order in the Military Department, will be made from that Department, to which the question as to how and where accommodation should be provided for the Officers of European Regiments, belongs. In the case of all Military Buildngs, the Public Works Department, has to undertake only the executive part of the duty.

Extract Minutes Consultation 17th January 1856, No. 73, Paras. 5 and 6.

6. Adverting to para. 7 of the order, the Government observe that Plans and Estimates have recently been received from the Officer in charge of the Central Office for a Tower in the vicinity of the Jackatalla Barracks, and for forming an earthen parapet around the Barracks for purposes of defence. These estimates which amount respectively to Rupees 12,550 and 3,800, have been referred to the Military Department, in an order dated 7th Instant No. 1301.

7. The report alluded to in para. 8 of the Extract Minutes Consultation on the subject of the sewerage of the Barracks will be submitted by Major Lawford, and in so doing he will be good enough to state what amount of provision, if any, was made for this work in the sanctioned estimates.

8. Plans and Estimates will also be prepared and forwarded for a Sanitarium Depôt at Jackatalla of the extent suggested by the Commander-in-Chief, and referred to in paras. 10 and 11 of the order in the Military Department.

9. An estimate will also be submitted for a Military Prison at the same station, as required in para. 12.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Engineer.
" Military Department.
" Ecclesiastical Department.

Military Department

No. 2764.

Communicated to the Commander in Chief. With reference to para: 5 of the above order the following letter will be forwarded to the Government of India.

Here enter letter to the Secy. to Govt. of India dy 3d August 1858. No. 2762

Fort St. George,
3d August 1858.

to H. Wapshare Esqre
Actg. Secy. to Govt.

To
The Department of Public Works.

Pub. Works 1858 Depatt.
Const: Engr.
No. 1778

Extract Mins. Consn
in the Military Depatt.

Dated 23d. July
Recd 4th August } 1858
No. 1431

Sir

I have the honor to state that with reference to para. 8 of Sir H. C. in their Depatt. dated 23d July No. 1431 a reference has been made to the Supreme Govt. on the question as to how and where accommodation should be provided for officers of European Regts.

No. 1655

Jobs received
17th Augt.
1858