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M.R.O. 1—33.60—28-11-60.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mts.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 1st September 1857.

No. 58. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 27th August 1857, No. 3201.

SIR,

Referring to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 586, dated 31st March 1857, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Garrison Engineer, together with detailed reports by that Officer, and the Superintendent of the Gun Powder Manufactory, on all those buildings. The plan has been already forwarded in obedience to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1376, dated 28th April last, in the Military Department. Captain Rawlins also submits a valuation estimate of the Buildings amounting to Rupees (76,263) seventy-six thousand two hundred and sixty-three.

2. The Factory was, it appears fixed on its present site in 1808, and covers 31 acres of ground, including 50 separate buildings, of which 7 are in good order, 18 require slight repair, 21 considerable repair, and 4 are wholly unserviceable.

3. Captain Rawlins considers the walls of many of the buildings unnecessarily massive, those of the mill rooms being 4 feet thick; but thinks that the defect neither admits, nor requires remedy; for the roofs being light and the force of explosions tending upwards, no aggravation of injury arises from the massiveness of the walls; and in this opinion I concur, although I certainly should not recommend such dimensions to be adopted in any new buildings.

4. Captain Rawlins proceeds to recommend the use of asphaltic felt in roofing these buildings, as a material so light, as to cause the least possible damage in case of an explosion, and a trial of it would undoubtedly be desirable.

5. The estimate submited by the Garrison Engineer for the mere repair of the buildings, to such extent as the Superintendent considers absolutely necessary, amounts to Rupees (29,200) twenty-nine thousand and two hundred, but this is only a rough calculation and not an accurate estimate; and it is proposed that a fixed sum shall be allowed to be expended at the rate of (2,000) two thousand Rupees per month.

6. I do not however suppose that Government will allow this plan to be adopted, but as it is very evident that no time should be lost in putting the buildings in complete repair, I would recommend that the Garrison Engineer be authorized to send in detailed estimates from time to time, of the works most urgently required, and that they be executed on emergency.

7. The wall round the Deposit Magazine conditionally sanctioned, seems to me to be very necessary for security, and quite unobjectionable on other grounds; but I do not consider it so important as to require the Budget to be anticipated, and it can be constructed without interfering with the business of the Factory, which is not the case with the repairs generally.

8. A Memorandum is also appended, shewing that an expenditure of Rupees (4,800) four thousand, and eight hundred, has already been made partly in removing the ruins of the corning room lately exploded, and partly in laying down terraces, the estimate of which received sanction in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1615, dated 19th Instant.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, No. 1667; dated 1st September 1857.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department.

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

№206.

From,
Captain H. W. Rawlins,
Garrison Engineer.
Fort Saint George.

To,
The Chief Engineer,
Department Public Works,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

In obedience to the orders communicated in your proceedings №1692 of the 15th April and №1141 of the 7th of May last, I have the honor to submit a Survey Report upon the nature and condition of the Buildings comprising the Gun Powder Manufactory at Madras.

2 The documents herewith forwarded are.

1 Plan shewing the locality of the Manufactory and Sections of the Buildings.

2 Survey report as to their condition.

3 Report of the Superintendent of the Manufactory on their State and Suitability.

4 Valuation Estimate of the Buildings.

3 The Gun powder Manufactory was removed to its present site about 49 years ago, and the buildings were valued in 1826 at Rs 187,563. In 1848 they

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had depreciated to Rs. 128,988, and I now estimate them to be worth Rs. 76,263.—

4 The premises are enclosed in an area of 31 acres of ground, and consist of 50 separate buildings or compartments. Of these, 7 are in good order; 18 require slight repair; 21 considerable repair, and 4 are altogether unserviceable.

5 Regarding the substantial nature of the buildings, I think the walls of many of the rooms are unnecessarily massive, particularly of the 4 Mile rooms which are 4 feet thick, but I do not see how this defect can now be remedied, nor do I believe such a proceeding is necessary. The roofs are all of the common tiled description, and as light as they well can be to keep out heavy tropical rains, and as the force of any explosion would be upwards towards the roof, in the direction of the line of least resistance, I do not imagine it much signifies whether the side walls be very thick or not. In both the late explosions the walls were comparatively but little shattered, while the roof of one building was blown to bits, and that of the other considerably damaged. The

6 The desideratum is to have a roof composed of such thin material, that in the even of an explosion it would fly into the smallest particles, and become innocuous. I believe the patent Asphalte felt would answer this purpose better than any thing else; and I respectfully recommend its trial on the next roof which has to be renewed at the Gun Powder Manufactory, and that 500 Squares of it be procured from England at once.—

7 Major Simpson the Superintendent has informed me that under any circumstances, and whether it is contemplated eventually to erect a new Gun powder Manufactory elsewhere or not, the buildings enumerated in the subjoined list require immediate repair and alteration, and I agree with him in this opinion. Opposite each building I have endeavoured to give a rough estimate of the approximate cost amounting to Rs (29,200) Twenty nine thousand and two hundred, and as a detailed estimate for such general repairs can

cannot in my opinion be very accurate, Respectfully
suggest that a fixed sum be allowed and that in confe-
rence with the Superintendent I should execute from
time to time such works as may be considered
most urgently required — Rs 20,000, expended at the
rate of Rs 2,000 per month may perhaps be consi-
dered a moderate sum.

5. With regard to the wall proposed in Ex:
Engr: Cons: No 580 of 31st March last, to be erected
around the Deposit Magazine, and the alterations
and additions in the Enclosure, I can only refer to
state that the work is necessary for the security of the
Magazine, and that I hope the same may be sanc-
tioned at the estimated cost of Rs (2250) Two Thou-
sand two hundred and fifty.

I have &c
Signed H. M. Rawlinshaw
Garrison Engineer.

Garrison Engr's Office,
Fort St George,
1st July 1857.

A True Copy
H Fisher Colonel
Chief Engineer.

Ent. Book.

Enclosure in a letter from
Colonel Engineer
to the Secretary Government
P.W.D.
Dated 27th August 1857
No. 3207.
P.W. Records

Copy of a Letter from
the Garrison Engineer
submitting a estimate &
and Plan of the premises
comprising the Gun powder
Manufactory:—
No. 3825 dated 15th

Central Office of P.W.

No. 3201. Fort Saint George,
27th August 1857.

From,
The Chief Engineer.

To,
The Secretary to Government,
P.W.D.

Sir,

Referring to Exc. Mint. Cons. No. 3586 dated 31st March 1857, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Garrison Engineer, together with detailed Reports by that Officer, and the Superintendent of the Gun Powder Manufactory, on all those Buildings in the plan has been already forwarded in obedience to Exc. Mint. Cons. No. 1376, dated 28th April, last in the Military Department. Captain Rawlins also submits a Valuation Estimate of the Buildings amounting to Rupees (76263) Seventy Six Thousand two hundred and Sixty three.

Enclosures to
1 Copy of letter from the
Garrison Engineer
No. 3825 dated 15th July 57.
1 Original Estimate.
1 Original Abstract.
1 Original Report by the
Garrison Engineer.
1 Original Report by the
Superintendent of Gun
Powder Manufactory.
1 Original Memo: by the
Garrison Engineer.
6
(Originals to be separately
returned)

2. The factory was, it appears fixed, on its present

as to require the Budget to be anticipated, and it can be constructed without interfering with the business of the Factory, which is not the case with the Repairs generally.

8 A Memorandum is also appended, shewing that an expenditure of Rupees (4,800) four thousand and eight hundred, has already been made partly in removing the ruins of the Corning room lately exploded, and partly in laying down Furnaces, the estimate of which received Sanction in

Ex: Mint. Cons: No. 1615 dated 19th Instant.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obt. Servt.

Central Office of P. W.
Fort Saint George,
27 August 1857

M. E. Taber Colonel.
Chief Engineer

To,

The Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Encl. Book

Public Works 3rd Department.
Cons.d 1st September.
No. 1708

From The Chief Engineer.

To The Secretary to Government,
P.W.D.

Dated 27th
Received 28th } August 1857.

No. 3207.

Enclosures ##.
Returned 3 Encs.
Forwarded for submission to
Government Reports of Receivers
from the Garrison Engineer
on the condition of the several
buildings forming the Gun
Powder Manufactory
No. 1667. 1st Sept.r
With an Order

No. 1667

Ordered to be
referred to the Military
Department.

Genl. H. Gray

1st September 1857.

Copies to the Brig.r Genl. Dirp.r 2.
with 6 Encls.
Received & returned to the Chf. Engineer & Secy.
3 Encs. 4/12/57.

No. 58 & 59.