M.R.O. 1—50,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 2-5-58

G.O. No. 678	Press Mis.
Dated 12-2-58	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 65. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 11th January 1858, No. 107.

Read the following papers.

Extract Minutes Consultation Public Works Department.

Referring a letter from the Chief Engineer submitting a letter from the District Engineer, Chingleput, reporting on the damages done during the late heavy rains to the Fortifications at St. Thomas, Mount, as also one from the Brigadier Commanding the Mount, stating that if the works had been vigorously carried on to completion they would have been saved in the late rains. Observes that if the works in question are intended to serve any permanent purpose, they should be rebuilt in a more substantial manner. } (Here enter 18th November 1857, No. 2119.)

Letter from Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 8th December 1857, No. 559.

SIR,

Military Department order dated 20th December 1857.

With reference to Minutes of Consultation 18th Ultimo No. 2119, I am instructed by the Commander in Chief to say that having referred the matter for the opinion of the Commandant of Engineers. His Excellency requests you will be good enough to lay before Government Colonel Cotton's reply annexed and to state that he entirely concurs with the Commandant.

His Excellency is of opinion, he desires me to add, that the Commandant of Engineers is the proper professional Officer, to prepare a Report on the Do[illegible]s, which should be constructed at all large stations, where Arsenals, Treasuries and Jails are placed, and the Commander in Chief strongly recommends that this most important duty should be confided to Colonel Cotton.

Letter from Colonel A. COTTON, Commandant of Engineers; to Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army, dated 2nd December 1857, No. 536.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th November last No. 2976, on the subject of the new Batteries on the Mount, which I have inspected.

In reply I beg to state, that the circumstances are so entirely altered since those works were executed, that the instructions I there received from the Commander in Chief are now quite inapplicable. The object was to place heavy Guns in commanding positions, in the shortest possible time and to bring the ammunition to a place where it could be protected. As the Cantonment will I suppose never again be denuded of Troops as it then was, and as there appears to be no probable immediate call for the use of the Batteries, so that there would be time to construct works in a substantial manner if it were deemed proper, I conclude that the whole case, must be re-considered.

With respect to the state of the works, I find that there are several places where the exterior Revetment has fallen down. This of course was to be expected, it could not be suppos-

ed, that loose earth just thrown up and revetted only, with rough stone, could stand the extraordinary falls of rain, that occured immediately after the execution of the works. Even Masonry walls would probably have given way, had loose earth been filled in behind them and immediately saturated by such rains.

If it should not be intended to construct permanent works at those points, I would beg to suggest, that the present ones should be repaired, only taking more time and care in the rough stone revetment, and giving it a little more slope. That the work was not badly executed considering its nature and the haste with which it was done was proved, by the Batteries standing perfectly the firing of 10 Inch Howitzers.

I find that the magazine has not yet been built. It seems to me that under any circumstances, that will be a good position for one, and I would therefore suggest that it should be completed. To have the whole of the ammunition in the present magazine, completely out of the way of all protection, seems clearly unadvisable.

The road along the face of the Hill also has been left unfinished. This work must be executed with some care, for if large stones are allowed to roll down the Hill they will injure the buildings at the foot of it. The blasting also must be done cautiously, I think it should be completed, as a necessary communication between the magazine and the two Batteries.

I conclude, that nothing further can be planned about works on the Mount, till the great fundamental points in the question of the Military occupation of India, are settled by the superior authorities, that is, to what extent the different Cantonments are to be made really defensible.

Resolved that Colonel Arthur Cotton, Commandant of Engineers, be requested to submit his views, as to the defensive works to be permanently constructed at the Mount and also, in communication with the Quarter Master General's Department, at such other stations as may be indicated by the Commander in Chief.

2. Colonel Cotton's reports will be addressed to the Commander in Chief in order to their being laid before Government with His Excellency's observations, and Plans and Estimates, as may be determined upon, will then be called for in the usual course through the Department Public Works.

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

No. 66. ORDER THEREON, No. 178; dated 1st February 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with reference to his letter dated 12th November 1857, No. 5180.

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

3

Military Department

No 107

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

11th January 1858

Read the following Papers

Extract of Mde. Public Works Dept.

(Hereunder 18th Novr. /57 No. 2119)

Quarter Master Generals Office

No 559

From

The Quarter Master General
of the Army

To

The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

With reference to Minutes of Consultation

Military Department order of 20th Decr 1857

18th Ultimo No 2119. I am instructed by the Commander in Chief to say that having referred the matter for the opinion of the Commandant of Engineers

Engineer. His Excellency requests you will be good enough to lay before Government Colonel Cottons reply annexed and to state that he entirely concurs with the Commandant.

His Excellency is of opinion, he desires me to add, that the Commandant of Engineers is the proper professional Officer, to prepare a Report on the Defences, which should be constructed at all large Stations, where Arsenals, Treasuries and Jails are placed, and the Commander in Chief strongly recommends that this most important duty should be confided to Colonel Cottow.

Fort St George
8th Dec 1857

[signed] F. A. Reid
Dr Mr General

From

Commandant of Engrs Office
No 536

From
Colonel H. Cotton
Commandant of Engineers

To
The Quarter Master General
of the Army
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th November last No 2976 on the subject of the New Batteries on the Mount, which I have inspected.

In reply I beg to state, that the circumstances are so entirely altered since those works were projected, that the instructions I there received from the Commander in Chief are now quite inapplicable. The object was to place six heavy Guns in Commanding positions,

in

in the shortest possible time and to bring the Ammunition to a place where it could be protected. As the Cantonment will I suppose never again be denuded of troops as it then was, and as there appears to be no probable immediate call for the use of the Batteries, so that there would be time to construct works in a substantial manner if it were deemed proper, I Conclude that the whole case must be reconsidered.

With respect to the state of the works, I find that there are several places where the exterior Revetment has fallen down. This of course was to be expected, it could not be supposed that loose earth just thrown up and revetted only with rough stone, could stand the extraordinary falls of

of Rain, that received immediately after the execution of the works. Even Masonry walls would probably have given way, had loose earth been filled in behind them and immediately saturated by such Rain.

If it should not be intended to Construct permanent works at those points I would beg to suggest that the present ones should be repaired, only taking more time and care in the rough stone revetment, and giving it a little more slope. That the work was not badly executed Considering its nature and the haste with which it was done was proved, by the Batteries standing perfectly the firing of 10 Inch Howitzers.

I find that the Magazine has not yet been built. It seems to me that under

under any circumstances, that will be a good position for one, and I would therefore suggest that it should be completed. To leave the whole of the Ammunition in the present Magazine, completely out of the way of all protection, seems clearly inadvisable.

The road along the face of the Hill also has been left unfinished. This work must be executed with some care, for if large stones are allowed to roll down the Hill they will injure the buildings at the foot of it. The blasting also must be done cautiously I think it should be completed, as a necessary communication between the Magazine and the two Batteries.

I conclude, that nothing further can be planned about works on the Mount,

Mount, till the great fundamental points in the question of the Military occupation of Sudiya, are settled by the superior authorities, that is, to what extent the different Cantonments are to be made really defensible.

Fort St. George
2d Nov. 1857

/ Sgd / A. Cotton Colonel
Commandant of Engrs.

/ A true Copy /

/ Signed / Arthur Anstey
Ag Asst D Mr General
of the Army.

Resolved that Colonel Arthur Cotton, Commandant of Engineers be requested to submit his views as to the defensive works to be permanently constructed at the Mount and also, in communication with the Quarter Master Generals Department, at such other stations as may be

be indicated by the Commander in Chief

2 Colonel Collard's reports will be addressed to the Commander in Chief in order to their being laid before Government with His Excellency's observations and Plans and Estimates, as may be determined upon, until there be called for in the usual course through the Department of Public Works

(Signed) C. A. Browne C.E.

Secy to Government

To

The Commandant of Engineers

" Quarter Master General

" Department Public Works

&c

Edward Smith

D/f to Com.ds Nov.r 1857 N.o 1-2

Public Works 1858 Dep.t
D.o to Cov.s 2 Febuary
N.o 129

Sup.t Roads Prince Cou.d
in the Military Dep.t
Dated 11th Jan.y 1858.
Received 18th

No 107

Requesting the Commander of Engineers to submit his views, as to the defensive Works to be permanently constructed at the Mounts and also in connection with the Quarter Master General's Department, at such other Stations as may be indicated by the Commander in Chief.

E.M.G. in the Military Dep.t
of 30th April 1858 No 1068 with Cov.s
20 July

No 65006.

No 178 - 1st February 1858
With an order &c

No 178.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with reference to his letter dated 12th November 1857 No 5780.

JR

Fort St. George
1st February 58

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Div.n 2.