M.R.O. 1—2,000—22-11-43.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2247 Press

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

No. 130. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 16th November 1858, No. 4139.

Read the following papers.

Extract Minutes Consultation, Public Works Department.

(Here enter 8th December 1857, No. 2279.)

Letter from Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army ; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 22nd October 1858, No. $\frac{266}{498}$.

SIR,

By order of the Commander in Chief I beg to enclose a Minute by His Excellency on his recent visit to Trichinopoly which has been detained some days awaiting the Medical Report alluded to therein.

A sketch of Trichinopoly shewing the proposed site of the Fortified Post and new Barracks goes by to-day's Banghy.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Trichinopoly.

1. Accompanied by the Quarter Master General of the Army I left Ootacamund on the 29th September to proceed to Trichinopoly, with a view to making a minute inspection of that station.

2. I requested Colonel Arthur Cotton, Commandant of Engineers, to meet me at Trichinopoly ; but in consequence of his absence from Madras, having proceeded on duty to the Godavery Works in the Northern Division, my summons did not reach him in sufficient time, and I have therefore, much to my regret, not had the benefit of his valuable professional assistance on the present occasion.

3. I have now to submit the following observations on Trichinopoly for the earliest consideration of Government.

4. The position of the Troops, of the Arsenal, the Magazine, the Military Stores and Material, and of the whole of the public buildings (purely I believe from accident, indifference and inadvertence) is more faulty than the greatest amount of mischievous ingenuity could have designedly contrived and pre-arranged.

5. Three miles from the Cantonment in the heart of the Town of Trichinopoly with a native population of sixty thousand souls, of whom about $\frac{1}{4}$ are Mahommedans, in an old Hindoo Temple and two other Native buildings, are the Arsenal and Magazine containing the entire stock of service Ammunition, the Guns, Military Stores and Material of every description, the Camp Equipage, the Commissariat and even the Medical Stores of the whole Southern Division of the Army.

6. Further the Temple is cut in two by a public thoroughfare, leading to the Shrine at the top by a flight of stone steps, open to the world at all hours day and night, without let or hindrance or enquiry.

7. There is no defensive work, not even an enclosure, to secure these Stores and the Ammunition and Material against a sudden rush of any mob. The buildings in which they are contained, as I have already said, are in the midst of an open and populous Native Town, three miles

distant from any Military support, and with no other protection than a Native guard, to which a small detail of Europeans has been added since April last, on the arrival at Trichinopoly of a portion of the 2nd European Light Infantry.

8. The position of the Arsenal and Magazine at Delhi has been commented upon in terms of just severity, but it was perfect security compared with what I have endeavoured to describe as existing at Trichinopoly.

9. The Military Cantonment has been seemingly formed by mere chance, without any plan or the slightest regularity, and with no regard to the several Corps affording support and protection to one another and to the different public establishments and buildings. Each Corps is separated from the other by a distance varying from half a mile to two and a half miles, the intervening spaces being either under Rice cultivation or occupied by bodies of native squatters who have been allowed to settle themselves wherever they pleased, or could arrange for with the owners of the land, for there are no strictly Military limits for the Cantonment, and all the ground is the private property of individuals (Natives.)

10. The force I proposed for Trichinopoly is specified in the margin.*

* 2 Light Field Batteries.
1 Reserve Company of Artillery.
1 Regiment of Light Cavalry.
1 Regiment of European Infantry.
3 Regiments of Native Infantry.
See letter to Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Durand, of 16th June 1858, a copy is on the records of Government.

11. At present the Regiment of European Infantry occupies partly temporary Barracks hastily run up for its immediate accommodation, and partly a set of old Bomb-proof and tiled Barracks long since condemned, and most properly so, as wholly unfit for British Soldiers.

12. The single Company of Artillery with Light Field Battery attached, now here, occupies a building built as a private residence by a Gentleman of the Civil Service and purchased by Government some years ago, it is calculated to afford accommodation, at the prescribed scale, to 70 men while the strength of a complete Company of European Artillery, including Drivers, on the proposed increased establishment, will reach to 165 of all ranks.

13. The whole of the Hospitals at the Station, European and Native, are of an inferior description, and the same may be justly said of the "Places of Arms" of the Native Corps with the exception of those of the left Regiment (the 34th Light Infantry) which are good and quite suitable for one Regiment though altogether insufficient for the two Corps to which they are at present assigned.

14. It is thus apparent that a complete set of Buildings will have to be provided for the Troops and Establishments of the entire Garrison.

15. As regards expence therefore there can be little or no difference whether the present site of the Cantonment is retained or an entirely new one is selected.

16. I would therefore very strongly recommend that the present objectionable ground be abandoned and a new Cantonment formed on the high open plateau of the Brigade Parade Ground. There is ample space for the whole of the Troops and Establishments, the ground is wholly unobjectionable, it stands sufficiently high with a slope all round to insure thorough drainage in every direction, an abundant supply of water, and of good quality is available, and it is susceptible of being made an excellent Military position.

Note. Many of the Wells in the present Cantonment are brackish and unfit for use.

17. A fortified post formed in the compound of the house now occupied by Mr. Bird the Collector of the District, and armed with four 68 Pounders and two 8 Inch Howitzers, would amply protect the whole Cantonment, completely overawe the Town of Trichinopoly, and Command the approaches to the Bridges over the Cauvery and Coleroon. On the main lines of communication Northward to Madras, Vellore, Salem, and Bangalore, Eastward towards Tanjore and the sea port of Negapatam, and Westward towards Palghaut, Coimbatore and the Neilgherries.

18. I think the European Barracks should be two storied, and if public Quarters are provided for the Officers as I have before suggested, the Station will be much more compact and more easily defensible.

19. I may add that the houses now occupied by the Officers attached to the Troops at Trichinopoly are rented by them from the owners (Native Speculators) who, if the station is removed as I have recommended, may be perhaps entitled to some little consideration for the loss they will sustain; though I am aware that in Bengal, under similar circumstances, compensation was invariably refused to House Proprietors, whether Officers of the Army or private speculators.

20. It appears to me that an Arsenal is not required at Trichinopoly. I think every requirement in that respect will be fully met by haviang a Magazine sufficiently capacious to contain the regulated supply of Ammunition for the Troops dependent upon it. A small Depôt for ordinary Stores and Tools &c., and a few spare Pieces of Ordnance* is also desirable.

* One 68 Pounder.
One 8 In. Howitzer.
Two 9 Pounders.
One 24 Pounder Howitzer.
Four 5½ Mortars.

21. Major Lawford† objected to the ground I have recommended for the new Cantonment alleging that it was not a healthy situation. The accompanying Report by a Committee of experienced Medical Officers will however be admitted to dispose effectually of that objection, as also of Major Lawford's recommendation in favor of the other site suggested by him.

† His letter of the 26th November 1857.

22. The present Jail is within a couple of hundred yards of the Town. It should be removed from so very objectionable a position. Captain Moberly the District Engineer recommends that a new Jail should be erected on the ground on which the present European Infantry Barracks stand, and in this recommendation I quite concur.

23. The contents of the Arsenal and Magazine, and the Commissariat and Medical Stores, should be removed *at the earliest practicable period* from their present dangerous and insecure position. Until permanent buildings for them are completed these Stores and Materiel should be placed, I think, in such portion of the old Infantry Barracks as may be required to contain them, and one or two more Ranges of Temporary Barracks ought to be erected *on emergency* for the accommodation of the Troops who will, under this arrangement, have to be removed from their present Quarters.

24. About half the old Barracks will I think suffice for these purposes, and the portion appropriated should be as much as possible isolated from the rest and enclosed within a strong paling placed across the Barrack square and 20 or 30 yards beyond the outer walls of the buildings that may be taken.

25. A Bridge is much required over the River Ambrawutty at Cooroor, where all the great lines of communication meet, from North, South, East and West; at present the passage of the River is made in Boats of the most primitive description, they are of wicker work covered with raw hides, flat bottomed and shaped like a very deep bowl. One hour was occupied in ferrying our Bullock Coaches (two) over the stream, though fifty men under the superintendence of the very active and energetic Tahsildar of the place, Bilegherry Rao, were employed.

26. At this rate the passage of a single Regiment and its Baggage, could not certainly be effected in a less time than five or six days.

27. The roads are very fair in the Coimbatore District, and attention is paid to keeping them in repair. In the Trichinopoly District there was no made road, nothing beyond a track through heavy sand, and travelling there, was therefore most tedious and laborious. In both Districts the Bullocks were very inferior.

28. The leading points here adverted to have been made known to Captain Moberley. He has been intructed to place himself in communication with Colonel A. Cotton who thoroughly knows Trichinopoly, and both Officers will communicate their views to me in a joint report which I shall lose no time in forwarding for the information of Government.

Ootacamund,
12th October 1858.

(Signed) PATRICK GRANT, Lieut.-Genl.,
Commander in Chief.

Letter from Major General R. BUDD, Commanding Southern Division; to Colonel F. A. REID, Quarter Master General of the Army, Ootacamund, dated Trichinopoly, 19th October 1858, No. 993.

SIR,

In forwarding the annexed copy of a report on the several sites proposed for European Barracks, I have the honor to observe with regard to para. 2 the objections to the present site are well known from personal observation to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. With regard to para. 3 that the opinion of the Medical Officers is correct as far as regards the drainage and level of the locality of the two sites therein named.

3. With regard to para. 4 which refers to the site selected as most eligible and on which experiments for water are in progress, the Board are mistaken as regards *the certainty of an inexhaustible supply* of water; I gave and do now give my opinion that water in any quantity can be procured in this neighbourhood, and I trust this point will be permanently established beyond doubt on the completion of the trials now being made for water by the District Engineer.

4. The space for all buildings required is certainly ample, and the position well situated as regards the fortified post and Cantonment in general, should the former be placed, as proposed, on, or near the site of the present Collector's house, and the latter in the direction of Fakeer's Rock.

To Major General BUDD, Commauding Southern Division, Trichinopoly, October 16th 1858, No. 11.

SIR,

1. Pursuant to the instructions you personally conveyed to us to examine and report upon the present site of the European Barracks at this Station, three other formerly proposed sites contiguous to the Church for new Barracks for a European Regiment, and a site in the neighbourhood of the Fakeer's Rock considered by His Excellency the Commander in Chief as the most eligible situation for a new Cantonment in toto: we do ourselves the honor now to state for your information, that we have carefully examined the different localities indicated above, and our report is as follows.

2. The ground presently occupied by the European Barracks is open to many objections.

3. Two (of the three) of the sites near the Church, embracing respectively the compounds or properties known as Belfont and Captain Underwood's, we regard as ineligible from the fact that they are the lowest (one a degree less so than the other) in that locality, and receive the whole of the drainage from the grounds which extend in the direction of the Fakeer's Rock. The rear of any Barracks on these spots would be in close proximity to nullahs and water-way.

4. We can however discover no objection to the ground (third site near the Church) which forms a part of the Brigade Parade Ground. It is high; the soil is good; there is an inexhaustible supply of good-water, as reported by competent authority to the Major General Commanding the Division; and ample space; so that if a large area be appropriated in the first instance the deteriorating encroachments of Squatters need not be feared.

5. We lastly have to advert to our examination of the ground proposed by His Excellency Sir Patrick Grant, for the erection of a new Cantonment in its entirely entertaining as we did a due sense of the important nature of our duties, and that whether such a design were fulfilled or abandoned we should be regarded the initiatory instruments, we devoted our best effort to acquaint ourselves thoroughly with the essential features of the spot. The result of our investigations is, that we unanimously pronounce it to be a desirable site and infinitely superior to that of the existing Cantonment. It is elevated; exposed to the full force and action of the winds which we conceive should be rather courted for their purifying influence than shunned; the soil is red and porous; water is of good quality, and readily come-at-able at little depths; free from large nullahs, and the drainage is quick and perfect; if the contemplated Cantonment be built in

the shape of a semi-lune, with one horn resting on the Race-course, and the other about centre of Brigade Exercise Ground, with the concavity facing N. E., all undulations of surface would be completely avoided.

We have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) JOHN LOVELL,
Acting Superintending Surgeon, S. D.

(Signed) J. DORWARD,
Garrison Surgeon.

(Signed) C. B. FORD, Surgeon, D. D.,
2nd European Light Infantry.

---

1. The Governor in Council approves generally of the Commander in Chief's views as expressed in the foregoing Minute, but reserves a final decision on the subject, pending the receipt of the report referred to in the concluding para.

2. The correspondence will meanwhile be communicated to the Department Public Works with a view to the necessary Plans and Estimates being submitted for giving immediate effect to His Excellency's suggestions contained in paras. 23 and 24.

3. Paras. 25 and 27 will be considered in the Department Public Works.

No. 131. ORDER THEREON, No. 2641; dated 7th December 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer. Colonel Lawford will be pleased to submit the Plans and Estimates, called for in para. 2, and report on the points alluded no in paras. 25 and 27 of the Minute of His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

70

Military Department

No. 4139.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

16th November 1858.

Read the following

papers.

Extract M/C. Public Works Dept.

Fort William 8 December 1857

No. 2279

From the Quarter Master General of Stores

Fort William 22d. October 1858 No. 246/496

1. The Governor in Council

approves generally of the Commander

in Chief's views as expressed in the

foregoing Minutes, but reserves

a final decision on the subject,

pending the receipt of the reports

referred to in the concluding para.

2. The correspondence will

meanwhile

meanwhile be communicated to the Department Public Works, with a view to the necessary plans and Estimates being submitted, for giving immediate effect to His Excellency's suggestions contained in paras 23 and 24.

3. Paras 25 and 27 will be considered in the Department Public Works.

I signed H. Marshall Colonel
Dy Adjt Genl

To The Department Public Works.
with L 5247 and 2 Enclosures and 1 Plan.
" Quarter Master General.
" D. Leonard Smith

Cons: 8th Dec 57 No 84485

From Off Ch Engr
10th Dec 57 - C. No 3012 ins
Cons: 21 to 88-89 —
Para 3. Fitting up of Barrack
From the Secy of State to the Secy
of War dated 4th Dec 57
& No 857 in Cons.
Further Desp Cons 678
of 1861

No 32 & 131

War Office 1858 Depart
Cons: 7th Dec
No 2774

Extract from Cons
in the Military Depat
dated 16th Nov 1858
Received 19th
No 4139

Enclosed
No 2641 of 4th December 1858.
(Approved generally of
the Commander in Chiefs
views with the amendments
proposed by him for plac-
ing the Encampment of Fire Brigade
in a more secure footing but
reserve final decision till
the report referred to in his
Excellency's Minute shall be sub-
Meanwhile direct that Estimate
be called from the D.P.W. for
the Construction of the Tempo-
rary Barrack (with) recom-
mended by His Excellency
With an order

No 2641

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Offg
Chief Engineer Colonel
Lamford will be pleased
to submit the Plans and
Estimates, called for in
para 2, and report on the
points alluded to in paras
25 and 29, of the Minute
of His Excellency the
Commander in Chief.

Foot Sergeant
7th December 58

WHB

10 Copies to the Offg Chief Engr Dispd 8th
7 Copies to the Mily Depat with Encls