

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons dated 9-4-1858

G.O. No.	589	Press Mis.
<i>9-10-</i> Dated	31 - 3 -	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 9.

Read the following.

No. 945.

FORT WILLIAM,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

The 26th February 1858.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

As requested in Telegraph Message of 21st Instant, from Acting Secretary to Government of Madras, the undersigned has the honor to forward copy of Captain Peel's Report on the health of the Fort of Allahabad.

(Signed) H. YULE, Captain,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

MEMO. BY CAPTAIN PEEL, C. B. R. N.

Health of the Fort of Allahabad.

The Fort of Allahabad has always been unhealthy to European Troops, but I believe the cause to be very much in our own control, and not due to the locality.

The chief defect is the sewerage, which consists of flat, shallow trenches without any fall, that require, during the day, frequent flushing and sweeping by manual labour, and a plentiful sprinkling of lime. These trenches lead to the walls of the Fort facing the rivers, and there their contents are discharged, but no arrangement whatever is made to convey them to the water when it has receded from the walls. It is at that season of the year, which is the most unhealthy throughout the country, that immediately under the walls may be seen foul, stagnant, pools of sewerage.

As the Arsenal and Commissariat of Allahabad employ during the day many hundreds of people, a proper sewerage is of the greatest importance to the Garrison who are living there day and night. It is the Sentries, who pace the walls, who are chiefly struck down with sickness and the cause is too often attributed to the night air, and not to the poison from below.

As a remedy, I propose that there should be but one outlet of sewerage, which should be carried with a good fall to the South-East Angle* of the Fort. The Jumna, at all times of the year, rushes against this Angle with a rapid stream. I would also suggest the employment of an 8 or 10 horse power stationary Engine for raising water to flush the drains, and to convey a constant supply of water to every room in the Fort. The head of water thus maintained would be a reservoir in case of fire in the Arsenal. The same Engine might be used with great advantage to economise labor in the Carpenter's and Smith's Shops in the Arsenal.

As the interior of Allahabad is necessarily confined in space every thing that tends to reduce the number of men and animals employed within the Fort, must improve its health. I believe therefore, that, in a sanitary point of view alone, the running a siding from the Railway along the bank of the Jumna, where the vessels discharge their cargo straight through the Fort, into the Arsenal, and along the Commissariat stores would be of the greatest value. No hackery bullock or driver would then be allowed within the interior, and I have daily seen such a number of them, and such a constant traffic, that no piece of ground was sweet. The advantages of this siding, in all other points, especially in economy, need not be touched on here.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 9th April 1858.

I have now mentioned I believe, the two great causes of sickness which must equally concern all the residents, but there are other evils more particularly affecting the Troops.

1st. The floor of the Barracks, in both stories, is in great want of repair, the consequence is that any attempt at sweeping produces an intolerable dust, and the sweeping is therefore postponed till the ground is well watered, which produces an evil more insidious than the dust.

2nd. The offices of the Barracks are much too close, they prevent a free circulation to the lower floor, and the heat radiating from their roof strikes into the upper. In a lapse of years, encroachments and additions to these Offices have been allowed in the shape of Stables and Bakeries. There is also a most objectionable Powder Magazine. I would therefore strongly urge the sweeping away of all these buildings, which are really of paltry value; and, in lieu thereof building a straight range of Commissariat Stores and Barrack conveniences along the whole east front of the Fort, and along which the Railway siding would run.

I would also suggest, though it only affects indirectly the sanitary question, that the fine road in rear of the Barracks should be continued straight through to the wall of the Fort overhanging the Jumna, and that all the buildings on the east side, which are shewn on the Map as belonging to the Arsenal, should be given to the Commissariat. The Arsenal has made its encroachments in other directions, and is large enough, and the improved ventilation by this road among the present cooped up enclosures and foul corners would be most beneficial.

The enclosures in front of the Officer's quarters should all be swept away.

There should be no admission into the Fort except at the Main Gate, and the Jumna Gate should only be available for the personal cleanliness of the Natives in the day time. The Guards therefore at these two gates might furnish all the Sentries, and by looking to the comfort of the Guard-rooms I am certain much might be done for the health of the Troops. The fewer the Sentries, the better would be the health of the Garrison.

As the Ganges falls, the Engineer of the Fort should facilitate the drainage of the Marshes by cutting open drains, and carrying off all stagnant pools. This is an obvious duty, but I think it has never been done.

(Signed) WILLIAM PEEL, Captain R. N.,

To His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

&c., &c., &c.,

N. B. The accompanying Chart does not shew recent alterations and many of the buildings have been appropriated to other purposes than those denominated.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, No. 589; dated 31st March 1858.

Ordered that Captain Peel's Memo. on the health of the Fort of Allahabad be forwarded to the Chief Engineer, Town Major, Inspector General of Hospitals and the Municipal Commissioners as directed in Extract Minutes of Consultation 2nd Instant, No. 351.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

No 945
Fort William
Public Works Department

The 26th February 1858.

Office Memorandum

As requested in Telegram Message
of 21st Instant from Acting Secretary to Govern-
ment of Madras, the undersigned has the honor
to forward copy of Captain Peel's Report on the
health of the Fort of Allahabad

H. Gule
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India

Memo. by Captain Peel C.B. R.N.

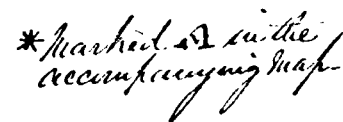
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The chief defect is the sewerage, which consists of flat shallow trenches without any fall, that require during the day, frequent flushing and sweeping by manual labour, and a plentiful sprinkling of lime. These trenches lead to the walls of the Fort facing the rivers, and there their contents are discharged, but no arrangement whatever is made to convey them to the water when it has receded from the walls. It is at that season of the year, which is the most unhealthy throughout the Country, that immediately under the walls may be seen foul, stagnant pools of sewerage.

At the Arsenal and Commissariat of Allahabad employ during the day many hundreds of people, a proper sewerage is of the greatest importance to the Garrison who are living there day and night. It is the Scutries, who face the walls who are chiefly struck down with sickness, and the cause is too often attributed to the night air, and not to the poison from below.

As a remedy, I propose that there should be but one outlet of sewerage, which should be carried with a good fall to the South East Angle of the Fort.

*Marked  in the accompanying map.

The

The Sumna, at all times of the year, rushes against this angle with a rapid stream. I would also suggest the employment of an 8 or 10 horse power Stationary Engine for raising water to flush the drains, and to convey a constant supply of water to every room in the Fort. The head of water thus maintained would be a reservoir in case of fire in the Arsenal. The same engine might be used with great advantage to economise labour in the Carpenters' and Smiths' shops in the Arsenal.

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2nd The offices of the Barracks are much too close; they prevent a free circulation to the lower floor, and the heat radiating from their roof struts into the upper. In all these years, encroachments and additions to these offices have been allowed in the shape of statutes and bakeries. There is also a most objectionable powder magazine*. I would therefore strongly urge the sweeping away of all these buildings, which are really of no value; and, in lieu thereof, building a straight range of Commissariat stores and Barrack conveniences along the whole East front of the Fort, and along which the Railway siding would run.

I would also suggest, though it only affects indirectly the sanitary question, that the fine road in rear of the Barracks should be continued straight through to the wall of the Fort, overhanging the Sumna*, and that all the buildings on the East side, which are shown on the Map as belonging to the Arsenal, should be given to the Commissariat. The Arsenal has made its encroachments in other directions, and is large enough; and the improved ventilation by this road among the present cooped up enclosures

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As to the ranges falls, the Engineer of the Fort should facilitate the drainage of the marshes by cutting open drains, and carrying off all stagnant pools. This is an obvious duty, but I think it has never been done.

Signed William Peel Capt. R.A.

To

His Excellency

The Commander in Chief.

Y. Y. Y.

N.B. The accompanying chart does not shew recent alterations and many of the buildings have been appropriated to other purposes than those denominated.

W. Peel

True copy

H.W.

Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India

Wm. Ford 1838 to 1847
D. C. and G. 1847.

Thos. C. H. Secretary
to the Govt of India

Dated 26th February
 Received 10th March 1888
 729/65.

Increasing Capital
Fidelity to the Standard on the
Heart of the West of
the Standard.

Aug 10

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Feb 5 89. ²⁵th March 1888
with new order.

№ 589

Arthur Hatfield

Telling them on the fourth of the
 1st of October that he forwarded
 to the Chief Engineer, Town
 Major, two packets: one of
 Hospital and the other of
 Commisariat directed in
 their own. 2nd October 1857.

Thos. A. C. (Group) 3
31st March/58

22

59 Copies to the King's Arms. Dup 3/100.
 1 - - - - - Second Magazine
 1 - - - - - Major General's Office
 3 - - - - - Despatched Comms
 4 - - - - - Privy Office