MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

A.D. No.

Press Mark.

Date.

15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th September 1858.

No. 122. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 21st August 1858, No. 3017.

Recording observations on the suggestions contained in a Minute of the Commander in Chief drawn up by His Excellency on Extract Minutes Consultation 10th June No. 2060, passing orders on the proposed Cantonment of Avady. } (Vide Military Consultation, 24th August 1858, Nos. 57-58.)

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, No. 2006; dated 28th September 1858.

Communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer with a request that he will issue orders for including in the Plans and Estimates called for in Extract Minutes Consultation of the 7th August 1858, (No. 1553, para. 2) the buildings referred to in para. 7 of the order in the Military Department above recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 3017.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 21st August 1858.

Read letter from the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters Ootacamund, 24th June 1858, *No.* 134; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

By order of the Commander-in-Chief, I have the honor to enclose for submission to Government, observations which His Excellency has drawn up on Minutes of Consultation, 10th of June No. 2060 passing orders on the proposed Cantonment of Avady.

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Minute by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Ootacamund, 23rd June 1858.

I learn with great regret the determination of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to abandon all idea of establishing a Military Cantonment at Avady, as suggested by me in my Minute of the 1st September 1856.

I desire to offer a few observations on some points on this subject adverted to in the M. C. No. 2060 of the 10th instant which reached me through the Quarter Master General of the Army on the 21st idem.

Entirely admitting the importance of securing the Military position of Fort Saint George—of protecting, and, in case of out-break overawing the Town of Madras and of affording support to the Civil Power—I must continue of opinion that these objects will be best attained, and the health and efficiency and discipline of the Troops most materially promoted, by concentrating the Troops in a separate Cantonment as I have proposed.

Cleared of the mass of people and of the public Offices, which ought to have no place in a strictly Military Fortress, and Garrisoned by half a Regiment of British Infantry and a complete Company of European Artillery, Fort Saint George would be, it appears to me, a stronghold of entire security for those most important Establishments,—the Grand Arsenal the Powder Magazines—the Cap and Bullet Manufactories—the General Treasury—and possibly the Mint—while its guns (if of the longest range and heaviest calibre) would command and overawe the whole Town of Madras on one side and Triplicane on the other—and likewise protect the Sea board.

I also contend that half a Regiment of British Infantry and the two European Depôts (H. M.'s and the East India Company's) at Avady would be in the best position to give aid, should assistance be required, to the Town of Madras and Fort Saint George—and to deal most effectually with any Mutiny of the Native Troops.

If the Railroad should be obstructed, the possibility of which is apprehended, two hours easy marching would suffice to bring the Troops from Avady to Madras.

None can be more opposed than I am, and ever have been, to massing Native Troops *by themselves*: I have always, and consistently, held that the true principle is to intermix, in the same Cantonment or Force (*not in the same Regiment*) Europeans with Natives in the proportion of one of the former to three of the latter—and recent events in Bengal have shewn, in every instance, without one solitary exception, that where this rule has been observed safety has resulted.

At Barrackpore 300 British Soldiers disarmed overawed, and held in check six complete Regiments of Native Infantry—So also at all other Stations where European Troops were quartered *in near proximity to Native Troops*—At Berhampore—at Dinapore (notwithstanding the grossest mismanagement)—at Agra—at Amballa at Ferozepore—at Lahore—at Peshawar &c. &c.—and I venture to affirm that it was the great distance which separated the European from the Native Corps that mainly prevented the out-break at Meerut from being quelled on the instant—and which afforded to the mutineers the opportunity of massacring their European Officers at that and the other Stations where Europeans were not on the spot.

With these examples before us let us not have the two European Depôts isolated as thet are at present at Poonamallee and Arcot—let us not place the Regiments of Native Infantry at Madras in positions where, in the event of mutiny and revolt they will be beyond the reach of being instantly coerced, and their Officers be deprived of efficient protection.

If the proposal to form a separate Cantonment is finally rejected I would offer the following suggestions to consideration.

1st. Improve and enlarge the Barrack accommodation in Fort Saint George to an extent corresponding with the humane and political requirements of the day. I attach no weight whatever to the opinion cited as having been given by the Surgeon of Her Majesty's 44th Regiment in favor of the present Barracks, opposed as it is to the testimony of so many more experienced and sound judging Medical and other Officers—and I unhesitatingly repeat the assertion I made nearly two years ago, that the existing Barracks in Fort Saint George are the worst of which I have any knowledge (that have not been condemned as unfit for use) and altogether unsuitable for British Soldiers.

2nd. Establish the two European Depôts at the Mount—the Head Quarters of the Artillery Regiment—and thus make it a strong and safe position.

The Barracks at Poonamallee have already been long since condemned, as right they should be for they are of the worst description—so that the removal to the Mount of Her Majesty's Depôt cannot materially add to the expense which must be incurred under any circumstances.

Quarters for the Officers of the Depôts should be provided also, House rent and Mess Allowance being withheld from all occupying public Quarters.

3rd. The Gun Carriage Manufactory appears to me to be in an insecure position at present, and I would suggest that it be likewise removed to the Mount—as well for security as that it may be available to afford instruction to the Officers and men of the Artillery on many professional points with which it is very desirable that they should be familiar.

4th. In para. 12 of the M. C. it is admitted that, from certain causes which are described the health of the Native Troops at Madras is unsatisfactory.

In para. 14 on the other hand, it is stated that the printed Returns prepared and issued by the Medical Board, shew that the Presidency has an advantage over the average in almost every respect. I will not attempt to reconcile these conflicting statements—I take my stand on the expediency of placing the Native Troops in a position where they can be effectually controlled and kept in entire subjection by a European Force.

5th. I think too that provision should be made for quartering the European Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Native Corps, and I would recommend that Barracks for them should be built by Government in a suitable position—the cost being met by withholding house rent and Mess Allowance.

I need not I am sure remind the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that at present the Officers of Native Corps stationed at the Presidency experience the greatest difficulty—which is increasing consequent on the large influx of Telegraph and Railway Officials (who reside in the neighbourhood of Perambore and Vepery)—in providing themselves with Quarters, while they are put to an expence, on this account far beyond their means, and to which it is not just that they should be subjected.

The Governor in Council records the following observations on the suggestions contained in the Commander-in-Chief's Minute.

2. It has been already determined upon as soon as possible to improve the Barrack accommodation in Fort Saint George.

3. In Minutes of Consultation 17th June 1858 No. 2162, para. 10, it was proposed to transfer the Arsenal, Powder Magazine, Gun Carriage, and Gun Powder Manufactories and the Bullet Factory to the vicinity of the Cantonment at the Mount.

4. When the Commandant of Engineers submits his report on this plan, the proposition to establish the two European Infantry Depôts at the Mount will be taken into consideration at the same time, if the Commander-in-Chief should still think it advisable. It is suggested however whether the Shervaroy Hills would not afford a better location for the Depôts referred to.

5. It is opposed to the general practice and it does not appear expedient to build quarters for European Commissioned Officers.

6. The Non-Commissioned Officers of the Native Regiment at Perambore are provided with Public Quarters.

7. As there are no houses whatever suited for Non-Commissioned Officers available for a considerable distance around "Loudon's Gardens," which has been recently purchased for the location of one of the Native Regiments (in lieu of the Vepery Lines,) Quarters for them will be built by Government. In the Plans and Estimates called for in Minutes of Consultation 9th July 1858 No. 2455, the requisite buildings for this purpose will accordingly be included.

8. Ordered that the entire correspondence connected with the subject of the foregoing Minute be forwarded to the Court of Directors.

(True Extract & Copies.)

W. A. Wapshare Eager
Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Commandant of Engineers.
" Department Public Works.
" Military Auditor General.
" Accountant General.
" Town Major.
" Adjutant General.

Exd. R. Spears.

Off Corr 7th July 1858 No 49-50
Ry to
do 20 Feb 62-63

Inclose Horfield's Depatch
Cons 28 Septr
No 2135

Ex. Hond Cons in the
Military Department
Dated 21st Augt
Received 8th Sept Augt 58
No 3017

No 2706.

Communicated to the
Offg Colng Engineer with a req
that he will give orders for inv
-ing in the Plans and Estima
Called for in Extract Minn Cons
the 7th August 1858 (No 53) para 2
buildings referred to in para 7
order in the Military Department
above recorded.

Genl Sir George
28th Sept 1858
10 Copies to the Offg Chief Engr & Disbt Offr

Recording observations
on the Suggestions contained
in a minute of the Commander
in Chief Bombay each by Major
Sykes Viz on Sr Pr Clause
No 1060 of 4th August 1858
on the subject of Cantonments
in Bombay Presidency

Written Order
No 2706 28th Sept 1858

No 22 + 23