M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 1573/57

G.O. No. 563 Press / Mis.

2071

Dated 12—3—1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 70. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 7th March 1859, No. 903.

Communicating to the Public Works Department correspondence relating to the Sanitary condition of the Cantonment of Saint Thomas' Mount, in view to instructions being issued for the immediate filling in of the Pit in the Horse Field Battery Lines, and for the alteration and improvement of the offensive Drain complained of, &c. (Vide Military Consultation, 8th March 1859, Nos. 99-100.)

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, No. 563; dated 12th March 1859.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer who will take immediate measures for giving effect to the order of Government in the Military Department.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 903.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 7th March 1859.

Read copy of a letter from the Director General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, 3rd March 1859, *No.* 350; *to the Quarter Master General of the Army.*

With reference to my letter No. 88 of the 17th January last, and the correspondence therewith forwarded, relating to the sanitary condition of the cantonment of Saint Thomas' Mount, I have the honor again to bring the subject to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in order that immediate steps may be taken, to remedy the nuisances complained of.

2. I beg to forward for the information of His Excellency, copy of a letter* from the Acting Superintending Surgeon centre division, stating that four cases of typhoid fever have terminated fatally in the Artillery hospital, and that two residents of the cantonment, one an Officer of the Artillery, are now dangerously ill with this disease.

*No. 56—2nd instant.

3. I am given to understand, that two Companies of Her Majesty's 44th Regiment, are to be located in the Horse Artillery lines at the station. It is very probable that many of the men will be affected by typhoid fever, unless immediate steps are taken to remedy the sanitary defects lately brought to notice.

4. I need not remind His Excellency, that "typhoid" fever, is as Mr. Kellie observes, "the invariable product of animal decomposition"—and that fevers of this description, have of late years been on the increase, both in Madras and Saint Thomas' Mount, the disease being attributable entirely to an atmosphere, poisoned by effluviæ, from open sewers, privies or other places, where animal excretions are undergoing decomposition.

From the Acting Superintending Surgeon Centre Division, Saint Thomas' Mount, 2nd March 1859, *No.* 56; *to the Officiating Secretary, Director General Medical Department.*

I beg again to bring to the notice of the Director General, that the Pit in the Horse Field Battery lines remains unclosed. It is still full of liquid filth, emitting a most offensive odour, and I have no hesitation in saying, acting most injuriously upon the health of the cantonment. Several cases of fever of a typhoid type have recently occurred in this cantonment, one in a lady, whose recovery was for some days despaired of, another, in an Officer (Lieutenant Foster) who continues still in a very precarious state—and others have occurred* in the Artillery Hospital.

*4 *Cases of Fever assuming a typhoid type, have recently died at this station—2 in the Royal, and 2 in the Madras Artillery.*

I entirely attribute the occurrence of this particular form of disease, to the absence of proper sanitary arrangements, it is the invariable product of animal decomposition, and it must be apparent to the Director General, that nothing can be more discouraging to the sanitary Officer, or tend more to render him indifferent to the discharge of the important duties committed to him, than to find his recommendations unheeded, and that an evil of the description alluded to, and the offensive drain immediately at the back of the hospital, should continue for months after they have been brought to the notice of the authorities, and even after orders have been issued for their removal. I feel persuaded, that unless some comprehensive measure of sanitary reform is introduced and enforced into "the Mount," that diseases of the fatal character above alluded to, will become more prevalent, and the general health of the cantonment seriously affected.

Communicated to Department Public Works, with a view to instructions being issued for the immediate filling in of the Pit referred to in the foregoing correspondence, and for such alteration and improvement of the offensive Drain complained of, as may in communication with the medical authorities at the Mount, be found requisite.

2. The Commander-in-Chief will be requested to call upon the Superintending Surgeon centre division, to submit without delay, a statement of the measures of sanitary reform, requiring the sanction of Government, and which may be deemed requisite to preserve the general health of the cantonment.

(True Extract and Copies.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Department Public Works. With 20 spare Copies

" Quarter Master General.

" Director General Medical Department.

Exd. J. Davis.

P. Works 1859 Reports
Dy to Cons. St Marchs

No. 566

Extract Mints = Cons.
in the Military Dept.

Dated 7th March 1859.
Rd 11th } No. 903
From the Chief Engr. 4th April 1859
6 N. 810 in Cons. 5th & 28th Ult.
Enc Proceedings. Mily. Depart. 21st
M.D. 1859 C No. 1047 in Cons. 10 May.

Communicating to the P.W. Dept. correspondence relating to the Sanitary Condition of the Cantonment of St. Thomas' Mount in view to instructions being issued for the immediate filling in of the Pit in the Horse Field Battery lines and for the alteration & improvement of the offensive drains complained of &c.

R. 563 — 12 March

With an order

No. 563

Communicated to the Chief Engineer who will take immediate measures for giving effect to the order of Government in the Military Department.

Fort St. George
12th March 1859

To Copy to the Chief Engr. Dept. 12 with E.R.C. Re. 203.

No. 70 1/4.