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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Despatches to England

<i>Copy</i> G.O. No. <u>1</u>	Press Mis.
Dated <u>9-1-</u>	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PUBLIC.

No. 1 of 1860.

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE SECRETARY

OF STATE FOR INDIA.

RIGHT HONORABLE SIR,

1. We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters in this department dated 20th October 1859 Nos. 27 and 28, the former having reference to our proceedings relating to the works on the sea face of Fort Saint George, and the latter to the verandahs ordered by us to be built to the barracks in the fort.

2. Respecting the former of these works you state your concurrence in the disapproval expressed by the Government of India, and observe that to authorize an expenditure of nearly two lacks, is beyond the competency even of that Government. And with regard to the barracks you signify dissatisfaction that the execution of the work was ordered by this Government without awaiting sanction from Calcutta. It appears to us that both these despatches were written under some misapprehension of the facts; and we now beg therefore to bring those facts to your recollection.

3. We have to observe, in the first place, that the alteration made in the plan of the restorative works on the sea face of the fort, by our resolution of the 3rd May 1859, received the unqualified approval of the Government of India; the only point, therefore, which we have now to deal with is the supposed informality of our proceeding.

4. On this we have first to mention that the work was urgent. This fact was several years ago so fully recognized that in 1854 the Honorable the Court of Directors gave authority to this Government to proceed at once with such of the repairs then recommended, though not formally sanctioned, as might be considered most urgent.

Military Despatch 28th June 1854
No. 53.

5. Again Lord Stanley in his Military despatch dated 7th April 1859 No. 46, writing of these fortifications, informed us of his conclusion "that it is necessary to maintain Fort Saint George for the protection of the seat of the Government and of the commercial interests of Madras, and that all proper and necessary measures should be adopted as early as practicable to place the fort in as much security against attack as circumstances admit."

6. Further we beg to point out that under instructions from the late Court of Directors in the despatch above quoted,* estimates for the restoration of the fortification, to the aggregate amount of Rupees 14,37,210 were prepared some years ago by the Chief Engineer, of which Rupees 4,74,550 represented the works necessary to the sea face. Of this latter sum works to the amount of Rupees 1,12,000 had been actually sanctioned by the Government of India,† and were in course of execution at the date of our order of May 1859; and there was no doubt whatever that the whole of the remaining estimates would likewise be sanctioned.

* June 28th 1854 No. 53.
April 1856.

† 18th January 1858 No. 267.

7. The works sanctioned in our order just quoted were estimated to cost Rupees 1,80,000, and works subsequently sanctioned on the 1st October to the amount of Rupees 18,500, added to the amount expended prior to the order, being Rupees 31,367, and a small estimate of Rupees 8,775, sanctioned in April, raise the total cost of the sea face, under the new plan of proceeding, to Rupees 2,38,642. Thus under the new plan, the fortifications of the sea face were to be restored at a total cost of little more than two lacks and a quarter, instead of four lacks and three quarters; and according to the concurrent opinion of the highest Military and Military Engineering authorities of this Presidency, the new works would be far more effectual than those before designed; an opinion, we may remark, subsequently fully confirmed by the Calcutta

competency

authorities. Such being the facts, and the urgency of the case undoubted, it appeared to us that we were not committing even an irregularity in sanctioning an expenditure on the newly planned works, only half of what had been either actually or virtually sanctioned for those before designed; and we trust that when the facts are thus before you, you will see that the censure contained in the concluding part of the second paragraph of your despatch No. 27 is not applicable.

8. As regards the verandah to the barracks, noticed in your letter No. 28, we beg to refer you to paragraphs 6 to 8 of Lord Stanley's letter of the 7th April 1859 already cited. You will observe that this subject in common with that of the fortifications had been under consideration for years past; that the defectiveness of the barrack accommodation had been fully admitted, and that Lord Stanley was anxious that measures for its improvement should be adopted without loss of time. We admit that technically and formally the approval of the Government of India ought to have been obtained before commencing work; but having the general approval of the Secretary of State, we were of opinion that in a matter of undoubted and urgent necessity, closely affecting the health of the European Regiment in Fort Saint George, our proper course was to take that course which would apply the necessary remedy at the earliest possible time. We therefore directed the immediate execution of the work, reporting the order for the approval of the Government of India which was fully accorded.†

† July 15th 1859 No. 4810.

9. We have only to add that a copy of your despatch No. 28 has been transmitted to the Chief Engineer with orders to attend strictly for the future to the instructions in paragraph 2 respecting plans to accompany estimates.

Proceedings 10th Jan. 1860 No. 80.

Fort Saint George, }
9th Jan. 1860. }

We have the honor to be,

Right Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

Edw. Wm. Thomas.

competency

FORT SAINT GEORGE
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Letter to the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State for India,
Dated 9th January,
No. 1 of 1860.

Replying to the despatches having reference to the
proceedings of this Government, relating to the works
on the sea face of Fort Saint George and to the veran-
dahs to the barracks in the fort.

Ben-Haim
No 1 of 1860.

P.H.O.
SF

To
The Right Honorable
The Secretary of State for India

Right Honorable Sir

P.1. We have the honor
to acknowledge the receipt of
your ^{two} letters in this depart-
ment dated 20th October 1859
Nos 27 and 28, ^{the former} having refer-
ence to our proceedings re-
lating to the Works on the
Sea face of Fort St George,
and to the provision of ad-
ditional accommodation
for the troops in that
Garrison.

2. Respecting the former
of these works you state
your concurrence in the dis-
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W

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faction that the execution of
the work was ordered by this
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It appears to us that both these
despatches were written under
some misapprehension of the
facts, and we now beg therefore
to bring those facts to your re-
collection.

3. We have to observe, in the
first place, that the alteration
made in the plan of the re-
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received the unqualified ap-
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of India; the only point, there-
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Mily. Des. 28th June 1854 No 53.

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4. Again Lord Stanley
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dated 7th April 1859 No 46,
writing informed us of his
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" St. George for the protec-
" tion of the seat of the
" Government and of the
" Commercial interests
" of Madras, and that
" all proper and neces-
" sary measures should
" be adopted as early
as

as practicable to place
the Fort in as much
security against attack
as circumstances admit.

5. Further we beg to point out that under instructions from the late Court of Directors in the Despatch above quoted, ~~which~~

so strongly recognized the
importance of restoring the
fortifications of Fort St.

~~Fortification of Fort St.~~ ^{the estimation of} the fortifications,
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~~purpose~~ to the aggre.

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cf

⁺ June 28/54. a^c 53.

April 1856

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and a small estimate of R. 8775,
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9F
Of this latter sum works
to the amount of Rs. 1,12,000
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~~of the Honorable Court,~~
and were in course of
execution at the date
of our order of May 3rd 1857.

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whatever that the whole

of the remaining estimates

would likewise be sanctioned.
6 The works same =

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229,864

to ~~Refers~~ ~~4,500~~ Thus under
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authorities of this Presidency,

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Calcutta authorities.

Such being the facts, &

the urgency of the case
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Cost 238,642

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of

15 July 1859. 424810
+ July 15. 1859. 424810.

Pro: January 1860 N^o.

13F
of State, we were
of opinion that in
a matter of undoubted
and urgent necessity,
closely
affecting the health
of the European Regiment
in Fort St. George, our
proper course was to
take that course which
would apply the necessary
remedy at the earliest
possible time. We
therefore directed the
immediate execution
of the work, reporting
the order for the ap-
proval of the Govt of
India which was
fully accorded.

& We have only to
add that a copy of
your Despatch N^o 28
has been transmitted

to the Chief Engineer
with orders to attend
strictly for the future
to the instructions in
paragraph 2 respecting
plans ^{to} accompany esti-
-mates.

JH

Fort George
10th January 1860.

PW Depart^t

N^o 1.

Letter to the Right Honble
the Secretary of State
for India.

Dated 10th January 1860.

Origl^l Steamers 14 Jan^y 1860. V.P.
Dup^l for D^o 28th Do^o " V.P.

Cop^y to the Secy of Indus^{try} Ind^{ia}

Replying to the Despatches
having reference to the proceedings
of this Gov^t relating to the works on
the Sea face of Fort George & to
the Verandahs to the Barracks
in the Fort.

Wm. W. W.
for