M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-8-31.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 29.10.38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 444 Press / Mis.

1832

Dated 29—2—1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, for the month of February 1860.

No. 131. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 16th February 1860, No. 686.

Communicating correspondence from the Quarter Master General of the Army in view to the Chief Engineer's attention being called to the objectionable construction in certain buildings on the Rámandúrg hill. (Vide Military Proceedings from 11th to 20th February 1860, Nos. 141 @ 143.)

No. 132. ORDER THEREON, 29th February 1860, No. 444.

The Chief Engineer will submit at an early date an explanation regarding the objectionable construction of the cook rooms and privies referred to in paragraph 3 of the order above recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 17th January 1860, *No.* 19 ; *to the Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.*

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has had before him, forwarded through the Director General Medical Department, the Inspector General of Hospital's report on the Ceded Districts, and being unwilling to lay before Government, at the present time, proposals for improvements or alterations in buildings which would necessarily involve a considerable outlay of money, has desired me to extract for submission, such parts only, as bear on improvements, which whilst apparently urgently needed, are of a nature that may be effected at a comparatively trifling cost, and these are confined to the Hill Sanitarium of Ramandroog.

2. The Inspector General of Hospitals says. "The most extensive and productive Gar-
" den on these Hills, belongs to Colonel Archer, the Officer in Command of the Depôt, who with
" excellent taste has opened out the natural beauties of the Hill, by forming paths around the
" sides, where for the greater portion of the day, one may be protected from the rays of the sun.
" This Garden is contiguous to the Barracks, and is already a favorite place of resort for the
" Convalescent Soldiers, many of whom pass much of their time, and not unfrequently have their
" meals brought to them there.

" Colonel Archer informs me that he anticipates, ere long, returning to England ; there are
" many natives who are eager to take his Garden off his hands, but he is desirous of securing it
" as a Soldiers' Garden, and he suggests that it be placed under charge of a European Pension-
" er, who with his family might find permanent accommodation in the Public Quarters about
" to be built. The Soldiers would then be encouraged to work in the Garden, and one Native
" Mallee and one boy would be all the Establishment required in addition to the Pensioner ; a
" source of recreation of this description for the Soldier is much wanted on the Droog, and I
" very strongly recommend for favorable consideration the acceptance of Colonel Archer's offer."

3. Again—" On visiting the spring in company with Colonel Archer, we agreed that
" measures should be adopted to receive the water as it flows direct from the side of the Hill,
" and not as is now the custom, after it has received vegetable impurities, and has imbibed oxygen
" from the atmosphere, depositing its salts as it undergoes decomposition along the channel,
" which carries it away. A sum of 50 Rupees would amply cover all necessary expenses, and
" this amount I beg to recommend, may be placed at the disposal of the Officer Commanding the
" Droog, for the purpose indicated.

" A large Bazar has sprung up in the neighbourhood of the Barracks, erected without any
" regard to sanitary considerations, it has now become a perfect nuisance, for the outskirts
" around are promiscuously defiled with human ordure and other offal, objectionable as regards
" the salubrity of the station, and disgusting to those who are forced to frequent the locality.
" Immediate steps should be taken to remove this Bazar from the summit of the Plateâu to the
" eastern aspect of the Basin."

4. To secure absolute authority in maintaining a rigid system of conservancy, the Inspector General remarks, " it becomes urgently necessary that the Ramandroog Hill, which is
" now the property of the Zemindar of Soondoor, should if possible, become Government pro-
" perty, and the sole control over it should be vested in Military authority."

5. At present, it appears the Zemindar objects to the slaughter of Bullocks on the Hill, and the Beef consumed by the men comes from Hospett, 12 miles off, an arrangement giving rise to disappointment in many ways.

6. The Inspector General reports that the Cook-rooms and Privies now in course of erection, contiguous to the married men's quarters, are being constructed on a most objectionable plan. In the former, the only egress for the smoke, is by the door and a window close to it. Both the Cook-rooms and Privies should be provided with the means for securing egress for air above, as well as ingress for it below.

7. The Grave-yard surface is so rocky, that before the last grave was dug to a sufficient depth, it became necessary to blast it. A new site was selected by Colonel Archer and the Inspector General, and it is recommended that the 3 Soldiers' graves (the only ones) in the old yard be removed thereto, and it be made the spot for interment for the future. The old burying ground has not yet been consecrated.

8. A short time since, Sir P. Grant received a letter from General Coffin, from which, omitting all recommendations of an expensive nature, the following extract is made.

" Everything connected with Ramandroog, at least as far as climate and scenery, exceeded
" my expectations, and I am surprised that more use has not been made of it, not only as a Sani-
" tarium, but for the location of a small portion of the European Regiment stationed here; it would
" be of immense advantage to the men in a sanitary point of view, it would give them something
" to look forward to, which alone would break the monotony of Barrack life, and produce some
" healthy excitement."

* * * * * * *

" There are other changes required on the Droog; its importance as a Sanitarium is the
" first consideration to the State, and on this account, the whole Plateâu of the Droog should be
" under Military control, and should be made a Military Bazar Station. At present, there is
" the greatest difficulty in procuring supplies for the Europeans, so much so, that only recently,
" Government, on the representaton of the Military authorities, allowed rations to be issued to

" the Staff Serjeants. There is another reason for investing the Commanding Officer of the " Sanitarium, with Police and Magisterial authority, that he may be able to settle complaints " made against European Officers. It is now necessary in such cases, that the parties proceed to " Bellary, unless the Collector happens to be on the spot."

" There is another change very desirable, viz., the removal of the Bazar which is situated on " the best part of the Plateâu for the Barracks. For Natives, the position is much exposed, and " I have every reason to believe that a spot lower down and nearer the water (a good sized " Tank there is on the east side of the Plateâu) would be much more suitable to their habits " and taste, and as the houses generally are of a miserable description, I do not imagine that Go- " vernment can be called upon to pay much in the shape of compensation, some arrangement " will also have to be made in regard to the land on the Droog. As it has been given away " lavishly, without reference to the possible wants of the State or of the community, and many " of the plots thus given have not been occupied by buildings, I have spoken to the Collector " and Magistrate on these points, and he concurs with me in the general advantage to be derived " from their being carried out. Every precaution would of course be taken to secure to the " Civilians, indeed to every European desirous of taking refuge on the Droog, the great blessing " that this district enjoys from having such a place of resort, not only in the hot season, but at " all seasons of the year; for the change appears always to be attended with benefit to the sick " or to the impaired constitution. I should hope also, if the means of transit between this and " Secunderabad can be improved, that this Sanitarium will be more extensively used for the " European Troops of the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force."

" There is no water as you are aware, on the Plateâu, but springs appear to be abundant " some three hundred feet down on the western slope.—Water has not been found I believe on " the eastern side."

* * * * * *

" There is a Garden of Colonel Archer's, which he has entirely made at much personal " trouble and some expense, and which I think ought to be secured for the use of the Soldiers, " it is within eight minutes walk of the present Barracks, is capable of producing an abundant " supply of vegetables, is well stocked with fruit and Coffee trees, and would not only be a " desirable place of resort for the Soldiers, but prove a healthy recreation to those fond of gar- " dening. I do not imagine that Colonel Archer would ask a large price for it, and if made " over, all that would be required, would be to place a Soldier in charge, and to keep up a couple " of gardeners, the whole expense of which could be defrayed from the produce."

9. His Excellency would strongly recommend the subject of these improvements to the notice of Government.

1st. The transfer of Colonel Archer's Garden, on his leaving, to Government, as a Soldiers Garden.

2nd. A small outlay of Rs. 50 to guard the spring from impurity.

3rd. The removal of the Bazar.

4th. That Government become possessed of the Hill.

5th. Alterations, so as to cause better ventilation in the Cook-rooms and Privies.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 9th February 1860, No. 49; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Having received a reply from Colonel Archer, Commanding the Ramandroog Sanitarium, to the queries on which Government required information in your memo: dated 25rd ultimo, the Commander-in-Chief observes, that Colonel Archer expresses himself willing to take for his Garden *whatever Government may think it worth.* As this is a very vague offer, His Excellency thinks that the better plan would be, to depute the General Officer Commanding the Division, and the Collector of the District to make a valuation of the Garden, and then take it over on account of Government, at whatever price may be thus fixed on it.

Sir P. Grant desires me to send copy of Colonel Archer's letter and plan, as the former enters into details.

From the Officer Commanding Depôt Ramandroog, 3rd February 1860; to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George.

In reply to your letter No. 242, dated 25th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you, that although I have no intention of leaving this till the end of the year, when I suppose it will be no longer optional with me to remain, still, I will be very glad to part with my Garden to Government, as it was with a view to this that I bestowed so much money, time and labor on it, as a place of recreation and amusement, both for the Soldiers and the many visitors who frequent this healthy spot—and now that the ground has been profitably, and I may add beautifully laid out, I am quite ready to part with it. A rough plan accompanies this, which may give you some idea of the place.

I have kept no account of what it cost, but I am willing to take whatever Government may think it worth, money not being the object, so much as the pleasure of knowing that it will be well looked after when I am gone, which I fear it would not be were I to sell it to a Native; many of whom would be glad to get it.

Now that the whole is laid out, the expense of cultivating will not be much, a good Gardener at 6 Rupees, and 2 boys will be sufficient, if the bearers attached to the Depôt are made available to assist when not otherwise employed: the "Bowrie" that irrigates the Garden is above it, so that the water for this purpose has only to be let out, and a boy to guide it into the channels is all that is required; this in a measure accounts for so few Gardeners being wanted; in most Indian Gardens, the supply of water takes up half their time.

I send a list of the trees I have planted, by which you will perceive that the Coffee fruit and Vegetables if sold, would much more than cover all expenses; but I suppose Government would prefer that the Invalids should have the benefit of the produce; this year I raised the finest crop of Potatoe I have seen in India, and as they only require the monsoon water, any amount of ground near the Garden is available for the purpose, the vegetable Garden can also be extended.

I hold the ground on a "Puttah" as all ground is held here.

There is a small Bungalow in the Garden which I built as a shelter from sun and rain; two rooms, one 14 × 12 feet, one 12 × 8 feet, I have also built a stone and chunam "Bowrie" above the Garden, another of dry stones in the middle—I mention all this to shew how complete I have made the place.

I would suggest that a Pensioned Soldier, a steady man, and one accustomed to a Garden should be put over it, and if he is an intelligent man, and knows his work, in a short time he might grow Coffee, Fruit and Vegetables enough, not only for the Depôt, but also for the Bellary Hospital.

Government now allows 180 Rupees a year for the roads and cleaning the water "Bowries;" were this increased to 250 Rupees a year, it would with the subscriptions be sufficient for all, and as the visitors have free entrance to the Garden, of which they are not slack to avail themselves, they could not object to their subscriptions being thrown into a general fund.

N. B.—The following is a list of the Trees.

216	Coffee Plants.	6	Apple Trees.
76	Plantain Trees.	4	Pear do.
16	Peach do.	12	Orange do.
52	Mango do. Graft and Seedlings.	8	Custard Apple do.
24	Pumplemose trees.	60	Pine do.
8	Citron do.	20	Grape Vines.
8	Lime do.	6	Pomegranates.
5	Fig do.	4	Guavas.
3	Plum do.	3	Poppy.

ORDER, No. 686, 16*th February* 1860.

The Governor in Council approves of the proposal submitted in the foregoing correspondence relative to the valuation and eventual purchase of the Garden belonging to Colonel Archer on the Ramandroog;* reserving however final orders on the subject, until the amount agreed upon by the General Officer Commanding the Division and the Collector is reported.

2. The outlay to secure the spring from impurities, will be considered on passing final orders regarding the purchase of the Garden.

3. The subject of para. 6 of the Quarter Master General's letter No. 19, above recorded, will be communicated to the Department Public Works, in view to the Chief Engineer's attention being called to the objectionable construction in the buildings referred to.

4. The removal of the Bazar from its present site, appears to the Governor in Council a matter quite within the power of the authorities† on the spot.

5. The question as to the possession of the Hill by Government, will be considered in the Revenue Department.

* *For a Soldiers' Garden.*

† *The Major General Commanding the Division, and the Collector.*

(True Extract.)

Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Department Public Works.
" Chief Engineer.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Davis.

P. Works 1860 Dep.t
Pro: of Govt. 29th February

No. 515.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt. in the
Military Dep.t

Dated 16th } July/60
Rec.d 27th }
No. 444 - 29 July No. 686.

Communicating
correspondence from
the Quarter Master
Gen.l of the Army
in view to the Chief
Eng.rs attention being
called to the objec-
tionable construction
in certain buildings
on the Ramandroog
Hill.

With an order.

From the Ch. Engr &
17 "Dec.r/60 Cer 690
in Cons: 31 - 25-26

From Mil.y D. Dy 141
May/60. Cer 1243.
in Pro. 22 May No. 1869.

No. 131 & 132.

No. 444.

The Chief Engineer
will submit at an early
date an explanation regard-
-ing the objectionable con-
-struction of the Cook rooms
and Privies referred to in
para 3 of the order above
recorded.

Fort St. George
29th July/60

J P

8 Copies to the Chief Engineer Dep.t 29