P.W.D.

M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 23. 5. 62

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 328 Press Mis.

446 447

Dated 28-2-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 28th February 1862.

No. 446. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 17th February 1862, No. 614:—

Consider it desirable that the eradication of the prickly pear at Palaveram should be entrusted to the Department Public Works, and direct the Chief Engineer to issue the necessary orders accordingly. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 17th February 1862, Nos. 359 @ 361.)

No. 447. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1862, No. 328.

1. Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle.

2. The Government authorize the expenditure of Rupees 50 from the General Funds of the Madras District, for making a portable hand press and saws for cutting down the prickly pear from the Palaveram Cantonment, and they request that an estimate of the probable cost of completely eradicating the plant may be submitted without delay.

3. The Chief Engineer will be requested to state what funds are available for the above work.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 12th December 1861, *No.* 296; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

In reference to the Order of Government, No. 4353, dated 30th November 1861, I have the honor, by order of the Provincial Commander-in-Chief to report, in reference to paragraph 1, that the opinion of Dr. Cole, Principal Inspector General Medical Department having been invited, that Officer remarks "that the practice of *burying* the prickly pear plant in pits appears to be an objectionable mode of getting rid of it, as the plant possesses so much vitality that some portions of the buried mass are certain to grow again." Dr. Cole then suggests "that the plant be *burned* instead, after being well dried in the sun, and that the measure be not carried out till the dry weather has well set in."

2. Adverting to paragraph 3 of the Order of Government under reference, the Officer Commanding the Centre Division reports as follows. "The piece of ground alluded to in "Dr. FitzGerald's letter, No. 72, dated 1st August 1861, is not the same as referred to in the Pro- "ceedings of Government, No. 3792, dated 24th October 1860, and for the clearance of which, the "sum of Rupees 484 was sanctioned by Government in No. 1375, dated 16th April 1861.

"I would further remark that Captain Kempster's first application* represented that the "prickly pear abounded in rear of the Barracks "and Hospitals, in forwarding his letter, I re- "commended the removal of all prickly pear "bushes, and in your letter to the Secretary to Government, No. 359, dated 17th October 1860, the "Commander-in-Chief urged the necessity of completely eradicating it in such places as the Com- "manding Officer and Medical Officer deemed necessary; but Government in passing orders "directed the work should be economically effected by contract under orders of the Quarter Master "General. Tenders were thereupon called for and submitted through the Division for the orders "of the Commander-in-Chief, and it appears that Captain Kempster only included in the Contract "the prickly pear in rear of the Barracks and Hospitals, while the present application includes "the entire eradication of the shrub throughout the Cantonment with the exception of that portion "before cleared."

* *Letter No.* 498, *to the Quarter Master General of the Army, dated* 3*rd October* 1860.

From the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer Central Circle, Chepauk, 30*th January* 1862, *No.* 10,005; *to the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government Public Works Department, Fort St. George.*

I have the honor to submit a letter from the Officer in charge of the Madras District, in reference to Order of Government, No. 4353, dated 30th November 1861, Military Department; regarding removal of prickly pear from the Palaveram Cantonment. It will be observed that the former clearance of the weed was not made by the Department Public Works, and there is no record in the District Engineer's Office of the quantity of work performed or the cost incurred; I beg further to observe that the only efficient method of eradicating the weed is by carefully digging it up with the roots entire in the hot weather, leaving it to wither in the sun for a few days, and then removing it to any convenient site, such as an abandoned or useless tank, in which it should be buried with the addition of some quick lime which helps to kill it, and covered over with fully four feet of earth. The work would require close supervision, or the Contractor would certainly leave roots enough in the ground to grow up into a dense jungle in a couple of years, as from the nature of the weed it must be cut down before workmen could dig up the roots, and many of them might so escape the notice if whoever superintended the work, unless the workmen were carefully watched.

No. 1539, 21*st December* 1861.

Enclosure 1.

1 *Letter from the Acting District Engineer Madras, No.* 1539, *dated* 21*st Decr.* 1861.

2. I beg leave to recommend the expenditure of 50 Rupees only on the experiment proposed in the last paragraph of Mr. Dopping's letter, regarding using the prickly pear as fuel.

From the Civil Engineer in charge of Madras District, Guindy, 21st December 1861, *No.* 1539; *to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle.*

I have the honor to state, with reference to the Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, No. 8169 of the 10th instant, that I am unable to supply any information with regard to the amount already expended on the removal of prickly pears or the quantity removed at Palaveram, as the work was performed by the Military authorities of that Station without any reference to the Public Works Department.

2. It might perhaps be as well to call for tenders, by notice in the District Gazette, for the complete extirpation of the prickly pear, the Contractor to be bound down by security that the weed, if buried is sufficiently covered, as I have noticed many instances near this Cantonment and beyond Palaveram where the weed is beginning to come above ground and will no doubt soon require re-removal. I have for a long time been anxious to try by experiment whether by submitting the prickly pear to considerable pressure and thus removing the juice, the residue might not be turned to account as fuel either for chunam or brick kiln or even for domestic purposes.

3. A large quantity could be consumed in the three horse-power Engine which works the Circular Saw at the Mount, and I therefore beg you will authorize an expenditure of any sum under (50) Rupees fifty for making a portable hand-press and Saws with long handles for cutting it down.

4. I am sure the thing would pay in a very short time.

ORDER, No. 614, 17*th February* 1862.

From a perusal of the foregoing papers, the Governor in Council considers it desirable that the eradication of the prickly pear at Palaveram, should be entrusted to the Department Public Works, and the Chief Engineer will issue the necessary instructions accordingly, and inform Government what funds are available for the purpose.

2. Orders will be passed in the Department Public Works, on the suggestion made in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Mr. Dopping's letter.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Department Public Works. With 20 spare Copies
" Principal Inspector General Medical Department,
" Adjutant General, ... } for information.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

29th January 1862 No. 159-160.

From Military Dept.
Dy Sl 29th April/62
Cr. 1253.
funds are available
for the above work.

Rs. 78. A.

11 No. 446 & 447.

To The Dy Chf Engr CC
Chf Engineer
Chief Clerk Genl

No. 84
c 22 Feby 1862

Public Works 1862 Dept.
Proc: of Govt for Feby.

No. 472

Read of the Madras Govt
in the Military Dept.

Dated 17th Feby/62
Recd 19th Feby/62

No. 614

C-1-Rec'd to the Chf Engr Office 19-2-62
Vachanee taken in the Mily Dept

Consider it desirable
that the eradication
of the prickly pear at
Palaveram should
be entrusted to the
Department Public
Works and direct the
Chief Engr. to issue the
necessary orders accordingly
No. 328. 28 Feb.
With an Order

No. 328.

Communicated to the
Dy Chief Engineer CC Circle.

The Government authorize
the expenditure of Rs. 50 from
the General Funds of the Madras
District for making a portable
hand press, and saws for
cutting down the prickly pear
from the Palaveram Canton-
ment, and they request
that an Estimate of the pro-
bable cost of completely era-
dicating the plant may be
submitted without delay.

The Chief Engineer
will be requested to state what
funds

Fort St George
28th February 1862