

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers.—

From the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 24th April 1860, No. 335, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

1. I have the honor by order of the Commander-in-Chief to forward for submission to the Honorable the Governor in Council and transmission to the Home authorities, the accompanying Report in duplicate from the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, with the General Returns of sickness and mortality amongst the Troops, European and Native of the Madras Army, during the year 1857-58 and to submit the following remarks.

2 The Commander-in-Chief desires to draw the particular attention of Government to the circumstances here noticed; namely, that fever of a typhoid character occurred in the Royal Artillery at Saint Thomas' Mount, and in the Fort Saint George Barracks and which is attributed to defective drainage and want of proper sanitary arrangements; also that deaths from Thoracic affections during the past year are stated to have exceeded the average for the last fifteen years. From the latter fact it is inferred that the Recruits of the present day do not come up to the standard of health which formerly obtained, and the Commander-in-Chief considers that the subject should be brought to the notice of the Home Authorities in order to precautionary measures being taken in Recruiting for service in India.

3 The Commander-in-Chief desires also to draw the serious notice of Government to paragraph 11 of the Report relative to Venereal affections, which have as usual, been very prevalent during the past year, the Returns showing 25 per cent. of the European Force under treatment for some form of Venereal disease. Lock Hospitals have already been sanctioned at Bangalore, Trichinopoly and Secunderabad. In my letter No. 931 of the 8th September last, the Commander-in-Chief recommended the establishment of Lock Hospitals at stations where European Regiments are located and consequent on the orders of Government thereon (Proceedings Madras Government No. 3,443, 27th September 1859,) His Excellency forwarded a communication from the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, submitting an Estimate of the monthly cost of Lock Hospital Establishments at the principal stations occupied by European Troops with my letter No 63 of the 18th January last: but no final orders have yet been passed upon the subject. The question whether the full benefits of Lock Hospitals can be obtained without a systematic supervision of the class of women who co-habit with the European Soldiers is worthy of the gravest consideration.

4. It is observed that the original clear space left round that part of the Northern Division of the Lines, close to the present Mess House is being gradually filled up with rubbish and the filth from the houses, having no clear escape is left to stagnate and pollute the air. Measures should be taken to remove the rubbish in question.

The Principal Inspector General concurs in the recommendation of the Medical Officer that glazed pipes and chatties such as are made for the Barracks in Fort Saint George, should as a general rule be introduced for the proper ventilation of Hospitals, but Dr. Pearse does not deem either this or ridge ventilation necessary for the Sepoys' Lines.

5. With reference to this paragraph His Excellency observes that all accounts confirm the accuracy of the Superintending Surgeon's impressions relative to the fearfully deteriorating effect of the service across the water upon the constitution of the Sepoy, and it is much to be desired that the number of Regiments on Foreign Service should be reduced by forming local Corps for Burmah and the Straits as His Excellency has urged repeatedly during the last four years.

Paragraph 19
Depot at Poonamallee.

6 It may be observed in reference to these remarks regarding the Hospital and the ditch surrounding the Fort, that the removal of the Depot to the Mount has been decided upon.

7. A reference to the Deputy Adjutant General Her Majesty's British Forces, has shown that the Medical Officer at Poonamallee was under a misapprehension in regard to the sale of spirits in the Canteen at unauthorized hours. The orders on the subject appear to be strictly enforced.

Paragraph 22
European Infantry Depot, Arcot

8. This Depot is to be removed from Arcot to the Mount. The lower Barracks where Cholera has so often appeared have not been occupied by Troops for some time past.

9. It may be expected that the present arrangements for bi-monthly communication with Burmah will obviate the inconvenience of a greater number of men than can be accommodated and attended to by the Medical Officer and Subordinates being sent there at one time.

Paragraph 25
Native Infantry Depot, Palaveram

10. With reference to the Sepoy Lines at Vellore, it is hoped that the improvements which have been made to the drainage and in the conservancy will prove sufficient. The Commander-in-Chief is altogether opposed to the removal of the Lines to the neighbourhood of the Railway Station.

Paragraph 26.
18th Regiment Native Infantry at Vellore

11. Sir P. Grant entirely concurs in the opinion of the Medical Officer, that no minor considerations should be allowed to interfere with the obvious advantage that would accrue to the Soldier from suppressing all liquor Shops in the neighbourhood of stations where there are European Troops, establishing stringent rules for the prevention of all smuggling of spirits into Cantonments. Means have now been provided for out-door employment and recreation

Paragraph 31
Convalescent Depot, Juckatalla

Paragraph 45
Ceded Districts

12. The Commander-in-Chief has already recommended the abandonment of Cuddapah, but Government has not yet communicated its decision on the point.

13. The precautions adopted by Surgeon Macbeth on the march of the 74th Highlanders through the jungles from the Nilgiris to Bandipore, en route to Mysore, have been ordered to be followed in future whenever Troops are required to move through these jungles.

Paragraph 46,

14. The Commander-in-Chief totally dissents from the opinion that in consequence of certain important alterations and improvements in these Barracks and Hospital, there is now a fair probability of the men stationed there enjoying average good health, provided that the Barracks are not over-crowded. An experience of 25 years has distressingly proved that the site of these Barracks is a fatal objection to their continued occupation. See His Excellency's Minute of February 1859 on this head.

Paragraph 52
Hyderabad Subsidiary Force Old Barracks
at Secunderabad.

Paragraph 54
Detail Hospital, Secunderabad

15. With reference to the Detail Hospital at Secunderabad being unfit for the accommodation of Europeans and a new one being much required, His Excellency refers Government to his Minute of February 1859, on this head.

Paragraph 58
Nagpore Force

16. The Commander-in-Chief thinks that a Sanitarium for weakly men and convalescents from disease within an easy distance of Kamptee should certainly be established.

Paragraph 68, Straits.

serious consideration of Government.

Paragraph 70, Labuan.
Order of Government, 4th January 1860,
No 45.

17. The remarks of the Medical Officer regarding the new station of Stanley in China, are worthy of the

18. The unhealthiness of Labuan has repeatedly been brought to notice and the withdrawal of the Detachment has been recommended.

Paragraph 75, Burmah
Order of Government, 20th March 1860,
No 1087

19. The Commander-in-Chief has frequently brought to notice the loathing of the men to the unceasing Beef Rations, His Excellency has lately recommended that patent preserved Potatoes may be furnished to the Troops in Burmah.

Paragraph 76

20. Every encouragement is held out and with marked success for the formation of Gardens in Pegu.

Paragraph 84
Dieting Native Sick in Burmah

21. In the Madras Army the Soldier's food is always cooked for him by his family and the Commander-in-Chief feels satisfied that nearly all, if not all, the evils described by the Superintending Surgeon, arise from the separation of the men from their families. Local Troops raised for Pegu would have their families with them; and every inconvenience now felt so severely would be remedied.

Paragraph 113, Bengal
Order of Government, No 2,348, dated 1st
July 1859

22. The services of Surgeon Arthur have been specially brought to notice.

Paragraph 118, China

23. It will be in the recollection of Government that in the first expedition to China the Native Troops were almost destroyed by disease.

24. The Commander-in-Chief begs particular attention to the observation that the present plan of conveying men, by transit, has had a wonderful effect in diminishing the mortality from Cholera. Conveying European Troops by transit appears expensive but in reality it is the most economical and it cannot be doubted that very many valuable lives are saved by it.

Paragraph 119, concluding remarks

25. The suggestion for providing good drinking water at the "Rest Houses" for the use of the men travelling by transit is worthy of all attention.

Paragraph 120.

A reference has been made to the Quarter Master General on the subject and if necessary a further report thereon will hereafter be made to Government

26. A great improvement on the common country cart has been made for transit purposes by Major Miller the indefatigable Commissariat Officer of the Mysore Division, who first suggested the introduction of the transit system into the Madras Presidency, and to whose unceasing exertions much of its success is justly attributable.

Paragraph 121, Transits

27. Abolishing the ration of ardent spirits to European Soldiers has engaged much and anxious attention, and the more general introduction of Malt Liquor at a cost within the means of the Soldier has much diminished the consumption of spirits. But to abolish the Spirit Ration altogether until an authoritative stop is put by Government to the manufacture of Country Spirits in the neighbourhood of Military stations would only be to substitute bad and unwholesome liquor for spirits of a less deleterious description.

Paragraph 221, Spirit drinking

Extract from a letter from the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, 16th March 1860, No. 47; to the Adjutant General of the Army.

Para. 16. This Corps arrived at Madras from Trichinopoly on the 5th September 1857, and have been stationed at Perambore ever since. In the past year 755 cases have been treated in Hospital, only three of which proved fatal—one from "Small Pox" one from "Cholera" and one from "Dysentery."

The Medical Officer reports of the Perambore Lines: "The drainage has been well attended to, but the original clear space left round that part of the Northern Division of the Lines, close to the present Mess House of the Corps, is being gradually filled up with rubbish; and the filth from the houses, having no clear escape, is left to stagnate and pollute the air."

The Medical Officer Dr. Duff, further recommends the introduction of glazed pipes and chatties, such as are made for the Barracks in Fort Saint George, for the proper ventilation of the Hospital and Regimental Lines.

ORDER No. 2021, 1st June 1860.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter with the Report and Returns submitted with it, be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, and that Tables 1 @ 3 connected with paragraphs 5 @ 11 of the Report, be published in the "Fort Saint George Gazette."

2 The Governor in Council has perused the above Report with much interest; but he is not satisfied with the explanation* of the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department, in regard to the delay in its submission. An interval of more than two years has passed since the termination of the period for which the Report has been made and many of the observations relate to matters which have been already disposed of or no longer require to be so. The Principal Inspector General will hasten the preparation of the Reports for 1858-59 and 1859-60 and will state when he expects they will be ready

3 The observations made in paragraphs 10 of the Report, and 2 of the Adjutant General's letter, will be brought to the notice of the Home Authorities.

Proc. of Govt No 1,301, 11th April 1860

Adjutant General's letter, paragraph 4.

4. The question of Lock Hospitals has already been disposed of

5. The observations on the state of the ground near the Perambore Lines, will be referred to the Barrack Master in communication with the Municipal Commissioners, for such notice as may still be required.

Paragraph 16, Principal Inspector General's Report

Do 4, Adjutant General's letter

6. The remarks of the Principal Inspector General on the ventilation of Hospitals, will be considered in the Public Works Department to which the paragraphs marginally noted will be communicated.

7. The subjects noticed in the following paragraphs of the Adjutant General's letter, have been disposed of in the Proceedings of Government noted opposite to them:—

Adjutant General's Letter. Proceedings of Government.

Para. 12 ... 19th April 1860, No. 1,479.

Do. 14 and 15.. 5th July 1859, " 2,387.

Do. 16 11th May 1860, " 1,762.

Do. 18 ... 4th Jan. " " 45.

Do. 19 ... { 24th Feb " " 818.

Do. 19 ... { 20th March " " 1,087.

8 The observations regarding the station of "Stanley" in China, will be communicated to the Government of India, to whom will also be submitted the proposal for establishing a scale of Hospital Diet, and for maintaining Hospital Cooks in Native Regiments in Pegu, on the submission of the details called for in Proceedings of Government 9th May 1860, No. 1,786, paragraph 3

Paragraph 68 of Report
Do 17 of Adjutant General's letter
Do. 84 of Report
Do. 21 of Adjutant General's letter

9. The Governor in Council observes that many of the subjects noticed in the foregoing letter from the Adjutant General, appertain to the Department of the Quarter Master General, from which such subjects will accordingly be communicated in future.

To the Offg Secy to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept. | Here enter 1st June 1860, No. 2,022

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. MARSHALL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th June 1860.*

No. 298. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 1st June 1860, No. 2,021:—

Communicating for consideration paragraph 16 of the Report of the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, and paragraph 4 of the Adjutant General's letter regarding the ventilation of Hospitals. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 1st June 1860, Nos. 60 @ 62)

No. 299. ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1860, No. 1,287.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for any remarks or suggestions he may have to offer on the subject of paragraph 6.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

P. W. D.

N^o 116

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 10th July 1863.

* Military Dept. No. 2021 of 1st June 1860.
P. W. No. 1287 of 18th — — —

Resolved that the Proceedings of Government noted in the Margin be communicated to the Superintending Engineers of Divisions for any remarks or suggestions they may have to offer on the subject of para 6 of the Proceedings in the Military Department.

It is observed that in Proceedings dated 10th June 1863, No. 1485 reviewing the ^{last} List of Unanswered References submitted by the late Chief Engineer, the Order specified above was included among the references to which the Secretary to Government in this Department has undertaken to furnish replies.

[Signature]

To

All the Superintending Engineers of Divisions
with G.O. of 18th June '60 No. 1287.

Recd. 25th July.

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Oct. 1863 recd

News

From

The Secy to the Am

to the Secy to the Am

Recd 10th Dec 1863

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