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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1687	Press <u>Mis.</u>
617-618	
Dated 26 - 6 -	1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th June 1863.*

No. 617. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 19th June 1863, No. 1,998:—

Approving of the proposal of Major Kempster, Commanding Palaveram, Madras, to have under his superintendence the work of destroying the Prickly Pear in the Cantonment, and requesting that orders may be issued as to the source whence Rupees 1,000 required for the purpose, is to be met. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 19th June 1863, Nos. 388-389.)

No. 618. ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1863, No. 1,687.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 4th Division, who will be good enough to arrange for the sum of Rupees 1,000 being paid to the Officer Commanding Palaveram, for the purpose indicated in the foregoing Proceedings, reporting to Government the source from which the payment has been made. .

2. The particular attention of the Superintending Engineer is requested to paragraph 5 of Major Kempster's letter No. 215, dated 3rd June 1863.

3. Under the sanction accorded in the foregoing Proceedings the requisition contained in G. O. No. 328, dated 28th February 1862, will be considered cancelled.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 9th June 1863, No. 4743; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Forwarded to Government with the entire approval of the Commander-in-Chief, and with His Excellency's recommendation that the proposed measure, as the best practicable, be adopted.

From Major F. G. Kempster, Commanding Palaveram, 3rd June 1863, No. 215; to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Centre Division, Madras.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 1403 of 29th April 1863, and memorandum from the Quarter Master General, No. 3657, dated 2nd May 1863, directing me to call for Tenders for the removal of the Prickly Pear from the Cantonment of Palaveram, I have now the honor to report, that I have taken every means of giving publicity of the intention of Government on the subject, by inserting a Notice in the Fort Saint George and District Gazettes, and the result has been that only one Tender by a Mr. Spears has been received, and which I beg to submit.

2. The sum, four thousand Rupees, appears to me to be large, and the conditions of the Tender not very satisfactory, for I do not consider pits of six feet in depth would be sufficient. Mr. Spears' proposal to keep up and burn dried leaves and chaff over the Prickly Pear after being pitted, would be of little use especially in its green state.

3. In 1860, the Government sanctioned the sum of Rupees 484, for clearing the Prickly Pear in rear of the Barracks and Hospitals, this was done by Contract. The work was carefully watched by the Staff Officer and myself, pits were dug about eight feet deep and filled with the Prickly Pear to within one foot of the surface. Two feet of earth was then filled over it, allowing one foot for the sinking, and the result has proved successful, for I have gone over the ground and there is no sign of its re-appearance.

4. Taking into consideration the very large quantity to be cleared, its scattered state, it being very dense in some parts and thin in others, it is very difficult to compute the probable cost for its removal, and therefore I do not feel myself competent to offer an opinion on this point.

5. In the event of the work not being done by Contract, I would respectfully suggest that the Government would allow a certain sum to be advanced, say 1,000 Rupees, and I should be happy to undertake the superintendence and supervision of the work, provided I may be permitted to indent for Tools, and also that I may be allowed to select a steady man from the European Artillery Veteran Company, (giving him a small remuneration, say 15 Rupees a month) as an Overseer to overlook the Coolies. When 1,000 Rupees have been expended, I propose that either I or the District Engineer should make a report upon the work executed, when a further sum might be advanced. I feel assured that this would prove a more economical arrangement to Government.

From Mr. R. Spears, Palaveram, 27th May 1863; to the Officer Commanding Palaveram.

With reference to the Notice in the Fort Saint George Gazette of 15th instant, inviting Tenders for the removal of the Prickly Pear within the Boundaries of the Cantonment of Palaveram, I beg to say, that I am willing to undertake and perform the work in the following manner:

1st.—I engage to have pits six feet deep and proper length and breadth, dug up in different parts, then cut down and dig to the root all the Prickly Pear,—remove them into the pits and heap up over them as much dried leaves, chaff, &c., as could be gathered near about the parts,—then burn them, and soon after cover up the pits with earth about three feet high,—so that the weight of the earth, and the heat caused within by burning the chaff, &c., would tend to smother and destroy all the generating matter contained in this noxious plant effectually. I trust this mode would be approved of.

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2nd.—In order to do all this and fulfil the Contract honestly and conscientiously, much harassing labor and expense must be incurred,—especially in digging pits, cutting and rooting up the Prickly Pear in and about the hard rocky parts where the plant mostly abounds. I therefore trust that the sum of (4,000) four thousand Rupees would not be considered too much—and which I beg to fix as the sum I ask for doing the work.

3rd.—I beg to offer two good personal Securities, viz:—

4th.—Mr. A. D'Silva of this place, who is an extensive owner of houses and lands, both here and in Madras, and Mr. James Ashworth, a Pensioned Apothecary of Poonamallee, both of whom will bind themselves in the sum of 500 Rupees each, for the due fulfilment of the terms of the Deed of Contract by me.

The mode of adjustment may, if you think fit, be as follows:—The area of this Cantonment may be nominally divided into four equal parts, and as each portion is being cleared off and pitted, &c., a proportionate advance may be made; and so on till finally adjusted.

It may not be irrelevant here to add, that in case the Contract is given to me, it is my intention to engage the services of as many of the European Veterans and their sons, as are able and willing to work,—as they are much interested in the improvement of this Cantonment, and which I believe is the chief object Government have in view in spending their money; to see the Sanitary condition of this place promoted.

I also intend and promise, in order to carry out the good intentions of Government for twelve months to keep a few hands in my own employ—to move about with me to root out all the Prickly Pear, that may chance to grow up, after the Contract is over; so that not a vestige of them may be left within the defined limits of the Cantonment.

No. 834.

Head Quarters, Centre Division, Madras, 4th June 1863.

I do not recommend the acceptance of this Tender for the reasons given by Major Kempster. No doubt during the last three years the growth of the Prickly Pear has increased to a very serious and unhealthy extent, I would recommend that Major Kempster's suggestion of carrying the duty out under his own superintendence be favorably considered. A report being then made of the extent of ground cleared, and an approximate Statement of extent remaining of Prickly Pear. The season for clearing it off is the present.

(Signed) W. A. McCLEVERTY, Major Genl.,
Commanding Centre Division.

ORDER, No. 1998, 19th June 1863.

The Governor in Council approves of the measure proposed by Major Kempster in the letter submitted by the Quarter Master General with the foregoing memorandum, which will be communicated to the Department Public Works, with reference to paragraph 3 of the Order of Government marginally noted.

(True Extract.)

Marshall H. O. F.
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.

- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Controller of Military Finance.
- „ Military Accountant.
- „ Examiner Pay Department.

Ed. J. E. Cashart.

the foregoing Resolutions the
Resolutions contained in G.O.
of 23rd 28 dated 28th February 1872
will be considered cancelled.

Elephant 22 }
26 June/63 } 

[illegible]

No 27 1863
 The
 Hon. of Geo. St Lawrence
 No 2094

No: of Gov: in the
 Military of Ohio
 Dated 19 June
 Received 228

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Professor of Logic in Cambridge,
Commanding Chaplain, &c. &c.,
before under his supreme authority.
According to the
Plan in the Enclosure, and
according to the order made
down as above, we returned
1000 square feet of ground, in
the next.

Waltham Order.
J^y 1887. 26th June.
J^y

1687.

Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer Division
with a request that he will
who will be good enough to arrange
for the ^{date of} ~~date of~~ ¹⁴ ~~15th~~ 1899 being
paid to the Officer commanding Police
= room for the purpose indicated in the
 foregoing Proceedings, reporting to Govt
the source from which the payment
has been made.

The particular attention of the
disinterested Engineer is requested to forward
of Rogers's Memorial letter of 12/15 dated as
of June 1883.

Under the direction observed in

the