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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2259 Press ~~Mis.~~

159-160

Dated 6—8— 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th August 1864.

No. 159. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department :—

Approving of the measures proposed for providing fresh Burial Grounds for the Roman Catholics and Portuguese at Saint Thomas' Mount, Madras District, and requesting the early execution of the work, if funds can be made available. } (Here enter 27th July 1864, No. 2,577.)

No. 160. ORDER THEREON, 6th August 1864, No. 2,259.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, who will be requested to submit an Estimate of the cost of the work, and to report the source from which the requisite funds can be provided for its immediate execution.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Exd. S! T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 15th July 1864, No. $\frac{131}{6727}$; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor, by desire of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to request you will be so good as to submit for the consideration of Government, the following remarks regarding the Burial Grounds of the Roman Catholics and Portuguese, situated in the Cantonment of Saint Thomas' Mount.

2. The Assistant Commissary of Ordnance at the Mount, recently brought to the notice of the Officer Commanding, that complaints were made to him by the European Non-Commissioned Officers and Staff Serjeants residing in the Bullock Lines, that they and their families suffer greatly from the offensive smells arising from the Portuguese Burial Ground in their neighbourhood. Colonel Selby, in bringing this to notice, states that it has always been a subject of complaint, and further adds that the large Cemetery in the compound of the Roman Catholic Church, which is only divided from the other by a row of houses and a road, is equally objectionable, as there are more interments in it, than in the Portuguese Cemetery.

3. The Ecclesiastical Heads of these two Churches have no objection to offer to their respective Burial Grounds being closed, provided that new sites be given in lieu; and as it is in a Sanitary point of view most desirable that this course be adopted, I am desired by His Excellency to recommend to Government to sanction the arrangement and for its being carried out without delay.

4. The sites recommended by the Officer Commanding the Mount, are to the eastward, and contiguous to the Protestant Burial Ground. The size of the Roman Catholic proposed site is 297 feet by 200 feet, and that of the Portuguese 150 feet by 125 feet, and the estimated cost for enclosing the space and providing a covered gateway to the former like the Protestant Burial Ground, and a simple gate to the latter ground, would be about two thousand five hundred Rupees.

5. Both Dr. Fennelly and the Reverend S. Pereira, urge the necessity of having separate and distinct Burial Grounds for their respective Churches on grounds which seem most reasonable.

6. The enclosures are forwarded for reference if required.

From the Officer Commanding Centre Division, Head Quarters, Madras, 28th June 1864, No. 648 ; to the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund.

I have the honor, to forward for the approval of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and for submission to Government, a Sketch Plan and Proximate Estimate for enclosing and allotting two new Roman Catholic and Portuguese Burial Grounds at Saint Thomas' Mount. It may be necessary to refer the matter to the Sanitary Commission.

2. Lieutenant Warder, Assistant Commissary of Ordnance, has officially brought to the notice of the Officer Commanding Saint Thomas' Mount, the complaints made to him by several Non-Commissioned Officers and Staff Serjeants residing in the Bullock Lines at that Station, that they and their families suffer greatly from the offensive smells arising from the Portuguese Burial Ground in the neighbourhood. The Officer Commanding the Mount reports that it has always been a subject of complaint and that the large Cemetery in the compound of the Roman Catholic Church, which is only divided from the other by a row of houses and a road, is equally objectionable, as there are more interments in it than in the Portuguese. Neither the Roman Catholic nor Portuguese authorities are averse to closing these Burial Grounds, provided other enclosed pieces of ground are given to them elsewhere. I myself noticed the very objectionable site of these Burial Grounds on my last visit to the

Mount, and would strongly recommend, on Sanitary grounds, their being closed and new ones allotted on the site recommended by the Officer Commanding Mount, as shewn in Sketch Plan attached to his letter, * the cost of which is estimated at 2,500 Rupees.

* *No.* 296, *of* 13*th June* 1864.

It will be necessary to have two separate enclosures for the reasons assigned in the letters of Dr. Fennelly and the Revd. C. Pereira.

From the Officer Commanding Saint Thomas' Mount, 8th April 1864, No. 192 ; to the Brigade Major Centre Division, Fort Saint George.

In forwarding the enclosed letter, No. 65, of the 2nd instant, from the Assistant Commissary of Ordnance, representing a complaint from the Non-Commissioned Officers of his Department, regarding the offensive smell arising from the Portuguese Cemetery in their neighbourhood, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Major General Commanding the Division, that this Cemetery has been always a subject of complaint by the residents in that part of the Mount, but it does not appear to have been officially reported by former Commanding Officers to higher authority. The Portuguese authorities are not at all opposed to closing this Burial Ground, provided another piece of ground is given them elsewhere, with a surrounding wall for interments. I would therefore recommend a spot outside the east-end of the Protestant Cemetery for the purpose, enclosing it with a wall and gate corresponding with the old Burial Ground, which is 100 feet long and 110 feet wide. I trust that on Sanitary grounds the Major General will be pleased to recommend the measure to Government, the same being carried out as early as practicable.

From the Assistant Commissary of Ordnance, Saint Thomas' Mount, 2nd April 1864, No. 65 ; to the Station Staff Officer, Saint Thomas' Mount.

The Non-Commissioned Officers attached to this Department named in the margin, * residing in the Bullock Lines near the Roman Catholic Chapel, having complained to me that they and their families are subjected to the most sickening and distressing consequences from the offensive smells arising from the small Portuguese Burial Ground in that locality, I do myself the honor to request you will be good enough to bring the subject to the notice of the Officer Commanding the Station, in view to the adoption of such remedial measures as he may consider necessary.

Store Serjeant J. R. Roskell.
Laboratory Serjeant D. C. Murtrie.
,, Corporal J. Hanna.

2. About a year since this subject was represented to the then Commanding Officer, by the inhabitants of the Bullock Lines, and I believe the Mount Priest at that time consented to discontinue using the ground as a burying place, on being provided with a suitable plot of ground in some other locality, but nothing definite appears to have resulted.

3. As the entrance is unprovided with a gate, the place is a common resort to Natives for the purposes of nature, but no interments have been observed for some time past until last evening, when the corpse of a Native man was, I am told, buried not much below the surface of the earth.

4. I feel assured I need not for a moment dwell upon the fearful consequences that might ensue from a continuance of this evil. The Burial Ground is surrounded by houses inhabited by respectable Europeans and their families, and from the rocky nature of the ground, I am given to understand that graves can only be dug sufficiently deep to cover the corpses, and no more.

5. I beg to add that whenever the Commanding Officer shall see fit, I will attend to point out the place I allude to, and to give any further information requisite.

No. 568.

Transferred to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General.

BRIGADE OFFICE,
9th April 1864.

(Signed) C. S. ELLIOTT,
Brigade Major.

Recommended. On my last visit to the Mount I noticed the objectionable site of this Burial Ground ; but in the meantime the Officer Commanding at Saint Thomas' Mount should ascertain the views of the Roman Catholic Clergyman and call for an Estimate for an enclosing wall ; having regard to the Roman Catholic population, it should be at least one half the size of the Protestant Burial Ground.

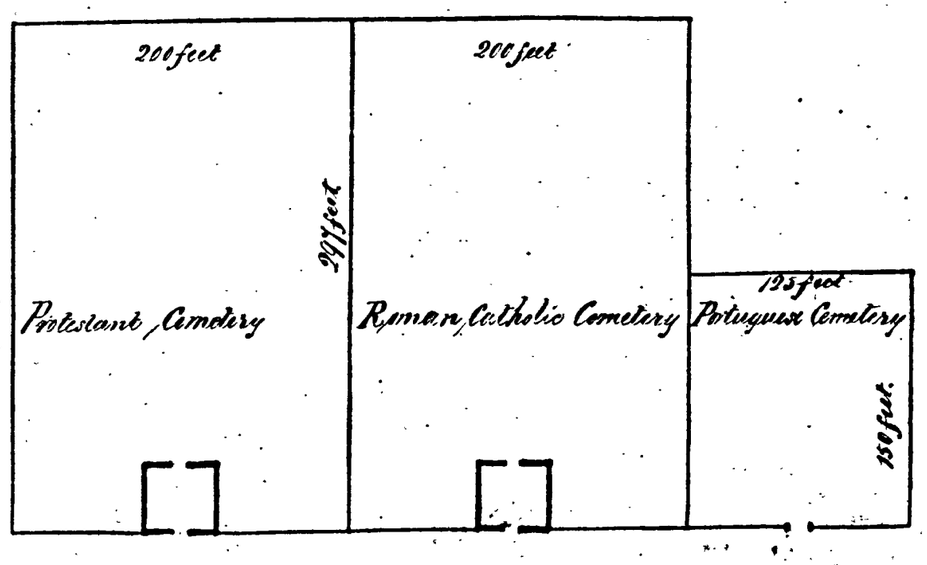
(Signed) W. A. McCLEVERTY, Major General,
Commanding Centre Division.

From the Officer Commanding Saint Thomas' Mount, 13th June 1864, No. 296 ; to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Centre Division, Madras.

With reference to your letter, No. 542, of the 12th April last, I have the honor to re-transmit the enclosed correspondence, having ascertained the views of the Catholic Clergymen on the subject, whose letters I beg to enclose.

On receipt of your letter under reply, I called on the Executive Engineer for an Estimate of the expense for constructing a wall round two new Cemeteries for the interment of the European and Portuguese Catholics, the Estimate to include the cost of a covered gateway for the former similar to the one at the Protestant Cemetery and a common entrance gate for the latter ; the accompanying Sketch will shew the proposed dimensions of each Cemetery.

In my former communication I alluded only to the Portuguese Cemetery ; but it has since occurred to me that the large Cemetery in the compound of the Catholic Church, which is only divided from the other by a row of houses and a road, is equally objectionable, if not more so, as there are considerably more interments in it than in the Portuguese Cemetery. I am inclined to think that it is the large European Cemetery the Major General refers to in his note at the foot of my former letter, and under that impression, I considered it desirable to provide for both parties in the manner shewn in the Sketch, should the same meet with the approval of the Major General. I also beg to enclose a letter from the Assistant Engineer, who reports that the cost of both Cemeteries would be about Rupees 2,500.



From the Right Reverend Dr. J. FENNELLY, Catholic Cathedral, Madras, 27th April 1864 ; to the Station Staff Officer, Saint Thomas' Mount.

Your letter of the 15th instant, conveying to the Roman Catholic Chaplain the opinion of the Officer Commanding the Station on the desirableness of removing our Cemetery farther from the Bullock Lines, was referred to me for advice and instruction. I have the honor to state, for the information of the Officer Commanding, that I will make no objection to the proposed change, if he will be good enough to obtain for us a piece of ground not less than one Cawnie in extent, contiguous to the Protestant Burial Ground and have it properly surrounded with a Wall. Our present Cemetery is upwards of four Cawnies in extent, and I find, on inquiry, that no less than 542 interments were made there during the last ten years.

From the Reverend C. S. PEREIRA, Vicar, Saint Thomas' Mount, 16th April 1864; to the Station Staff Officer, Saint Thomas' Mount.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, No. 200, and in reply to inform you that so far from opposing your suggestions, I very much approve of closing the small Burial Ground, and agree with you that a Cemetery allotted in the situation you mention, would be more desirable in every way than the present one. I would however request that a small Oratory be erected in the new Cemetery which is customary in the Catholic Cemeteries about Madras.

From Major H. N. D. PRENDERGAST, V. C. R. E., Assistant Engineer, Mount Range, 10th June 1864, No. 25; to the Station Staff Officer, Saint Thomas' Mount.

In reply to your No. 219, dated 29th April 1864, I have the honor to state that the cost of enclosing the proposed Cemeteries for Catholics and Portuguese, the former having a covered gateway like the Protestant Burial Ground, and the latter a simple gate, would be about Rupees two thousand five hundred (2,500.)

I do not see the necessity for separating the Europeans from the Portuguese of the same religious persuasion. The one burial as noted for the Europeans is about one Cawnie in extent and is sufficient for both. The expense of this separately might be stated in Major Prendergast's letter.

14*th June* 1864. (Signed) W. A. McCLEVERTY, Major General,
Officer Commanding Centre Division.

From the Officer Commanding Saint Thomas' Mount, 25th June 1864, No. 316; to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Centre Division, Madras.

In re-transmitting the enclosed correspondence received with your letter, No. 796 of the 15th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the cost of enclosing the Roman Catholic Cemetery will be about Rupees 1,500, that of enclosing the Portuguese Cemetery, Rupees 700. Rupees 300 in addition for improvements in the ground, making walks, and planting avenues, which give a total of Rupees 2,500.

With reference to the latter part of your letter under reply, I beg to forward two letters, one from the Right Reverend Dr. Fennelly, D. D., and the other from the Reverend C. Pereira, explaining the nature of the objection to making use of one Burial Ground for both sects of Roman Catholics.

From the Right Reverend Dr. J. FENNELLY, Catholic Cathedral, Madras, 22nd June 1864; to the Station Staff Officer, Saint Thomas' Mount.

It is not easy to explain what objection there is to making one Burial Ground for two sects of Roman Catholics; as it is not easy to give an explanation satisfactory to the general public why one Burial ground would not answer the purposes of Dissenters and Church of England people. The chief point of difference between us and the Goanese congregation is, that we acknowledge the Pope as the head of the Church and that we are bound to obey him in all things Spiritual and Ecclesiastical, whilst the adherents of the Portuguese or Goanese Priests declare that they are under the orders of the Portuguese Government and are not bound to obey the Pope. Pope Gregory the Sixteenth, in the year 1838, withdrew their jurisdiction, and suppressed four Portuguese Bishoprics situated in places which have long since passed away from the political dominion of Portugal. Lately Pope Pius the Ninth restored their jurisdiction, and promised to restore the suppressed Bishoprics with new and more circumscribed limits, and did more to reconcile them than could well be expected; but things are yet in an unsettled and unsatisfactory state. We do not acknowledge one common superior authority to decide our disputes. We are not one community, but two distinct sects, and if we be drawn too close together, we cannot get on in harmony and peace. The Madras Government and possibly other Indian Governments have from time to time, during the last five and twenty years, incurred large expenses in providing the two sects of Roman Catholics with separate places for the Burial of their dead.

From the Reverend C. S PEREIRA, Vicar, Mount, 22nd June 1864; to the Station Staff Officer.

In reply to your letter, No. 305 of the 20th June 1864, I have the honor to state that owing to the prejudice of caste which exists even in the Native Christian congregation amongst the Malabar

Catholics, who object to be buried in the same Burial ground with Europeans and Pariahs, and as the Pastors of the Church are obliged to submit to their prejudices, when not opposed to an essential dogma of the Church, I hope a distinct Cemetery will be allowed the community under my charge.

ORDER, No. 2577, *27th July* 1864.

The Governor in Council approves of the measures proposed in the foregoing correspondence for providing fresh Burial grounds for the Roman Catholics and Portuguese at Saint Thomas' Mount.

2. The papers will be forwarded to the Department Public Works, in view to the early execution of the work required, if funds can be made available.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General, with 10 enclosures.
,, Public Works Department. With 20 spare Copies
,, Ecclesiastical Department, for information.

Exd. T. Stubbs.

P.W. 1864. Dept.
Pro. & Govt. Jorisdn.
No 3421
Proceedings of Govt
Military Dept
Dated 27th July 1864
Recd 3rd August
No 2577

No 2259 - 6th Augt 1864

Approving of the measures proposed for providing fresh Burial Grounds for the Roman Catholics and Portugese at Saint Thomas' Mount Madras &c; and requesting early mention of the works funds can be made available.

Write an Order

No 159. 160

Lieut

No 2259

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 4th Divn who will be requested to submit an Estimate of the cost of the works, and to report the source from which the requisite funds can be provided for its immediate execution.

Chepauk
6th August 1864

To
The Supdg Engr 4th Division

15
2

Dept 8th August

X:87