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(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1079

Press

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386-385

Dated 15-4-

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1864.*

No. 384. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department:—

Requesting the Collector of Trichinopoly to expedite the removal of the Prickly Pear surrounding the Fort. } (Here enter 5th April 1864, No. 461.)

No. 385.

ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1864, No. 1079.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

3D

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th April 1864.

Read the following papers:—

No. 36. Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department.

Communicate an order sanctioning the Estimate submitted by the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, amounting to Rs. 5820, for the construction of 10 latrines around the Fort of Trichinopoly, and directing that application for funds be submitted after the 1st May next, together with a note by the Honorable T. Pycroft inquiring what is being done towards clearing away the prickly-pear about Trichinopoly.

(Dated 29th February 1864, No. 596).

No. 37. From J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichinopoly, 23rd March 1864, No. 6.

In reply to your Memorandum,* calling for information of the progress that has been made in destroying the prickly-pear round the Trichinopoly Fort, I have the honor to forward a Memorandum drawn up by my Acting Head Assistant which gives all particulars.

* No. 118, Judicial Department.

Memorandum of what has been done up to date in the matter of clearing the prickly-pear surrounding the Fort.

The work was begun in October 1863, and contracts were made to the amount of

Amount sanctioned	Rupees 2000
Work performed	Rupees 1736
Amount advanced to Contractors and value of Tools	1330
Balance due to Contractors	406
Balance from the amount sanctioned	670

Rupees 1600-14-0 with two contractors to cut and bury the prickly-pear, stipulation being made that the pits in which it was to be buried were dug by Jail convicts. The average rate was six Pice per square yard.

2. The first contract was with one Hyder Sa, to clear 34,934 square yards for Rupees 1092-4-0. This piece extends along the west-

ern, northern, and part of the eastern sides of the Fort, and saving a small piece on the eastern side the work is complete. Rupees 738-13-4 have been paid to this contractor in advance, and for part of the work now done.

3. The second contract was taken by one Mutusami Pillay, to clear 16,276 square yards along the remainder of the eastern, and part of the southern side for Rupees 508-10-0. In this case the bushes have all been cut but none buried, as in consequence of the prevalence of cholera a short while ago just about that place it was thought inadvisable to let the convicts work there. I am to have a gang however next week, and I hope in a month to be able to report that this piece, and the remaining piece in Hyder Sa's contract, which is delayed from the same cause, is finished. 270 Rupees have been paid on this contract.

4. A few small agreements were besides made with pensioned Serjeant Walker, and his son to clear some land along the western side of the Fort, but on the inside of the ditch and on these (this work is now almost completed) 300 Rupees have been spent; the quantity of land cleared here is square yards 15,284.

5. Besides this the villagers have cleared about 16,674 square yards for which no payment is to be made, but the people are to have the use of the land.

6. The amount of land which will finally be cleared is :

By Government.....	Square yards 66,544
By the Villagers.....	" " 16,674
	<u>83,218</u>

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th April 1864.*

This is all cleared, with the exception of about 24,000 square yards which, as I have before shown, remains unfinished, and when it is completed there will be no prickly-pear left on the land immediately outside the Fort ditch.

7. There is a large quantity of prickly-pear along the Ramparts on the inside of the ditch which requires to be cleared; but I presume that this will be all removed with the Ramparts, for the levelling of which an estimate has, I believe, been sent in from the Engineer Department.

8. I am rather inclined to fear that our remedy is not a very efficacious one; in many of the pits where it has been buried, the prickly-pear is shooting up again, and though we are safe for the first six months, for the contractors have bound themselves, if it re-appears within that time to bury it again, yet, I think, for some time after that it will have to be most carefully watched.

(Signed) G. D. LEMAN,
Acting Head Assistant Collector.

TRICHINOPOLY,
11th March 1864.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1864, No. 461.

The Government desire that the Collector of Trichinopoly will expedite the removal of the prickly-pear surrounding the Fort as much as possible. Should the removal of the whole not be completed before the 1st proximo, the Collector will submit a further report on that date stating what has been actually done.

2. Should the prickly-pear still shoot up as anticipated by Mr. Leman after the six months, during which the contractors are bound to destroy it, the Collector should arrange for the pits where it has been buried being frequently examined, and the plant destroyed as it shoots up by convicts from the Jail.

(True Extract.)

H. J. Lambuth
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly.
Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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J. J. Tulloch
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