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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue Board DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1645 Press Mis.

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 134. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department :—

Communicating letter from the Quarter Master General forwarding copy of one to the Adjutant General, Bengal Army, on the subject of Recreation Rooms. } (Here enter 30th May 1864, No. 1,831.)

No. 135. ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1864, No. 1,654.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.

Exd, S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 18th May 1864, *No.* 4963; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

With reference to Proceedings of Government, Military Department, No. 1635, dated 13th instant, I have the honor, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of Government, copy of my letter, No. 4689, dated 10th idem, to the address of the Adjutant General Bengal Army, Simla, on the subject of Recreation Rooms.

From the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 10th May 1864, *No.* 4689; *to the Adjutant General Bengal Army, Simla.*

I am directed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in reply to Colonel Norman's letter, No. 928, of the 28th March last, on the subject of the provision of accommodation for use as Recreation Rooms in Barracks, and of the nature of the Recreation and employment which it is considered should be placed within the reach of the men; to state that Sir Hope Grant is of opinion, that separate Workshops, suitably furnished, should be provided for Tailors, Carpenters, Smiths and Shoe-makers, and any other useful trades. In some Regiments, printing and book-binding might be found an available and a lucrative occupation. For the Smiths a detached building should be constructed. The others might all be under one roof.

2. A Workshop should be built by Government for the women of Regiments. In this Presidency, female working classes have been established with great success, and with much benefit to the women. Rules for the same have been drawn up, and a copy is enclosed. The School-room in some Regiments might answer: but the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that the care of the women and children of a Regiment is a very essential point towards its good behaviour. When these poor creatures are neglected, which is often the case in European Regiments, they constantly become depraved, lead their husbands into drinking and are the cause of much irregularity in a Regiment. Where they are well taken care of, the result is very different. The women are tidy, respectful in their manners, bring up their children well, and it affects the moral behaviour of the Regiment generally. The Commander-in-Chief would strongly recommend the advantage of a working-room, and in it should also be placed a Library.

3. As the plan of Barracks every where differs, it is impossible to lay down any one disposition of the rooms required for the Recreation of the men. There is only one Barrack in this Presidency having the dining-room in the centre of the Building. But this can be conveniently used as a Reading Room for the Company; books being brought from the Library, but not kept in the dining-room. The Commander-in-Chief, however, thinks it necessary that a separate building for every Regiment should be erected consisting of a reading-room, an partment for games and a room for coffee and refreshments, and he also thinks it ought to be furnished by Government in a plain but useful way; *viz.*, in chairs and in separate small tables. All these rooms should be well ventilated and lighted by day and night. The Coffee-room should be in the centre, where all are under one roof.

4. The Serjeants should have a building of their own, containing apartments for reading, for messing and for amusements. In the latter a Billiard Table should be placed. His Excellency has found this to be of great advantage.

5. The Regulation is, that for every Regiment there should be two Skittle Alleys, and for a Battery, one. Sir Hope Grant thinks the number for Cavalry and Infantry is insufficient. There should be four, besides a Ball or a Racket Court.

6. Every Regiment and Battery should have its own rooms distinct from all other, whether or not, there may happen to be, as at Trimulgherry, a Soldiers' Club or Institute for the whole Force; because not only is it necessary that every Regiment should be independent in all such appliances for reasons of order and discipline, but it may happen that it be removed to a Station where no such general establishment is found, and it would be thrown out for some time in getting up its own Regimental Institutions.

7. Every room used at night should be liberally supplied with lamps. This His Excellency lays great stress on, as hardly anything is so discouraging to in-door employment at night, as a badly lighted room.

8. His Excellency does not see how one Building can be used for more than one purpose. Workshops can only be used as Workshops during the day, by different classes of men. Reading-rooms, and rooms for games cannot be used for both purposes at once. The noise of the one would mar the comfort of the other. The Refreshment-room likewise is a place where the preparation of refreshment, and the custody of the necessary articles would be attended to by Natives, and though it need not be large, it should certainly be distinct.

9. Every Regiment and Battery should have its own Gymnasium. Provision for athletic exercises of various sorts should be made at the cost of Government, and a large Shed erected for use when the monsoon or excessive heat prevents the men going into the open air.

ORDER, No. 1831, 30*th May* 1864.

Communicated to Department Public Works, with reference to Proceedings in that Department, No. 1341, dated 10th May 1864.

(True Extract.)

R Hamilton Esq
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Public Works Department. With 20 spare Copies
" Adjutant General.
" President Sanitary Commission, for information.

Exd, R. Stephenson.

1654

No 1654 -

Communicated to the Bengal Engineers -

Cantt

Chesparah
6th June 1864

To The Bengal Engineers

No 87

Dated 7th June -

1654

No 2446 Dated 1st June 1864
Chief Engr. for Cantt.

Copy of Govt. Order in the Milty. Department

Dated 23 May
Received 2nd June

No 1891.

No 1654 - 6th June 1864 -

Communicating letter from the Qr Master Genl forwarding copy of one to the Adjutant Genl Bengal Army, on the subject of Recreation Rooms -

No 1884 - 1885 -

With the Order