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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1191	Press ~~Mis~~
53-54	
Dated 3-8	18 6 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd May 1865.*

No. 53. Read the following Proceedings of the Governor General of India in Council, Public Works Department (Military Works), dated Fort William, 22nd March 1865, Circular No. 26 :—

Slaughter-houses for European Troops.

Read the following papers :—

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Crommelin, on Special Duty, dated 13th January 1864, on the subject of slaughter-houses for European Troops.

Letter No. 4,385-326, dated 19th February 1864, from Officiating Commissary General.

Docket No. 744, dated 23rd February 1864, from Military Department, and enclosures.

Received with Military Department Memorandum No. 685 dated 28th October 1864.	{	Memorandum No. 114, dated 6th June 1864, from General Commanding Benares Division.
		" " 65, " 11th " " " " Oudh " "
		" " 597, " 17th " " " " " Gwalior District.
		" " 772, " 20th " " " " " Rohilkhund "
		" " 465A, " 21st " " " " " Meerut Division.
		" " 1,464, " 28th " " " " " Peshawur "
		" " 362, " 30th " " " " " Lahore "
		" " 854, " 30th " " " " " Sirhind "
		Letter " 208, " 30th " " " " " Saugor District.
		" " 1,219, " 1st August 1864 " " " " Presidency Divn.
" " 682, " 4th " " " " " " " " from Qr. Mr. General.		
" " 693, " 5th " " " " " " " " "		

Extract from Lieutenant-Colonel Crommelin's Note, dated 9th August 1864.

Memorandum No. 685, dated 28th October 1864, from Military Department.

Letter No. 28, dated 16th January 1865, from the Officiating President of the Sanitary Commission for Bengal.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council has for some time had under consideration the subject of slaughter-houses for European Troops, and observes that although it may not be possible to lay down one, or even several standard plans, which can be strictly followed in detail in all parts of India, yet that there are certain real and essential requirements which are common to all slaughter-houses, and for which provision should in all cases be made.

2. His Excellency in Council is therefore pleased to lay down for information and guidance the following general instructions which should be followed in the construction of new, or the modification of existing slaughter-houses.

The component parts of a slaughter-house are—

1st.—The slaughter stand, on which the animals are killed.

2nd.—The gallows, on which the carcasses are hung for the purpose of being dressed.

3rd.—The hanging house, into which the carcasses are removed after they are dressed, and where they remain hung up, until they are issued to the troops.

4th.—Yards and sheds for the cattle.

5th.—A yard in which the fodder for the cattle may be stacked.

6th.—A well.

7th.—The geneal enclosure.

3. The slaughter stand need be merely an unenclosed floor on the open ground, covered with sand to a depth of one foot, and raised a few inches above the ground level, and having a rather broad but shallow and saucer-shaped drain (say, 2 feet wide and 1 foot deep), which should run along the front of it and communicate with a small pucca tank or reservoir, also shallow. It will prove convenient to place this reservoir immediately outside the enclosure of the slaughter yard, so that the villagers or others may be able to carry away the contents without entering the yard. The drain should be broad and rather deep, so that the heads and horns of the animals, which are slaughtered over it, may not come in contact with its bottom and sides during their death throes. The floor should be about 15 feet wide, and will vary in length with the size of the slaughter-house, or in other words with the number of cattle to be slaughtered at one time. It has been suggested that this

floor should be paved, so as to admit of its being thoroughly washed and cleansed, and because it is feared that the earthen floor will absorb blood, &c., and become offensive. But a paved floor would be expensive, and is otherwise objectionable, inasmuch as the cattle when thrown upon it, previous to being slaughtered, would be liable to be bruised and injured. Moreover as the greater portion of the blood and offensive matter would fall into the drain, it is probable that not more than the surface of the earthen floor would be tainted, and this might be constantly renewed. On the whole it seems advisable that the sand floor should be adopted in the first instance, at any rate, and should experience show that it proves offensive, a paved floor can subsequently be substituted. The sand should be renewed frequently.

4. *The Gallows* consist merely of strong posts let into the ground close to the slaughter stand, at intervals of about 6 feet, and connected at top by stout wooden bars from which the carcasses are suspended, and which should be about 8 feet from the ground.

5. A broad shallow drain, communicating with the drain of the slaughter stand, should be constructed along the whole length of the gallows, to catch the blood and offal that may fall from the carcasses while they are being dressed. The slaughter stand and gallows should be in the open air, that is to say, they should not be covered in by any roof, in order that the air may pass freely over, and purify the ground on which the processes of slaughtering the animals and cleansing the carcasses are performed. The Sanitary Commission have recommended that the gallows should be covered in by a permanent roof, but the Governor General in Council doubts whether there is any necessity for such covering, and considers that it might prove objectionable inasmuch as it would obstruct free ventilation. The gallows should, therefore, in the first instance, be constructed without the covering of a permanent roof; if in practice it is found that such cover would be advantageous, it can be added. During the rains protection from the weather might be afforded by canvas awnings which would be easily erected and removed according to the season.

6. *The Hanging House or Meat Shed* should be built close to the slaughter stand, so that the carcasses may not have to be dragged to any distance. It will be most conveniently situated, if placed at one corner of the general enclosure, with a door in the outer wall from which the meat can be issued. It should be about 16 feet high and 16 feet wide, but its length will depend upon the number of carcasses to be stored in it at one time: this can easily be calculated by reckoning that a length of 3 feet should be allowed for each bullock, and one foot for each sheep; and that 8 bullocks or 40 sheep are sufficient on the average for 1,000 men per diem. This shed should be well ventilated. It should have openings in the roof and windows in the outer wall, in addition to the door abovementioned, and the front should be open and protected by jhamps or jaffree work. The floor should be pucca (paved if possible) and sloped to a small drain which should run along the centre and communicate with the same tank as the slaughter stand drain. This drain will catch the drippings from the carcasses, and also carry off the water which should be freely used for washing out the shed. Dressers need not be provided as the carcasses are not cut up until they reach the ration ground of the troops. Gallows for hanging the carcasses must be erected over the drain. The details, here specified, provide for the cleansing of the hanging sheds by means of water; it is possible however that dry earth may prove a more satisfactory purifying agent, and the necessary experiments with it as a substitute for water should be tried.

7. *Yard and shed for cattle.*—The cattle will generally feed in the yards, and will sleep in them during the hot weather and rains when fine; in cold and rainy weather they will sleep in sheds. The yards need only be enclosed by mud walls 5 feet high, and the sheds may be of temporary construction. Cattle for 30 days supply of meat have by recent orders to be kept at the slaughter yard. The average numbers for 1,000 men, for this period, are 400 sheep and 160 bullocks. The space to be allowed in the sheds should be at the rate of 6 or 8 square feet per sheep, and 30 square feet per bullock. The Sanitary Commission think 36 square feet should

be allotted to each bullock, but this is a point which in practice will soon be discovered and can easily be provided for.

8. *Yards for fodder.*—No buildings seem necessary for the storage of fodder, this can be stacked in an open yard in which there should also be space sufficient for a small row of huts which the contractors will require to construct for their establishments. A yard ~~250~~ ²⁷⁰ feet square should suffice for a regiment.

9. *The Well.*—A well, 6 feet in diameter, in which there is a good supply of water, should suffice.

10. *The Enclosure.*—For the whole of the above parts should be on a liberal scale. Slaughter-houses are generally at the out-skirts of stations where plenty of ground is available, and as the only expense of the general enclosure is the mud wall of 5 feet in height, and as cattle require room to move about in, there can be no object in cramping the space. An area of from 70 to 80 yards square will probably be found sufficient for a regiment.

11. *Cess Pools and Offal Pits.*—It is essential that the whole of the offal shall be carried away daily, and that the blood and liquid refuse should not on any account be deposited in cess-pools within the premises, where it would be liable to become offensive, thereby subjecting the freshly killed meat to effluvia. The greater portion of the refuse can be disposed of to the villagers, and the remainder must be carted away daily by the establishments.

12. The shallow tank or reservoir alluded to in paragraph 3 is only intended as an immediate and temporary receptacle of the fluid refuse.

Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, N. W. Provinces, and Punjab.
Governor, Straits Settlements.
Chief Commissioners, Central Provinces, Oudh, and British Burmah.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Governor General, Rajpootana and Central India.
Quarter Master General of the Army.
Commissary General.
President, Sanitary Commission.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of the foregoing Resolution, with a sketch showing the various component parts of a slaughter-house, be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations and to the Heads of Departments noted in the margin.

(Signed) R. STRACHEY, Colonel, R. E.,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Captain, R. E.,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Secretary to Government of Madras in the Public Works Department.

No. 54.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1865, No. 1,191.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 7.

Communicated to the Military Department, and to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.

„ Superintending Engineers. } With plans.

Exd. T. O'Connor,

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CIRCULAR No. 26 of 1865.

PUBLIC WORKS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

Fort William, 22nd March, 1865.

Military Works.

Slaughter-houses for European Troops.

Read the following papers:—

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	" " 362, " 30th " " " Lahore "
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Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Lt. M. L. ...

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Secy to Govt of Madras
in the PWD Deptt

ex 1191
Military works

Communicated to
the Military Department &
to the Superintending Engineers

Woy To The Militia Department }
 " Supd Engrs } with plans
 X087 Fort St George }
 2^d May 1865 } $\frac{130}{10}$

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Proc. of Govt. for ellay
1878

Military Works.

CIRCULAR No. 26.

To

FROM

SECY. TO GOVT. OF INDIA,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Dated 22nd March, 1865.

Received 24th Feb.

Q. 1.

General instructions to be followed in the construction of new, or the modification of existing Slaughter-Houses for European Troops.

for 53-54.

c. 26th April 1865 (28th)

With an order
1191 - 2nd May 1865