

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 173	Press ~~Mis.~~
353-356	
Dated	31-1-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

173

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st January 1865.*

No. 355. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public
Department:—

Sanctioning the removal of the Court of Small
Causes into the building occupied by the
Commissariat, and the transfer of the Collec- } (Here enter 11th January 1865, No. 40.)
tor's Office to the old Provincial Court House
at Masulipatam.

No. 356. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1865, No. 173.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government,

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 40.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department

11th January 1865.

Read the following papers:—

No. 412.

No. 61.

MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned has the honor to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the subjoined Extract from the Annual Inspection Report of the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Northern Division, on the Hospital and Lines of the Native Infantry Regiment at Masulipatam, in which that officer treats on the subject of the "conservancy of the neighbourhood of the barracks and station generally." From his personal knowledge of the station, and of its physical character and configuration before the late catastrophe, the undersigned is able to confirm the statements of Deputy Inspector General Dorward, and he begs most earnestly to endorse his recommendation that the site of the old town of Masulipatam be abandoned altogether.

(Signed) R. COLE,
Princl. Insptr. Genl. Medl. Dept.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
3rd December 1864.

Extract from the Inspection Report of Barrack and Hospital of Her Majesty's 19th Regiment
N. I.

"A little over two miles from the Regimental Lines lies the Native town of Masulipatam, very large and populous, and now almost entirely in ruins from the late inundation of the sea, with which it is nearly on a level, thus rendering proper drainage almost impracticable. The whole place appears to me at present a foul swamp, full of debris and decaying vegetable matters, while thousands of dead bodies and carcasses of animals have been hastily buried in all directions. Under the best conservancy, it cannot, in my judgment, for months to come, be made safely habitable by an under-fed people. Were I allowed a voice in the matter, instead of re-building it as proposed, I should recommend a new town to be erected on higher and cleaner ground, or that the locality should be abandoned altogether."

(True Extract).

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH,
*Secy. Principal Insptr. General,
Medical Department.*

Transferred to the Public Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
9th December 1864.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, Lieut. Colonel,
Under Secretary to Govt.

No. 62. From the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, c. B., President Sanitary Commission, and G. THORNHILL, Esq., Collector, Kistna District, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Masulipatam, 7th December 1864, No. 26.

We have the honor to submit, for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council, a Memorandum on the question of retaining Masulipatam as a Civil Station, and as a Cantonment for Native troops.

MEMORANDUM

On the question of retaining Masulipatam as a Civil station, and as a Cantonment for Native Troops.

Two questions, which we have carefully considered, are whether the late Cyclone will render necessary the abandonment of Masulipatam as the chief Civil station of the Kistna District, and whether the Native Regiment usually stationed at Masulipatam should be permanently withdrawn.

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11th January 1865.*

2. The reasons which would probably be urged in favor of the removal of the station are:—
That owing to the late inundation, causing as it did enormous loss of life, and leaving for miles a deposit of saline mud, there is reason to apprehend the prevalence of severe epidemic disorders.

That from its position, the Town of Masulipatam and the Civil station will be exposed to a recurrence of such destruction as took place on the 1st of November last.

That the removal of the Civil station to some more central situation in the Kistna District would be in itself an advantage.

3. On the other hand, it may be urged that the Natives are fast re-building the Town, and as none of the wealthier merchants are likely to remove from Masulipatam, it will remain a place of considerable commercial importance; and, that other circumstances apart, this would be strong reason for retaining it as the chief Civil station. In any case it would be necessary to maintain here the Court of Small Causes, and an European officer with the full powers of a Magistrate.

4. The only other available places, combining central position and other requirements, are Bezwada and Guntoor.

In case of Bezwada being selected, the Government would be put to very considerable expense in providing office accommodation, which will not be required if Masulipatam is retained as the Civil station. As respects climate, the latter place offers many advantages over both Guntoor and Bezwada. Both these places are subject to periodical and severe visitations of cholera. Moreover, at Bezwada, there would not be accommodation for the European officers, and the building sites, other than on black cotton soil, are limited.

5. It is undoubtedly true that no Engineering works, such as could be constructed at a moderate expense, would render Masulipatam secure from future inundation. But it must be remembered that unfortunately it was, as far as can be judged, the centre of the late Cyclone, that no such disastrous storm is known to have occurred during the last hundred years, and that any argument in support of removing from Masulipatam, on account of danger from the sea, would apply with almost equal force to many other towns and stations similarly situated.

6. It would be premature to express any decided opinion as to the probability or otherwise of an outbreak of epidemic disease at this place, in consequence of the recent inundation; but there is every reason to believe that no serious apprehension need be entertained on this subject. Great exertions have been made, from the day following the inundation, until the present time, for the burial of the dead, and the town is undergoing a systematic cleansing, which it may be hoped will preserve the public health, which has, since the disaster, been excellent.

The stagnant water is being drained off, the roads and streets are being cleared of trees and prickly pear and the ruins of fallen houses. Colonel Anderson, Royal Engineers, is vigorously pushing on the works for supplying the town with excellent water, the want of which has always been much felt in this place.

7. The demand for labor is great, and food is now abundant, and the Houses of Relief are supplying the wants of all those who from age, sex, or infirmity, are unable to work.

The inhabitants are taking heart and are commencing to rebuild their houses. They will be aided in this by grants from the Cyclone-Relief fund, supplemented as it has been by the liberal Government grant. Well raised sites have been provided for those persons whose houses were formerly in the most exposed situations, and the survivors in these Pettahs are gladly availing themselves of these new sites.

8. Under these circumstances, namely, unusual sanitary precautions, abundant occupation, and a high rate of wages, plenty of food, and, as will soon be the case, sufficient shelter, there is every reason to hope that the town will escape any unusual visitation of disease. We do not, therefore, hesitate from the above considerations to recommend to the Government the maintenance of the Civil station at Masulipatam.

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9. There are at the station the following Government buildings still standing, and which can, at no great expense, be put in good repair:—

The Court house, formerly the Provincial Court, at present occupied by the Court of small Causes.

The Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, at present occupied by the Commissariat office.

The Barracks formerly occupied by the Artillery, and now used by the Police.

The Jail.

The Barrack (Place of arms and Quarters of Non-Commissioned Officers) and Hospital, lately occupied by the 19th Regiment Native Infantry.

The Taluq Cutcherry; and

The District Moonsiff's Court.

10. The Collector's office was located in a hired building, which is so much damaged by the storm that it is no longer available.

11. It will, therefore, be necessary to move the Court of the Judge of Small Causes into the public building at present occupied by the Commissariat, and to assign an allowance for office rent to the Deputy Assistant Commissary General, who will find no difficulty in securing office accommodation in the station.

The Collector's office will then find accommodation in the old Provincial Court House, which with a few alterations will be well suited for this purpose.

12. It is necessary, having in view the importance of this large district, and the extent of its frontier, the Nizam's country, that a Native Regiment of Infantry should be stationed at Masulipatam, in succession to the 19th N. I., ordered to Samulcottah. In order to utilize the Barrack and Hospital which have been but little injured by the storm, it will be desirable to select for the Regimental lines ground not too far removed from these buildings, but higher than that occupied by the 19th Regiment, which was peculiarly ill-chosen.

13. It will also be desirable that permanent lines should be erected for a Native Regiment, somewhat similar to those at Perambore, which, though ill-designed, have proved to be infinitely superior to ordinary Native lines. Should this proposal be considered to involve too great a cost, at least brick and chunam basements should be provided for the Sepoys' huts. This change of site, and the provision of a masonry basement, would protect the Sepoys and their families from all ordinary risk from inundation, and will also greatly contribute to the health of the Regiment and their families.

14. After very careful consideration, and after consultation with those best acquainted, from long residence, with this climate, we have no hesitation in thinking that a Native Regiment may, without any risk to the health of the troops, be located here, as soon as the lines are prepared. Due provision for adequate and pure supply of water to them should receive early attention.

15. It has been wisely determined not to land European Troops at Masulipatam during the present season, and it is worthy of consideration whether, when the Railway is completed to Cuddapah, European Troops should again be landed here.

The process of landing Troops occupies many hours, during which they are exposed to the sun. In any other than fair weather, the landing is attended with considerable risk, and many cases of severe illness have occurred from the exposure thus endured by the Troops.

(Signed) R. S. ELIAS,

President of the Sanitary Commission.

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,

Collector of the Kistna District.

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1865, No. 40.

The Governor in Council concurs in the opinion expressed by the President of the Sanitary Commission, and the Collector of the Kistna District, in the Memorandum above recorded, that Masulipatam must be retained as the Chief Civil Station of the District. He approves and sanctions the arrangements proposed in the 11th

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th January 1865.*

paragraph of the Memorandum, involving the removal of the Court of Small Causes into the building at present occupied by the Commissariat, and the transfer of the Collector's Office to the old Provincial Court House. These arrangements are sanctioned, on the understanding that suitable accommodation can be found for the Commissariat elsewhere; a report on this point will be called for in the Military Department.

2. The question whether a Regiment of Native Infantry should be again stationed at Masulipatam will be referred to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, for his opinion, together with the suggestion made in the 13th paragraph of the Memorandum, in regard to the erection of permanent lines, in the event of its being determined to retain Masulipatam as a Military Station. The Governor in Council is disposed to concur in the opinion expressed in the Memorandum that, with reference to the position of the Kistna District, bordering as it does on the Nizam's country, it should not be left altogether without a Military Force; but he thinks it very questionable whether Masulipatam should be again used as a port for the embarkation or debarkation of European Troops.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department.

- „ Revenue do.
- „ Collector of the Kistna District.
- „ Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Masulipatam.
- „ President of the Sanitary Commission.
- „ Civil Paymaster.
- „ Accountant General.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th January 1865.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 61. From the Principal Inspector } (Here enter 3rd December 1864, No. 412).
General, Medical Department.

No. 62. From the President of the }
Sanitary Commission and Collec- } („ 7th December „ „ 36).
tor of the Kistna District.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1865, No. 40.

The Governor in Council concurs in the opinion expressed by the President of the Sanitary Commission, and the Collector of the Kistna District, in the Memorandum above recorded, that Masulipatam must be retained as the Chief Civil Station of the District. He approves and sanctions the arrangements proposed in the 11th paragraph of the Memorandum, involving the removal of the Court of Small Causes into the building at present occupied by the Commissariat, and the transfer of the Collector's Office to the old Provincial Court House. These arrangements are sanctioned, on the understanding that suitable accommodation can be found for the Commissariat elsewhere; a report on this point will be called for in the Military Department.

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(True Extract).

H. J. Christy
Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department.

- „ Revenue do.
- „ Collector of the Kistna District.
- „ ~~Civil and Session Judge of Masulipatam.~~
- „ Judge of the Court of Small Causes do.
- „ President of the Sanitary Commission.
- „ Civil Paymaster.
- „ Accountant General.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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New 1865. Oct 15.
No of Court Jan 1982

Proceedings of the
Prothonotary in the
Public Offices.

Ordered 11th 3rd Jan 1865.
Received 23rd 1865.

No. 40.

showing the
removal of the County
Jail House into the
building occupied by the
Commodore, and the
transfer of the office
to the old Provincial
Court House at Market
Street.

1865-356.

1873. 31st Aug

William Carter

28-173.

Communicated to

the Board of Revenue

From W. L. G. 1865.
31st Aug 1865.

W. L. G.

5 13th of Dec 1865. No. 10440.
22nd 1865.

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