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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1829	☒ Press ☐ Mis.
723-724	
Dated 30. 6. 1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th June 1865.*

No. 723. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on the report of the Officer
Commanding Nagpore Force on the
Convalescent Depot at Chindwarra,
and the buildings in course of erection
at Moothoor. } (Here enter 22nd June 1865, 2,339.)

No. 724. ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1865, No. 1,829.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 58.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Memorandum from the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 13th May 1865, No. 5361; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

Forwarded to Government for information, with particular reference to paragraphs 5 and 6, under the head "Moothoor."

From the Officer Commanding Nagpore Force, Kamptee, 29th April 1865, No. 93; to the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, a Report on the Convalescent Depôt at Chindwarra, and the buildings in course of erection at Moothoor; the result of a visit from which I have just returned. I was accompanied by Doctor Hearn, the Acting Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, and by Major O'Connell, the Assistant Quarter Master General Nagpore Force.

1. CHINDWARRA.—I found the Depôt at Chindwarra, in very satisfactory order—the men comfortable, their health, generally much improved, and the Barracks clean and tidy, evidence of the salubrity of the climate of Chindwarra was unmistakeably afforded. The sick in Hospital, eleven in number, were mostly suffering from venereal affections of an acute kind, not likely to be much improved by any change short of a return to England. Some improvements to perfect the existing buildings were in course of execution by the Public Works Department, but the following are still required and have been brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces.

1. The completion of the Lavatory still in a rude and unfinished state.
2. A room for the detention of prisoners with a solitary Cell on either side of it.

3. The erection of a Shed for the protection of Sick Carriage, &c., &c.
4. The drainage of a rather extensive swamp in the vicinity of the Barracks, and with which, it is conjectured, the fevers prevalent, on the drying up of the rains, may be connected. This work will be inexpensive; a deep cutting through the centre with lateral trenches will suffice to effect the object contemplated.

2. MOOTHOR.—I found the Barrack at this Station, designed to accommodate twenty-five men, only three parts roofed—the doors and windows up but not fitted; the flooring in one room of rude flags, in the other of earth smoothed and plastered with cow-dung. The Cook-room and Lavatory full of building materials, and the Privy in a very unfinished state. The Officers' Quarters, a mere shell—no Commissariat Shed erected—no Ball Alley—a rude half-finished School-room intended to be used as a Hospital—no attempt made to clear the space and lay down gravel for 40 yards all round the Barrack, or for 10 yards round the out-houses—no path-way leading to them, all very requisite in a black clayey soil, and no covered passage to the Privy, an absolute necessity in the rainy months.

3. Such being the state of the buildings, the conclusion was inevitable, and in this view Dr. Hearn agreed with me, that the Barracks were not suitable for immediate occupation, and that it would be better to postpone the march of a party of Soldiers to the Sanitarium, till the buildings were far more advanced and prepared for them than at present. Judging from the difficulties attending the accomplishment of any work at Moothoor, I am disposed to believe the Barracks, as a whole, will not be ready for occupation earlier than January or February next. I would observe

that the Executive Officer superintending the works, did not concur in this view, but considered that twelve men might, with propriety, even now be sent to make an experiment of the Sanitarium. But for the reasons already stated, and because a party of twelve men is too small to justify the step, either on the score of health, of discipline or expense, I withheld my assent. The men could not proceed alone, and to detach a Medical Officer without accommodation either for him or the Officer sent in charge of the men was objectionable. Moreover, in my opinion, a great deal is required, which has, as yet, received no attention from the Department Public Works to give the experiment a fair trial.

4. It will be remembered that, from faulty engineering, from bad materials, and other causes which I need not enumerate, the buildings erected in 1863-64 came down with the first pressure of the monsoon. The Detachment had in consequence to be withdrawn in June 1864, and returned to Kamptee; the men very much impaired in health from the exposure and suffering they had endured. This result was the consequence of acting on the declaration of the Engineer, that the buildings were fit for occupation. To guard against a similar result was the object of my visit to Moothoor this year.

5. The points to which I desire to draw attention, and to which as yet no thought has been given, is the absolute necessity of the Barrack-rooms and Hospital being boarded; also that some means be devised of giving fire-places to these buildings, not so much on account of the cold, as the excessive dampness of the climate for six months of the year. It will be recollected that last year the Barrack had a tiled roof, this year it has a thatched one; but the chimneys of the old building though closed up, have been left standing, and instead of being carried high up and above the present grass roof, terminate several feet below it, the new roof having a much higher pitch than the old one.

6. I beg also to add that a Lightning Conductor is required to the main Barrack. I had personal knowledge on my late visit of the necessity of such a safeguard in so bleak and exposed a locality.

7. Partly from one cause, partly from another, the opinion seems to be gaining ground among all classes; the Medical Officers acquainted with the spot, the Civil Officers of the District, and generally by all Officers who have on duty or on shooting excursions, become acquainted with the locality, that the Sanitarium at Moothoor will never be, under any circumstances, a desirable place for sick men, except during the comparatively dry months, viz., from December to May inclusive. The Native population of the surrounding District have an insuperable aversion to the place, and Coolies and others employed on the works now going on, are with difficulty kept to the spot; all who can do so, contrive to run away, not even Sweepers can be induced to stay. They consider it unhealthy and will not reside there.

8. The Sapper Company have been employed in improving the roads and opening the Ghauts. The men have enjoyed comparatively good health, but their dislike to the place, the climate, the water and the scarcity of Provisions is but too apparent.

ORDER, No. 2339, 22nd June 1865.

The Report submitted with the Quarter Master General's Memorandum above recorded, will be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Central Provinces, with a request that the points adverted to in paragraphs 5 and 6 may receive attention, and with an expression of the opinion of this Government, that until the buildings

are made suitable in every respect for the accommodation of European Soldiers, no men should be allowed to be sent to Moothoor, as no satisfactory results can possibly be expected, and the Sanitarium will not be fairly tested.

2. The remarks of Brigadier General Shubrick in paragraph 7, also deserve consideration, and it becomes a question whether, under the adverse circumstances brought to notice, the object of providing a Sanitarium for Kamptee might not be equally well met by extending the accommodation of the Depôt at Chindwarra, of which latter spot the Report speaks very favorably.

3. These Proceedings will be reported to the Government of India.
To the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept. | Here enter 22nd June 1865, No. 2340.
To the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces. | " " " 2341.

(True Extract.)

Almullin
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Commissary General, ...
" Controller of Military Accounts, ...
" Principal Inspector General Medical Department, ... } for information.
" President Sanitary Commission, ...
" Adjutant General, ...
" Public Works Department, *M. H. P. & Co. Secy.*

Exd. T. Stubbs.

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Mary Ann

1829
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Ordered to be re-
-corded -

From H. George
20th June 1825

W. H.

Q. N. 1865 Depart
Pro. of Govt for June
No. 2334

Pro. of Govt for June
Military Depart

Dated 22^d } June/65
(Recd 26^d) }
No. 2339

Passing orders
on the Report of the
Officer Commanding
Force, ~~the~~ ^{the} on the
Convalescent Depot at
Chindawara, and the
buildings in course of
erection at Northor.

With an order

No. 1829 - 30th June 1865

No. 723. 724