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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2222	Press
70-71	Mis.
Dated 3-8-	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 70. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Approving of the site selected for the
new Grand Magazine at St. Thomas' } (Here enter 25th July 1865, No. 2,753.)
Mount, Madras District.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1865, No. 2,222.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 7.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, for information and guidance.
2. The construction of the Magazine should be expeditiously proceeded with.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, with Plan.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

"Military Dept."

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From the Quarter Master General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 13th July 1865, No. ¹⁸⁷/₇₂₉₂; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

With reference to Order of Government, No. 2188, dated 12th ultimo, I have the honor, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to forward the annexed Report from the Officer Commanding Centre Division, having reference to the selection of a site for the new Grand Magazine at Saint Thomas' Mount.

The Commander-in-Chief concurs in the suggestion made, though he observes that the Battery hypothetically placed on the North-east spur of the Mount does not form part of the scheme originally laid down for the defence of the new Ordnance and other buildings on the plain beyond the Mount. The two Batteries which were projected by Sir Hope Grant for protecting those buildings, are marked in red on the Plan now sent, but the third Battery suggested by the Committee can be mounted without difficulty or expense also, if required.

3. Some delay has occurred in submitting this reply, on account of references which have been made to the Head Quarter Office.

From the Officer Commanding Centre Division, Head Quarters, Madras, 24th June 1865, No. 61; to the Quarter Master General, Ootacamund.

In compliance with the instructions conveyed in your letter, No. 5771 of 27th May 1865, I have the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that I visited Saint Thomas' Mount on the 19th instant, accompanied by the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines and the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, and carefully inspected the proposed new site for a Powder Magazine—a Plan of the ground about which, is enclosed—and I convey the opinion of the Officers who accompanied me, as well as my own, in reporting as follows:—The advantage of the new site over the old is, that the original site is on land, the property of the Roman Catholic Church, which it would be necessary to purchase; and there is a village close by, which would have to be removed and Compensation paid to house-owners; the slope of the Hill moreover is so steep, that the cost of the building would be greatly enhanced. Whereas, in the new site the ground is Government property, there is no village near, and the lie of the land is perfectly favorable. The new site has the same relative position, with reference to the new Ordnance buildings to be erected, as the former site; the position will be swept by the fire of the Battery on Saint Thomas' Mount only 700 yards off, and would moreover be amply defended by a close fire from every point of the little amphitheatre of Hills, at the entrance of which the Magazine will stand. The small detached Hill, under the spur of, and parallel to, which it is placed, represents an admirable traverse shutting out, and in the event of explosion, protecting the buildings in the Horse Artillery Lines, while it intervenes between the Magazine and the new Ordnance buildings, the nearest of which will be 1,100 yards distant, so that the safety of the position in this light also may be considered perfect.

ORDER, No. 2753, 25th July 1865.

Approved and communicated, with Plan, to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

W. Hamilton Stot
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General

„ Public Works Department, with Plan.

„ Inspector General of Ordnance.

420 spare Copies

Ed. J. E. Cashart.

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