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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2359

355-356

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated 14 - 8 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,

14th August 1865.

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

Communicating certain correspondence } (Here enter 7th August 1865, No. 2,897.)
on the subject of stabling for horses. }

No. 356. ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1865, No. 2,359.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 32.

Communicated to the Superintending
Engineers of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th
Divisions, with a request that, in communi-
cation with the Military authorities, they will prepare and submit plans of stabling
on the *principles* laid down in the Standard Plan which has been supplied by the
Government of India, and circulated with G. O. dated 8th March 1865, No. 648 ;
but giving to each horse an area of 14' x 10', and sufficient protection from wind and
rain beating on his quarters.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Divisions.
,, Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From the President Sanitary Commission, Madras, 19th April 1865, No. 664; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings and orders of Government, No. and date as per margin,

Proceedings of Government, Military Department, No. 4314, dated 2nd December 1864.

Proceedings of Government, Military Department, No. 3338, dated 21st September 1864.

Proceedings of Government, Military Department, No. 403, dated 28th January 1865.

Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, No. 648, dated 8th March 1865.

relative to the subject of the stabling of Cavalry and Artillery horses.

2. I request that the following observations may be submitted to His Excellency the Governor in Council, with a view to a re-consideration of the dimensions of space to be allotted to each horse, and of the style, generally, of construction to be adopted.

3. The consideration of these subjects was brought before this Commission in consequence of the submission to us by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of a proposed set of stabling for sick horses, at Bangalore (copy of this is appended to this letter) and marked Plan A.

4. On it I submitted the following observations in my letter, No. 420, dated 5th January 1865.

"This Commission is inclined to think that the flat roofed stalls without verandahs, shown in this plan, would not afford sufficient protection to sick horses. Rain falling with wind blowing towards these open sheds would affect the Horses nearly as much in these, as in the open maidan."

"A building with side walls with proper openings for ventilation, and leaving two feet open space above, with pointed roof (ridge ventilated) and with a central passage between the horses (facing outwards) would at once afford admirable opportunity for careful supervision and for complete protection from the weather."

"In the same building a sweating room, foot-bath stall, with apparatus for swinging horses, &c., should be included, as also a Surgery, room for Line articles, &c."

5. A plan of sick stables constructed on this principle, and capable of modification for ordinary stables, is herewith submitted, marked Plan B.

6. The erection of the separate "Line sheds" proposed for Bangalore can be avoided if they are made an integral portion of the stables for Cavalry and Artillery, which have been recently sanctioned by the Supreme Government.

7. Of the necessity for such buildings there can be no doubt, but this Commission is anxious to bring to the notice of Government, the desirability of providing ordinary stabling of a more complete kind than that hitherto proposed in the papers under consideration on this subject.

8. There is no doubt that exposure and even change of weather is injurious to the horse, and of this a good example was brought to our notice by Colonel Thompson, the Remount Agent, who stated that in November last, 140 horses were admitted into Hospital with coughs and colds during the few weeks next following a few days of heavy and continuous rain. The total strength of horses at the Depot was 550, so that nearly 25 per cent. were made ill by change of weather

alone. Colonel Thompson is also of opinion that horses properly housed would, especially in wet and cold weather, keep their condition better on less food than if they were picketed out.

9. The exposure is equally injurious to the men who have to clean the horses, and no doubt the admissions into Hospital are increased in number from men getting wet in attending to horses picketed out in rainy weather.

10. The means of comparison between the health of mounted Soldiers, whose horses are provided with stables, with that of the same class of Soldiers whose horses are picketed without cover, are not available; but this Commission has no doubt that the Cavalry Soldier should be protected from heat and rain while attending upon his horse.

11. This Commission is further of opinion that there would be a gain to the State, in the increased efficiency of horses protected from the inclemencies of the weather, more than compensating for the expense of building suitable stables.

12. They most entirely concur in the opinion expressed by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, Bombay Presidency, that horses are not more proof than other animals against attacks of disease resulting from continued exposure to heavy rain, and there can also be no doubt that exposure to a tropical sun and to land winds is very injurious to horses, especially Australians.

13. As it has been now determined that the horses of the Artillery and Cavalry every where shall in future be stabled; this Commission would beg to call attention to a valuable report published on this subject by the Barrack and Hospital Improvement Commission, under date 31st October 1863.

14. It is of great importance that horses accustomed to live in the open air should not suffer from want of ventilation when transferred to the shelter of a stable; and although in this country the stabling required need not be of as elaborate a construction as is necessary in England, the remarks contained in the report above quoted will be found most useful in respect of ventilation, light, the cubical space allowed to each Horse and the drainage and conservancy of stables.

15. The necessity for attention to these points in the construction of stables is as great in this as in any other country.

16. It will also be desirable to guard horses from the direct action of the land wind which, as was found in the stables erected at Belgaum, is a fertile source of disease. In this respect the "stables approved by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India" (under date 19th April 1860) are defective, for there is no protection from land wind afforded by open sheds.

17. It is probable that a pan-tile roofing will be found the most economical, but side walls are essential to prevent the access of land wind. Iron roofing is very liable in this country to injury from high wind—and may not be easily or cheaply procurable at all Stations.

18. The pavement to be used in stables is also a matter deserving of attention—the requisites are that this pavement should wear well, not become slippery, be water-tight and be easily cleansed.

19. I may mention that asphalt has been lately employed in France for this purpose with great success, and if properly composed and really well laid (to which sufficient attention is not paid in India) it would probably answer better than any other kind of pavement. Another good flooring for stables can be made by fire-bricks, laid on edge and tested with hydraulic cement or asphalt.

7. This computation includes the space occupied by the pillars which is so small as to be undeserving of notice.

8. The Madras plan permits a large Australian to turn easily. The Bengal size would hardly suffice. The Officers' walk need not exceed six feet; and the object of having the inner pillars in the Madras plan in the position assigned to them, is two-fold; first, because the length of the roofing timber is divided nearly in the middle by a pillar—support, at a probable saving of expense, and secondly, because it is necessary to have a horse well in advance between the inner pillars, so as to avoid the risk of having the rear pillars kicked, to the danger of the roof. The Madras height of stall is greater than that of Bengal, and is therefore better. But roof ventilation might be added as an improvement.

9. In my letter to Government, dated 16th July 1862, paragraph 2, the plan of the Cannanore stabling was increased to 15½ feet in depth, not because the increase was needed by reason of the exposure of the horses to the weather, but to protect the rear pillars from being kicked.

ORDER, No. 2897, 7th August 1865.

The Governor in Council is of opinion that the proposed areas of stalls, submitted in the Quarter Master General's letter, No. ¹⁹⁸/₇₂₉₁, above recorded, are all in some degree objectionable. The stalls at Cannanore are evidently too large, and although the standard plan sent from Calcutta, may suit for Arabs and Stud-bred horses, it is clearly too small for Australians: from personal observation at Oosoor, His Excellency is satisfied that stalls of 14x10, from centre to centre of the dividing walls, will be found sufficient, yet not in any way excessive.

2. The papers will be communicated to the Department of Public Works, in which Department the necessity for a verandah to prevent the rain beating on the quarters of the horse will be considered; and the Estimates for the stables required at Bangalore prepared accordingly.

3. The letter from the President of the Sanitary Commission above recorded, calls for no remark, the subject not appearing to come under the cognizance of the Commission.

(True Extract.)

Hamilton
Under Secretary to Government.

To the President Sanitary Commission.

" Quarter Master General.
" Public Works Department. *With 20 copies.*
" Inspector General of Ordnance, for information.

Military Works

Public Works Dept

No 2359

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 14th August 1865

Read the following

Proceedings of Government

Military Dept

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stabling for horses.

Communicated to the Subg
Engineers of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th
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& rain reaching on his quarters.

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The 1st Lt. 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th Div.
Military Dept.

Recd. 15th August

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Communicating
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in the subject of
stabling for horses.

14th Aug 65
No 2359

Proceedings of Government
Military Dept

14th Aug 65
No 2359

No 2359

No 2359 - 14th Aug 65

2. 14th Aug 1865

Sept 1885
Geo. of Goodfellow

1885
Geo. of Goodfellow
22/14 Aug 1885

Communicating to the
Lutheranizing Synod
concerning the July 1885
report on the subject of
attending for service.

1885