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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3650.	Press
37-38.	Mis.
Dated 2-12-1865	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd December 1865.*

No. 37. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Calling for plans and estimates for certain
works connected with the Commissariat De- } (Here enter 27th November 1865, No. 4,369.)
partment at Bellary.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, 2nd December 1865, No. 3,650.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 1.

Communicated to the Superintending
Engineer of the 3rd Division, who will be
requested to give his early attention to the
orders in paragraph 2, and to submit the required plans and estimates at an early
date for the sanction of Government.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Commissary General... ... Here enter 23rd October 1865, No. 4363.

Report from the Acting Contr. of Mily. Accts. Here enter 4th November 1865, C.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 23rd October 1865, No. 4363; to the
• Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, report of the
state in which I found the Commissariat Department at Bellary.

BELLARY.

1. With the Bellary office I had every reason to be satisfied, the accounts are well kept and brought up to date, but the clerks complain of the severity of the work, and the Commissariat Officer informed me that owing to the limited number of clerks and one being absent, it was frequently necessary to keep them in office from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 A. M., till 6 P. M.

2. Thumbcappah the head writer is a highly respectable and efficient servant, and fully justifies the opinion I formed of his qualifications when I offered him the head writer-ship of the Madras office, which, however, he refused. The other writers are qualified for their situations.

3. The outstanding balances consist chiefly of the usual advances made to purveyors at out stations, or to servants proceeding with Troops. These will all be adjusted in due course.

4. The store-rooms are good and well kept, but the granary, in which the Malt Liquor is now stored, requires ventilation. This could be done at a small expense, and would probably tend to decrease the wastage.

5. Slaughter-houses are much required. There are no public ones, and the sheds under which the cattle are killed for issue as rations are insufficient, and that in which the meat is hung up, prior to issue, is very objectionable. It is situated in the centre of the bazaar, and being open all round, the meat is exposed to flies and dust. A suitable shed might be erected for this purpose in the open ground close to the slaughter-house, the expense would be small and I beg to recommend it may be sanctioned.

6. The rations were not of such good quality as I could have wished, but Commanding Officers stated they were satisfied that they were the best that it was possible to procure.

7. The supply of potatoes is dependant on the Bangalore market. At times potatoes cannot be procured, and there are few other vegetables which can be substituted for them. In accordance with the wishes of Commanding Officers, I therefore purpose to send a portion of the preserved potatoes, recently ordered from England, to Bellary to be issued when the fresh root is not procurable.

8. Firewood is difficult to procure and is of indifferent quality, it would therefore be very advisable gradually to introduce cooking stoves at this station. Commanding Officers are strongly in favor of the iron ranges which, under the name of "Enchantress", are now commonly used in England, and have been successfully introduced in many parts of India.

9. These being portable could be used not only in barracks but also on the line of march, and judging of what I saw of one belonging to Captain Henegan, they appear to be very well calculated to insure both greater economy and more variety in cooking the men's rations.

10. Should Government decide on giving these stoves a trial, the services of Captain Henegan, commanding the Troop of Horse Artillery at Bellary, and who takes a warm interest in any improvement calculated to promote the welfare of his men might, with advantage, be employed.

11. Complaints were also made of the want of a sufficient number of soil carts and of the unsuitability of those in use. I am aware that the chief Sanitary Authorities are divided in opinion as to the respective merits of several different conservancy systems, and that until a definite opinion is arrived at, Government will perhaps be unwilling to incur any great expense; but it is extremely advisable that some improvement in the present system should be forthwith introduced.

12. The public cattle attendants at this station respectfully urged upon me the hardship they suffer owing to the inadequacy of their rates of pay which are the same now as they were fifty years ago, notwithstanding the enormous increase of almost all the necessaries of life. I purpose, however, to report separately on this subject after the completion of my tour.

13. At Ramandroog a small godown for Commissariat stores and quarters for the European subordinates stationed there are much needed. The house-rent of 9 Rupees per mensem, authorized for Staff Sergeants, is altogether insufficient to procure the most indifferent house at this Sanitarium, and until public quarters are provided, I beg to recommend that the allowance of Rupees 15 per mensem, granted to Non-Commissioned Officers of the Ordnance Department by G. O. G., No. 286 of August 1865, be also authorized for the Commissariat Staff Serjeant at Ramandroog.

COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
MADRAS, 23rd October 1865.

(Signed) JOHN HILL, Colonel,
Commissary General.

Referred for the consideration and report of the Controller of Military Accounts.

25th October 1865.

Report from Major J. G. TOUCH, conducting the duties of Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George, 4th November 1865, C.

I have the honor to return the letter of the Commissary General with report on the Commissariat Department at Bellary, referred under your docket of the 25th October 1865.

Dated 23rd October 1865, No. 4363.

2. The Commissary General reports that the clerks complain of the severity of the work, and consequent protracted attendance at office. For the Bellary

Paragraph 1.

office four clerks on Rupees 220 are now sanctioned. Prior to the Order of Government, No. 422, dated 6th February 1863, the same number on Rupees 213 only performed the duty. It is observed that one of the clerks was absent, which may have caused a temporary pressure; but there appears to be no reason why there should

Paragraph 2.

3. It appears desirable that measures should be taken by the Public Works Department to improve the ventilation of the granary, and so reduce the wastage in Malt Liquor, which is great at Bellary in the hot season.

Paragraph 4.

4. It appears from the report published in Proceedings of Government, dated 10th May 1865, No. 1765, that the Municipal Commissioners at Bellary intend to erect two new slaughter-houses when funds are available; and until the result of the experiment of appointing station butchers at Secunderabad and Bangalore is known, it does not appear advisable to erect public slaughter-houses, or to erect any shed in the vicinity of the old slaughter-houses which, it is presumed, would not be required in connection with the proposed new slaughter-houses.

Paragraph 5.

5. There appears to be no objection to a portion of the preserved potatoes, recently ordered, being sent to Bellary for issue when the fresh root is not procurable.

Paragraph 7.

6. The introduction of cooking ranges at Bellary where fuel is scarce is a subject of importance. The adoption of Duff's ranges experimentally having been

Paragraph 8.

authorized, it seems desirable that the merits of the range known as the "Enchantress," should be more fully and particularly reported on, with a view to form a judgment as to the advisability of giving it a trial.

7. It does not appear advisable in the present position of the conservancy question to incur any expense by a change of soil-carts. The best pattern and number

Paragraph 11.

requisite must depend upon the system adopted; and all that can apparently be done at present, with advantage, is to meet actual conservancy requirements with the means available.

Paragraph 12.
Report C, 30th October 1865.

8. The question regarding the admission of rice-money to cattle attendants is already before Government in a more general form.

9. It may be desirable to erect the godown for Commissariat stores, and quarters for the Staff Serjeant, as soon as funds can be made available in the

Paragraph 13.

Public Works Department; but the allowance of Rupees 15, the Bengal rate of house-rent, not being now issuable to Ordnance Serjeants, it does not appear advisable to admit it to the Staff Serjeant at Ramandroog.

ORDER, No. 4369, 27th November 1865.

Ordered that the foregoing report from the Controller of Military Accounts, in which the Governor in Council concurs, be communicated to the Commissary General.

2. The necessary instructions, for the improvement in the ventilation of the granary at Bellary, will be issued in the Department Public Works, and plans and estimates for the godown for stores, and quarters for the Commissariat Serjeant at Ramandroog, called for.

3. The Commissary General will report the cost of the "Enchantress" stove recommended by him, and the number of men they are each calculated to cook for.

4. The occasional issue of preserved potatoes to the European Troops at Bellary, when fresh potatoes are not procurable, is approved; care being taken, however, to keep up the supply of fresh potatoes whenever practicable.

5. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Commissary General's report, the Government expect that Colonel Hill will use his best endeavours to improve the rations generally.

6. The subject of paragraph 11 has been recently provided for in Proceedings of Government as per margin, sanctioning the construction of spare filth-carts wherever required.

No. 4262, dated 18th November 1865.

(True Extract.)

Ammitam Col
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Commissary General.
" Public Works Department.
" Adjutant General.
" Quarter Master General.
" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Examiner Pay Department.
" Examiner of Commissariat Accounts.

Ed. A. W. Cooke.

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