

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 567	Press ~~Mis.~~
246.247	
Dated	16 - 3 - 18 65.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th March 1865.*

No. 246. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Requesting to consider the question raised by the Committee appointed to report on the Commissariat Stores at the Presidency, respecting the complete separation of the Arrack now in charge of the Collector of Madras from that of the Commissariat Department. } (Here enter 8th March 1865, No. 934.)

No. 247. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1865, No. 567.

Separate Revenue, No. 16.
Abkarry.

The Board of Revenue are requested to submit an early report with reference to paragraph 6 of the Order.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Military Department, No. 934.

Exl. S. T. Augustia.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Commissary General, Madras, 24th November 1864, No. 803; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with Order of Government, No. 4060, dated 15th November 1864, I have thoroughly inspected the whole of the Criminal side of the Grand Jail, and have examined each room separately, with a view to determine its suitability for Commissariat Stores.

2. The whole of the Cells are very small, and their limited area is still further diminished by the walls and arches which support the vaulted roof; they are also very low, few of them exceeding 9 feet in height, nor can any of the door-ways be entered without stooping.

3. The floors of the Cells are frequently of two or three different elevations, and in many cases are below the level of the Court-yards outside.

4. The access to most of the Cells leads through very narrow and winding passages, and in order to open free entrances to the larger Cells, a considerable portion of the available Stowage room would have to be pulled down.

5. The whole place has a damp and unwholesome look, and many of the Court-yards shew unmistakeable evidence of continued dampness, which would be ruinous to Stores.

6. In addition to this, the Buildings themselves having bomb-proofed roofs, are of the worst possible description for Stores, they generate a dense steamy heat which speedily destroys every article exposed to it.

7. The Cells have hitherto been made habitable by removing all the doors and windows and substituting iron gratings, but if Stores are to be kept in them, the doors must be re-placed, and all ventilation would be entirely excluded.

8. I have therefore no hesitation in expressing my decided opinion that, even if the Buildings in question were situated in the most eligible situation, they would be utterly unsuited for Commissariat Stores.

9. In the event of my own opinion upon this point being considered insufficient, I would suggest that, the Committee now investigating the subject of the best means of arranging Commissariat Stores should be directed to report on the capabilities of the Jail. This Committee is composed of three experienced Store-keepers who are well aware of the requirements necessary in a Building for containing Stores, and I feel confident that they will endorse the opinion I have now expressed.

10. On the other hand, I am equally of opinion that the best possible Store-house situated in the position of the Grand Jail would be highly objectionable. I have already pointed out in my letter, No. 153, dated 10th August 1864, that we require not a mere Stowage room for miscellaneous articles, but a Depot from which Provisions and Equipments can be shipped for Troops embarking on service, and for Regiments in Burmah.

11. For this purpose, the Stores should have a sea-frontage. This point is met by the President of the Sanitary Commission by the statement that the Grand Jail is no further from the Pier than is the Granary, but allowing this to be correct, I beg to point out that no Stores from the Granary are ever shipped at the Pier, they are simply carried across the road and put into the boats drawn up on the beach outside.

12. Moreover, its proximity to the Railway Station is not so advantageous as may be supposed, as few stores are sent from the Granary to the Railway.

13. I have already pointed out the inconvenience which would be occasioned to Commanders of Ships landing Provisions with Troops. Instead of sending them in a boat direct to the Granary under their own eye, they would be compelled, if the Granary was placed inland to send some responsible party with the Stores who would have to walk a long way in the sun to the Commissariat Office.

14. I fully coincide with the President of the Sanitary Commission in the opinion that the Granary is an unsightly building, and I recently suggested to the Committee which has been examining our system of storing supplies that the extra space which will be required when the Bankshall is given up might be most advantageously provided for by the erection of an upper story along the front face of the Granary, this would yield the necessary accommodation for Tea and other valuable Stores and would enable the Building to contrast favorably with the Buildings on the beach.

Referred, with Proceedings of Government, No. 4060, dated 15th November 1864, for special report on the capabilities of the Grand Jail as a Commissariat Store by the Committee appointed for the inspection of the Commissariat Stores, No. 2481, dated 20th July 1864, paragraph 5. under the Order of Government marginally noted.

2nd December 1864.

From the Committee appointed to report on the Commissariat Stores at the Presidency, Madras, 28th November 1864; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

We have the honor, in obedience to the Order of Government, No. 2481, dated 20th July 1864, appointing us a Committee on the Commissariat Store Department, now to submit our Proceedings.

2. The verification of the large quantity of Arrack in Store, its careful comparison with the books, and repeated and minute inspection of Godowns, and Commissariat Buildings, have all occupied considerable time; and however much the Report of the Committee may be condensed, Government is assured, that no pains have been spared by them to arrive at a right conclusion, whether as regards the Committee's review of the late Mr. Norfor's Reports; their remarks on the existing state of the Commissariat Stores and Buildings, or their recommendations for the future storage and protection of Government property.

3. Commencing with Mr. Norfor's Reports, the Committee would observe that it was not, under any circumstances, to be anticipated that matters would have been found by them quite in the same state as brought to notice by that gentleman. It was little likely, when avoidable mistakes in storing had been pointed out by a person of Mr. Norfor's long practical experience, that an active and energetic Store-keeper General, would not gladly avail himself of the hints conveyed; and correct, as far as possible, all that appeared to be working mischievously in his Department.

4. Circumstances as will hereafter be pointed out for bad, and must continue to forbid, any Store-keeper doing more than attempt a partial amelioration, unless Government will itself supply the remedy, by authorising a change in the Buildings as they now exist.

Mr. Norfor's Reports 8th November 1862, paragraph 8.

5. Mr. Norfor states that he notices some articles of provisions, which being damaged, should be sold.

6. In answer to this, the Committee would observe that no damaged provisions were found by them; and they have ascertained, when there are any such they are invariably destroyed, which they consider to be the only proper course. Mr. Norfor's remark is however suggestive that this is one not generally adopted in the Trade; and they consider it therefore desirable, on Sanitary grounds, to notice it. Paragraphs 12, 13 & 14.

7. In answer to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14, the Committee observe that there being now no stock of Grain kept up, it is unnecessary to enter on that subject. The Granary godowns, in which Mr. Norfor found so much to object to, appear now to be used for purposes totally different to what they then were appropriated, with the exception that Salt provisions are still kept in the better godown of the Quadrangle, and these, were found in every respect in excellent order. The Committee however, with the view of economising space, strongly advise Houses being erected in these godowns, a recommendation in accordance with that of Mr. Norfor, and which his own long experience doubtless induced him confidently to advocate.

8. The whole of the Godowns in the Granary Quadrangle require alterations, as will be hereafter pointed out in this Report, when the general question of accommodation is entered into.

9. The Building spoken of as "a long lean to godown, in which Porter was very badly stowed," is not very accurately described, as the impression is left that the Porter was actually lying unraised from the earth. The godown is in fact paved with Granite; and this must have passed unobserved by Mr. Norfor, in consequence of its being at the time covered, an inch or two deep with loose sand.

10. The Committee do not recommend any expense being gone to, in rendering this godown suitable for Porter, provisions or other stores requiring extra care in their protection. From its size, and the proximity of the Granary (so called) in which it stands, to the Beach, it is exceedingly well adapted for the stowage of Water Casks; of these it will hold 250, being the larger portion of the number which should be kept up filled, and which after careful consideration, the Committee would limit to 450. The Committee would at the same time observe that, although they believe this number will be ample, yet as Water Casks are never so carefully preserved as when filled, they see no objection to its being exceeded, if space is, at any time, available.

Fide letter from Controller, 9th June 1864, J.—and letter from R. W. Norfor, Esq., 16th January 1863, to the Controller.

11. As Government may wish to be informed of the grounds on which the Committee differ in opinion on this matter with the Controller of Military Accounts, they beg to offer the following observations:—

1st.—They have ascertained, by careful inquiry, that from 25 to 30 Coopers is the greatest number that can be relied upon, in an emergency, as being obtainable in the market, to make up Water Casks. Each new Cask, it has been determined by actual observation, would take one man four days to make; or, if Shaken Casks are put together, one man could complete one in a day. The number of Casks now recommended by the Committee to be maintained, is greatly in diminution of what has been hitherto kept up, but still sufficient to enable the Commissariat Department at once to commence with the stowage of any Vessels that may be taken up as Transports.

2nd.—It must be borne in mind, that in laying in supplies on boardship for Troops, Water must be the first article stowed; and the delay caused by having

no supply at hand, with which to commence operations, might be attended with inconvenience—if not danger to the Public service. The Committee observe that the Ordnance Department can, on an emergency, give the aid of 19 Coopers; but this number is said to be available, with reservation, should they not then be required by the Ordnance Department, an event more than probable during any hurried fitting out of a Force.

3rd.—There is another strong argument against trusting to a supply of Shaken Casks, only. Every Cask whether new or made up from Shakes, requires the application of fire, to bend the staves into shape; and the Committee are assured, that if immediately, subsequent to this, water is filled into the Casks, it becomes undrinkable.

Letter from R. W. Norfor, Esq., 15th January 1863, to the Controller of Military Finance. Paragraphs 5 and 6.

12. The Committee have ascertained that the Tea was removed, in May 1863, from the Godown objected to by Mr. Norfor as unfit for its due preservation; and the stock in hand, when inspected by the Committee, appeared in excellent order, and well stowed. At the time the Committee examined this Godown it contained Hospital Clothing, which appeared dry, and in good order. The Committee concur with Mr. Norfor, in thinking it very desirable that this Godown should be better ventilated; but they do not recommend the expense of a terraced roof, nor that “doors should be opened on the outer side,” as exposure to a large thoroughfare, which is very undesirable, would be the result of the latter measure.

Mr. Norfor's letter to Controller, dated 22nd January 1863.

13. With reference to Mr. Norfor's letter regarding the apparent over-stock of some articles of Hospital Stores, and a similar observation having presented itself to the Committee, they deemed it their duty, before making a Report to Government on the subject, to apply to the Commissary General as to the necessity of so large a stock being kept up. The Commissary General replies that the quantities have been rather under, than over-estimated, and supports his assertion by facts so unanswerable that the Committee are compelled to admit that the supplies maintained of this nature are not in excess of requirements.

No. 2822, Minutes of Consultation, 24th July 1848.

14. Whilst on the subject of probable excessive allotments, the Committee, with a view to economise space, but bearing in mind the Order of Government which directed a three months' supply of Salt provisions invariably to be maintained, also applied to the Commissary General for his opinion as to whether, “under the altered circumstances of the times, the changed state of the market and improved communications,” it might, not now be advisable to recommend a diminution of so large a stock; as the Commissary General informs the Committee that this subject is already before Government, they would only respectfully suggest that due inquiry amongst the Trading community might elicit the fact whether there would at any time be any difficulty in meeting the requirements of Government, and although at probably enhanced rates, yet a large saving might accrue, in various ways, from a reduction in the stock of this article.

Paragraph 6 of Order of Government, No. 2481, dated 20th July 1861, and subsequent Order, No 2791, dated 13th August 1861.

15. The Committee now proceed to lay before Government the result of their verification of the Arrack, and the conclusions they have arrived at as to the quantities of that supply, and also of Porter, that should hereafter be maintained; and to offer their

recommendations, as to the entire re-arrangement of the Buildings at present used for the accommodation of these supplies.

16. The Committee completed the verification of Arrack (Colombo and Batavia) in Store on the 9th September last, and found it to be as follows:—

	Gals.	Drs.
Colombo Arrack.....	109,023	9
Batavia ".....	25,076	13

Between the 1st and 9th of September, the only transaction which took place, as per an Official memorandum handed to the Committee by the Store-keeper General, was an issue of Gallons 1,625, Drams 22 of Batavia Arrack; adding that therefore, to the previously named quantity, there was Arrack in Store, 1st September 1864.

	Gals.	Drs.
Colombo Arrack.....	109,023	9
Batavia ".....	26,701	35

On referring to the Return furnished to the Examiner of Commissariat Accounts, by the Store-keeper General, for August 1864, the Committee find that, on the 31st of that month, there was supposed to be in Store;

Colombo Arrack.....	107,165 Gals.	28½ Drs.
Batavia do.	24,465 "	38 "

The result consequently is that, on the last named date, there was a surplus of Arrack as follows, viz:—

Of Colombo Arrack.....	1,857 Gals.	20½ Drs.
Of Batavia do.	2,235 "	37 "
Total surplus...	4,093 "	17½ "

The above shows results as they stood on the 1st September 1864; the Committee have not therefore deemed it necessary to attempt to unravel the errors alluded to by the late Mr. Norfor in the 4th paragraph of his letter of the 9th February 1863. As truly remarked by the Controller in the 13th paragraph of his Report of June 1864, there could be no agreement between the discordant data given—stock having been taken at one time, and the results compared with the Returns of three months' later date.

The practice described in paragraph 5 of the late Mr. Norfor's letter of 9th February 1863, is correct, showing how Arrack is received into Store, and diluted before issue.

The Committee also concur in his remarks, in paragraphs 6 and 7, showing that a continual wastage is going on by evaporation, and by loss of strength from evaporation; but for this there is of course no remedy.

What per Centage of wastage, from both causes, is really incurred can only be properly determined by experiments carefully made; and these the Committee consider should be conducted departmentally, both at the Presidency and at Outstations, for a series of, say, three years.

The Committee do not think any practical good would result from experiments being separately made with reference to the two causes of wastage, viz., loss by evaporation, and loss by the weakening of the spirit, consequent on evaporation.

17. The Committee cannot but consider the result of the verification of the Arrack to be highly satisfactory, and very creditable to Conductor Doig, for

the last four years, has had charge of this particular branch, and, notwithstanding the difficulties he has labored under, has bestowed upon it the greatest pains. The Committee would observe that, in testing the Arrack, they found several of the Vats, whose contents averaged some thousands of Gallons, yield within three or four Gallons of their labelled capacity.

18. The method of ascertaining the contents of these Vats by Mathematical Rules has, the Committee have been made aware, been tried and found greatly at variance with actual results. It is a method of calculation that can only be relied upon when Vats are built up perfect figures; but, old and irregular as these large measures are, no reliance could be placed on a calculation based on these rules.

19. The Committee will conclude this part of the subject submitted to them for investigation by observing that both the Officiating Receiver of Commissariat Accounts and Commissariat Store-keeper are perfectly satisfied with the correctness of the above verification; and that, with a fair goal to start from, no errors or discrepancies, not easily to be accounted for, should henceforth creep into this important branch of Commissariat stock.

20. The Committee have carefully gone into the stock of Ale and Porter, for which stowage room is required. The year's supply is divided into four consignments, the largest of which may probably consist of 2,715 Hogsheads; and 785 Hogsheads may be considered the maximum amount which may be remaining in Store in the event of one consignment arriving close upon another, so that accommodation should be provided for 3,500 Barrels.

21. Several Stations (as per margin) receive their supplies direct; and in the calculation of consignments and stowage required, they have therefore not been included, though it may be as well to mention that, only last year, the Commissary General was requested by the Authorities at Kamptee to make arrangements for the consignment for that Station being sent to Madras, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring carriage direct from Bombay. This is however a difficulty that must altogether cease with the introduction of carriage by Rail, and need not therefore be taken into account, in the arrangements now to be proposed.

22. Before entering on the subject of the proposed arrangements for the better stowage of particular articles of Commissariat supplies and stock, the Committee deem it best to lay before Government the general view they have taken of the existing means for their preservation and storage. In paragraph 4 of this Report they have already alluded to their inadequacy and inconvenience; and they deem it right here to state that, in their opinion, nothing can be worse, or more ill-adapted, than are the Buildings at the disposal of the Commissariat; or their stowage for the concentration of the Stores.

23. The Buildings consist of three large quadrangles, or what may be so termed, viz., 1st, the Bankshall; 2nd, the Arrack and Porter Godown, with Hospital and Clothing Stores, Commissariat Office, and what has hitherto been the Cooperage, and Distillery; and 3rd, the (so called) Granary.

24. The first named of the above Buildings the Committee would recommend should be taken away from the Commissariat; there can be no doubt that the mul-

tiplication of places of storage, at a considerable distance from each other, under the control of the same establishment, tends largely, in a variety of ways, to increase expenses, and operates unfavorably in securing close and efficient supervision. The extensive Sheds of the Bankshall, which are now falling rapidly into dis-repair, have hitherto been used for the stowage of filled Water Casks, the cutting up and stowage of Timber for staves of Casks, and for general purposes of the Department.

The ground alone, which covers an area of about 25,584* square feet, must, not only from its extent, but also from its situation so close to the sea, and of such great convenience for Mercantile purposes, be of large value, and would doubtless go far to compensate Government for any expense they might be disposed to incur in the alteration of old and erection of new Buildings, with a view to improve the Commissariat storage and superintendence.

25. The attention of the Committee was particularly called by Government to the subject of Arrack and Malt Liquor; and whilst on that of the Buildings it appears appropriate and requisite, again to recur to these supplies, more especially so with reference to the remark in paragraph 22, as to their inefficient storage and preservation. The confusion that reigned in the Godowns was doubtless very great, and much to be deprecated. The Malt Liquor Godown being quite full, a quantity of Porter Casks were lying in the same Godown with the Arrack Vats; and both here and in the regular Porter Godown, Casks belonging to the Malt Liquor Contractors were lying together with those of the Commissariat; whilst Vats of Arrack belonging to the Collector of Madras were also in the same Store-room, the servants of all parties necessarily having free access to the Buildings.

26. The remedy for this state of things the Committee believe to be in an entire change in the system hitherto adopted, and a partial alteration and re-construction of the Store-rooms, as shewn in the accompanying Plan, which, under their directions, Captain Hawkes has obligingly furnished them with.

27. The Committee have ascertained that the number of Vats now maintained, is greatly in excess of the number required; many of them were built upwards of half a century ago, and have long been surplus to the wants of the Department; forty Vats are clearly all that are required, (viz. thirty-five filled and five spare,) an opinion in which the Commissary General coincides; and he also concurs with the Committee in their recommendation that the remainder, with the exception of seven required by the Abkarree Department, and under charge of the Collector of Madras, should be either broken up and sold, or distributed to those stations up-country, which can conveniently receive them.

The forty required by the Commissariat can be stowed in the inner room of the quadrangle of the Arrack Building (as shown in the Plan,) and a space walled off, with a separate entrance, for the seven belonging to the Collector, who will then be solely responsible for his own supply.

28. The empty Arrack Pipes (425) which the Commissariat Department assert to be absolutely requisite for the purpose of sending off, filled, from time to time to out-stations, can be kept in an alley which separates two of the rooms at present taken up with Arrack Vats, but now useless for all purposes. The Committee propose having this space covered in with a light roofing, the Lightning Conductors, which are of an obsolete plan, altered; and Horses erected, all this comes into the plan that, as will be hereafter noticed, has been laid before the Engineer Officer.

29. An important, and comparatively inexpensive, suggestion has been made to the Committee by Captain Hawkes for laying on water, by pipes, to the Arrack Godown from the Custom House, to which latter place it is now conveyed by a main pipe from the Seven Wells. The advantages to be derived from this plan will be the saving of considerable expense which is incurred at present, from the employment of Coolies in bringing in water in Casks; and the Committee therefore recommend its adoption.

30. With regard to the stowage of Porter if the proposals enumerated in paragraph 27 are acceded to by Government, the Committee are enabled to recommend that the two wings now occupied by surplus Arrack Vats, together with the Buildings standing in the same enclosure, and a fourth to be built, with two Store-rooms to be connected with the present main Arrack Store, by arches, pierced through the wall, should henceforth form the Porter Depot. The whole of this Depot should have rows of Horses to hold two Tiers of Casks, and the floor should be packed with clean laterite gravel.

31. By the above arrangement, it has been accurately ascertained, that there will be ample stowage for 2,800 Hogsheads; and a Godown, named the Blare, at the back of the Office, and which is at present used for the stowage of Ale and Porter Casks, prior to their examination by a Committee, can be made available for any remaining Hogsheads that may be on hand when the stock is heavy.

32. The Committee are aware, that in proposing Horses for the storage of Malt Liquor, they are recommending a heavy expense; but after inspecting the Liquor Godowns of Messrs. McDowell and Co., and holding much conversation with those gentlemen, extensive importers of Beer and Wine, they feel convinced that when keeping up permanent supplies, in permanent Buildings, there can be no method of storage that combines so much safety and convenience with due preservation from damp.

33. The only other Godowns and Buildings, in this range, now to be noticed are those which have hitherto been devoted to Hospital and General Stores; the Distillery Buildings and Cooperage.

34. The Committee do not propose to disturb the arrangements of these. The Stores have, as before noticed, been found in good order, and the Store-rooms well adapted for their preservation; there is however great insufficiency of room; but, if Government sanction the alteration and enlargement of Buildings at the Granary, as will be recommended by the Committee, they are of opinion, perfect security will be obtained, and that the details of the arrangements for storage, had best be carried out by the Commissariat Store-keeper, Captain Hawkes, whom the Committee deem it not out of place here to observe, is an active, zealous, and highly intelligent Officer, in whose aptitude for the re-organization of the Store Department, Government may feel the utmost confidence.

35. The Distillery Buildings should now be taken down, there being no further use for them, and the whole of the material hitherto kept up for working, be sold, or turned to account by the Commissariat Department, as may be deemed expedient. The Buildings do not occupy any considerable space; but, such as it is, it will be thrown into the Cooperage yard, which the Committee consider, with this small addition, will be ample for its diminished operations, which, with proper care and supervision, may be conducted in safety.

36. The Committee have now to offer their observations upon what may be called the Granary range, though no longer to be appropriated to any such purpose as that of storing Grain.

Assuming that Government sanction the abandonment of the Bankshall, there will then remain but two ranges complete in themselves, and separated from each other by about half a mile of road along the North Beach; both ranges having free and clear access to the sea.

37. In the early part of this Report, the Buildings comprising this quadrangle were very briefly noticed; but it appears to the Committee to be necessary now to enter somewhat more into detail regarding them. They are extremely faulty for purposes of storage; and there is insufficient space for the examination of any large quantity of supplies which may, on an emergency, require to be shipped; and the Committee may here mention that, in the course of one of their morning's inspections, they found the largest Godown completely filled with Stores and required for 145 men only, then undergoing examination.

38. The recommendations of the Committee regarding this Building are briefly as follows:—

1st.—The wall which divides off a portion of Store No. 1, (*Wide Plan*) to be thrown into one Store-room; arrangements to be made for its better ventilation, and for a second Tier of Horses for the stowage of Salt provisions.

2nd.—The Northern quadrangle to be divided into five good Store-rooms, and the numerous walls which now divide it into fourteen small rooms, to be removed.

3rd.—An upper story to be built over the Sea-face.

39. The Committee have called upon the Engineer Officer of the Division to afford them the assistance of his Department in estimating the expense of the proposed alterations, and Lieutenant Pennycuik, to whom the duty was entrusted, addresses the Committee as follows:—

"I estimate, approximately, that the alterations to the present Arrack Godown, including putting up Horses, &c., for the storage of Porter, and all the work shewn in the Plan, will cost about Rupees 20,000, while the alterations to the Granary will cost about Rupees 15,000."

40. In conclusion, the Committee would observe, with deference, that they have all, at some period of their service, been at the head of large Government Stores, and from the practical experience they have obtained, they can, state with confidence, their belief, that no Commissariat Store-keeper, can with satisfaction to himself, or to Government, retain the charge of Stores, of so valuable and perishable a nature as those that at the lowest estimate must be maintained at the Presidency, in their existing confused, and overcrowded state; and if the only remedy to be found appears costly, they fully believe that Government will be more than reimbursed for any outlay, by a large diminution of the departmental charges of various kinds, especially in those which result from the frequent replacement of damaged and unserviceable Stores.

From the Committee on Commissariat Stores, Madras, 26th January 1865; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

In accordance with the Orders of Government, the Committee on Commissariat Stores having carefully inspected the Criminal side of the Grand Jail, has now the honor to forward its Report thereon.

2. Making every allowance for the inconvenience to the Commissariat Department by removing its Stores to a new situation, the Committee is of opinion that the Cells would, with some alteration, be admirably adapted for Store-rooms, while by pulling down several unnecessary walls and useless Buildings, there would be ample space for the erection of any number of additional Sheds or Store-houses, that could possibly be required.

3. By improving the entrance on the North side so as to meet the road immediately in front, Stores could be conveyed straight to the beach, and a tramway would render this a matter of no difficulty.

4. With regard to paragraph 2 of the Commissary General's letter, the Committee would observe that, several partition walls between the Cells should be removed, this would add to their size and compactness, and though the walls are thick and arched, this seems of no consequence if the accommodation be sufficient.

5. With regard to paragraph 3, the Committee did not consider the flooring objectionable, or such as could not be easily remedied.

6. As the objection raised in paragraph 5 regarding dampness appeared of much importance, the Committee carefully considered it. No dampness whatever either in the Cells or court-yards or on the walls or flooring being observable, the Jailor was asked if he could explain why such existed when the Commissary General inspected the place. He stated that, on the morning of Colonel Hill's visit, the Prisoners had been removed, and not being particular as to the quantity of filth they left behind them, it had been necessary to wash out the whole place thoroughly, and it was in an undried state when the Commissary General saw it; this would not doubt justify such a conclusion. The Jailor added that the Cells were particularly dry, and Colonel Boileau has informed one of the Members of the Committee, that, in the various propositions for improvement suggested by the Medical Officers before the arrival of the Salem prisoners, the question of dampness was never raised.

7. With regard to paragraph 6, though bomb-proof buildings without ventilation, are no doubt such as the Commissary General describes, yet, here the ventilation is so good, that a dense steamy heat cannot exist.

8. The Committee did not consider itself called on to ascertain what alterations would be necessary to make the Jail suitable for a Commissariat Depot, these would chiefly consist in pulling down and removing, and in the erection of additional Buildings. There is a large piece of ground adjoining the North entrance and belonging to the Jail, which would be of great service, particularly for a Coopers' shop, should Government consider it advisable to erect new Buildings for the purpose; and there are two Reservoirs, one immediately outside and one inside the walls, both of seven Wells' water, which would be exceedingly convenient for Commissariat purpose.

9. The Committee is unanimously of opinion that the Criminal side of the Grand Jail can be made quite suitable for the reception of Stores, and with alterations and additions, be easily converted into an excellent Commissariat Depot.

10. The Committee would however observe, that this opinion is given only with reference to the Jail being taken, in lieu of the Granary for the accommodation of Stores, and not to re-place the Godowns for the stowage of Arrack and Porter, which are adjoining the Commissariat Office and which, if the alterations and improvements proposed by the Committee in their last Report are carried out, will be all that can be desired.

Referred, with their former letter dated 28th November 1864, to the Commissary General, for early report.

2. Colonel Hill is requested to submit his remarks on the papers in question, prior to his departure for Hyderabad.

28th January 1865.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 31st January 1865, No. 8500; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

In returning the enclosures received with your Memorandum, dated 28th January 1865, I have the honor to inform you, that I entirely concur with the arrangements proposed in the very able Report of the Committee, and trust that, in accordance with their recommendations, the plans approved by them may be carried out as soon as possible.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 31st January 1865, No. 8533; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Report of the Committee on the suitability or otherwise of the Grand Jail as a Commissariat Store, forwarded with your endorsement of the 28th instant.

2. I cannot but treat with the greatest consideration the opinion of a Committee that has so laboriously investigated the whole subject of the Storing of Commissariat supplies and has throughout the inquiry manifested every desire to entertain any suggestions, or adopt any plans for the good of the Department which I may have considered it necessary to lay before them.

3. I submit, however, that the Report now under consideration does not in any way meet the objections pointed out in my letter, No. 803, dated 24th November 1864. The principal objections were:—

- (1.) The dampness of the locality.
- (2.) The unsuitability of bomb-proof buildings for Stores.
- (3.) The inconvenient means of access to a large number of the rooms, and above all others
- (4.) The unsuitability of the situation of the Jail for shipping and landing Stores.

4. In answer to the objections I made as to the damp and unwholesome look of the place, the Committee remark, that the Jailor explained that the dampness on the occasion of my visit was in consequence of the rooms, &c., having been washed out. In this, however, the Jailor was in error, my visit was paid within a very short time of the departure of the Convicts, and with the exception of one Court-yard, no cleansing had taken place, and of this, I saw most unmistakable proofs.

5. Moreover, an occasional washing would not have given the Court-yard the thick deposit of green vegetation, which I saw, and which was doubtless removed before the present Committee inspected it.

6. I also pointed out the unsuitability of bomb proof Buildings as Store-rooms, and the Committee in the 7th paragraph of their Report endorse this opinion, but state that, as these Cells are well-ventilated, the dense steamy heat cannot exist, they have, however, apparently overlooked the 7th paragraph of my Report,* in which I pointed out that, although the Cells had

*No. 803, dated 21st November 1864.

hitherto been rendered habitable by removing all doors and windows and substituting iron gratings, still if these are to be converted into Store-rooms, the doors and windows must be re-placed, and all ventilation would be entirely excluded.

7. I have had personal experience of the injury done to Stores by the most steamy heat invariably generated in bomb proof Buildings, as a case in point, the Jailnah Stores were of this nature and even after a great expense had been incurred in alterations, the temperature still remained almost insupportable whilst similar bomb proof Buildings at Cannanore have recently been condemned as quite unsuited for Stores.

8. Neither must it be overlooked that the value of the Stores to be provided for is very great. The Salt-meat is very costly, the Tea is on an average worth two lacs of Rupees, and other Stores in proportion, and it would be manifestly unwise to remove such perishable articles from the present excellent situation to Buildings in no way suited for their preservation.

9. The Committee do not touch on the difficulty of access to most of the Cells, but observe "that by pulling down several unnecessary walls and useless buildings, there would be ample space for the erection of any number of additional Sheds or Store-houses that could possibly be required," but they do not appear to have estimated how much stowage room would remain after the useless portions had been removed, and how many new rooms would have to be erected.

10. If space for the erection of Buildings and a Co-oprage is all that is required, this might be obtained in a locality not so entirely unsuited to Commissariat requirement, as is the present Jail.

11. The above objections are, however, of comparatively minor importance, when contrasted with the extreme unsuitability of the situation of the Jail for the special purposes for which the Depôt is required, viz., for the shipping and landing of Stores.

12. This, which is the most important question of all, is not even touched upon by the Committee.

13. A mere Store-house is not all that is required, the chief value of the present Granary is its use as a Depôt for shipping and landing Stores as pointed out in my letter, No. 153, dated 10th August 1864, and for this purpose the Jail would be quite useless, nor would a tramway much lessen the evil, or enable the Stores to be landed and shipped under European supervision as at present.

14. In paragraph 37 of the Committee's Report of the 28th November 1864, they point out that the largest of our Store-rooms was completely filled with the articles required for only 145 men. If, therefore, the supplies required for a few men are so bulky, the labour and risk of conveying the large amount of Stores which would be collected for even a small Force from an inland situation like the Jail, to the sea beach, and then transferring them to Boats, can well be imagined.

15. If the Committee's opinion (which appears to have been given solely with reference to the suitability of the Jail as a Store and not as a Depôt for landing and shipping Stores) is accepted and carried out, the Commissariat would be transferred from a situation in which it can efficiently carry on its duties, and which at a cost of 15,000 Rupees could be made thoroughly serviceable, to a spot removed half a mile from the beach to godowns in my opinion utterly unsuited for Stores, and for the repair and enlargement of which a sum of money, far greater than that mentioned above, would have to be expended.

ORDER, No. 934, 8th March 1865.

After careful consideration of the arguments adduced in the foregoing papers, relative to the proposed appropriation of the Grand Jail as a Commissariat Store Depôt, the Governor in Council concurs in the opinion of the Committee, that the Building is not only convertible, but both suitable and convenient for that purpose; he accordingly resolves, that the necessary alterations and additions be made to fit the accommodation for the reception of Commissariat Stores.

2. The Department of Public Works will issue the necessary instructions for the preparation, in communication with the Commissary General, of Plans and Estimates for the work in question, including provision for the entrance on the North side, as proposed in paragraph 3 of the Committee's Report, as well as for the Tramway leading to the Beach.

3. It being desirable that the Granary premises should be vacated as early as possible, the provision of separate accommodation for the Prisoners on the Civil side of the Grand Jail will receive early consideration in the Judicial Department, in view to the whole of the premises being made available for a Commissariat Depôt as early as practicable. Meanwhile, in submitting the Plans and Estimates called for, the probable date at which the Criminal portion of the Grand Jail can be taken over will be stated, to enable the Commissary General to vacate the Granary Buildings immediately the new Depôt is reported ready for occupation.

4. The question of the Granary having been thus disposed of, the Governor in Council proceeds to consider the earlier Report of the Committee, dated 28th November 1864, above recorded.

5. In paragraph 24 of their Report, the Committee recommend that the Bankshalls should be vacated by the Commissariat Department, as soon as the new Depôt is ready, or earlier, if practicable. The Governor in Council approves of this recommendation which will be carried into effect accordingly.

6. In paragraphs 25 to 32, the Committee report on the existing storage arrangements for Arrack and Malt Liquor, and recommend certain additions and alterations to improve the Building thus occupied. Before disposing finally of these suggestions, the Governor in Council resolves to remit for consideration in the Revenue Department, the question of a complete separation of the Collector's Arrack from that of the Commissariat Department, the continuance of a combined system of Storage for these Departments appearing to Government to be undesirable.

7. Referring to paragraphs 33 to 35 of the Report, Government observe that, hereafter, provision for the Hospital and General Stores will be made in the new Depot. The Distillery Buildings may, however, be removed, and the material turned to account as proposed—the site of the future Coopersage will be fixed in communication with the Commissary General, in preparing the Estimates now ordered.

8. The best acknowledgments of Government are due to the Committee, for the careful and complete manner in which the duty entrusted to them has been performed.

(True Extract.)

A. H. M. M. M. M.
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Committee on Commissariat Stores.

" Commissary General.
" Public Works Department.
" Judicial Department.
" Revenue Department. *With 10 spare Copies.*
" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Military Accountant.
" Examiner Pay Department.
" Examiner of Commissariat Accounts.
" President Sanitary Commission,
" Inspector General of Ordnance,
" Quarter Master General, ... } for information.
" Adjutant General, ...
" Barrack Master, ...

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Proceedings of the
Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia
1863.

Ordered 8th March
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1863. 1863.

Regulating the
conduct of the public
works of the District of
Columbia.

Ordered 10th March
1863. 1863.

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1863.

Mr. Board of Commissioners

ordered to be ordered.

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