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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	719	Press
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48-49		
Dated	2 3	18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd March 1866.*

No. 48. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Communicating paragraph 5 of a letter from the
Quarter Master General, intimating that the
forty Sappers granted for employment on the
Coonoor Ghát, can be detached to that place
if the Superintending Engineer will provide
for their accommodation on arrival. } (Here enter 21st February 1866, No. 663.)

No. 49. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1866, No. 719.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 2.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 7th Division, for
information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ezd. S. T. Augustin;

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Quarter Master General Here enter 13th January 1866, No. 545.
Report from the Controller of Milly. Accounts. „ 31st „ G.
From the Principal Insp. General Medl. Dept. „ 6th February 1866, No. 46.

From the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, 13th January 1866, No. 545;
to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to request that Government will be pleased to authorize the removal, next March, from Wynaad to Bangalore, of the three Companies of Sappers and Miners, respecting which there has been so much previous correspondence.

2. In Proceedings of Government, No. 2925, dated 9th August last, Government, in paragraph 2, state that the date of removal should be regulated by state of health of the men during the dry months.

3. It has been shewn by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals—Proceedings of Government No. 3864, dated 18th October last—that the greatest amount of sickness prevails in March, April, May and June; and it is known that from that time till 1st September, work out of doors is impracticable, partly on account of the monsoon, and partly of continued sickness.

4. After the repeated experience had of the evils of keeping the Sappers during these months in Wynaad, the Commander-in-Chief thinks that further information may safely be dispensed with. The fact is certain that from March to September the climate is such that they should not be retained there.

5. On their way to Bangalore, the forty Sappers granted for the Coonoor Ghaut (Proceedings of Government Public Works Department, No. 3241, dated 27th October last) can be detached thither, if the Superintending Engineer will provide for their accommodation on arrival.

6. The Commander-in-Chief does not doubt that the Government will allow of the families being conveyed* by rail at the Public expense. They have been so frequently removed backwards and forwards, that without the continued indulgence of Government, it would fall somewhat heavily upon the men.

* Estimated expense for about 479 souls, not including children under age, at the rate charged to Government, viz., Rupees 5-9-9 each, at 3 pies per mile, from Bangalore to Bangalore, Rupees 2,686-14-3.

Do. at the reduced rate usually charged to families viz., Rs. 3-11-10 each at 2 pies per mile Rs. 1,791-4-2. Some diminution in these figures has to be allowed for the families of the 40 men ordered to Coonoor.

Referred to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, with advertence to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of Government marginally noted, in view

No. 2925, 9th August 1865. to Government being informed of the nature of any subsequent reports received regarding the health of the detachment of Sappers at Luckady.

3rd February 1866.

With report from the Controller of Military Accounts, 31st January 1866, G.

From the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George,
6th February 1866, No. 46; to the Secretary to Government, Military Dept.

In returning the letter from the Quarter Master General, number and date as
No. 545, dated 13th January 1866.

per margin, received with your memorandum of the 3rd instant, I have the honor to forward extract from a report on the detachment of Sappers at Luckady, by Inspector General of Hospitals, W. Mackenzie, M. D., C. B., dated 13th January 1866, and to state that I concur in the recommendation for the removal of the detachment to Bangalore in March.

Extract from Inspection report of Detachment Sappers and Miners at Luckady, by Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, W. MACKENZIE, C. B., M. D., Mysore Division, dated 13th January 1866.

"For the year 1865 there have been 766 admissions into Hospital with three deaths; the average strength of the party having been 252. Of the admissions 453 were from intermittent fever, which gives 284 over the number in the previous year; 160 from dysentery and diarrhoea; one of the deaths being under this head; twenty-nine from rheumatism; twenty-three from bronchitis; fourteen from venereal disease; forty-one from wounds and contusions; four from pneumonia with one death; and the remainder from other constitutional and local causes. The third death arose from cholera spasmodica on the 26th February, in a man who was seized with the disease in the low country on his way from Beypore; and carried into Luckady in a morbid condition.

"The most unhealthy months at this station seem to be April, May and June; the number of admissions from all diseases being by far the highest in May. The following table gives a short summary:—

	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.
From all diseases.....	23	56	113	211	92	40
" Intermittent fever.....	10	36	86	154	48	17
" Dysentery and diarrhoea.....	2	4	12	32	26	11

thus showing the gradual increase of disease up to May and decrease afterwards. I would beg to remark, with reference to the Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, and order memorandum, No. 2925 of 9th August 1865, that from all my inquiries on the spot, and afterwards in conversation with Lieutenant Colonel Walker, the Engineer of this District and other gentlemen, I find that the season of 1865 seems to have been an exceptionally unhealthy one, all over the Wynaad country as well as in Malabar and Canara. In the latter province, as already mentioned in my Inspection report of the Jail and Garrison of Cannanore, as many as 40,000 deaths are stated to have occurred from fever, which was unusually prevalent during the early months of the year.

"It may be interesting to the Principal Inspector General to receive the statement of a Medical gentleman, a Mr. Hester, who has been employed for the past three or four years by the planters in Wynaad to attend on themselves and their coolies. I had not the opportunity of a personal interview with Mr. Hester, but the Officers of the Sapper detachment were good enough to furnish me with his written remarks, from which I quote.

"He had given the subject of fever in Wynaad his best attention, but beyond the fact that "it became more prevalent, and of a more virulent type during the light rains which fall in "April and May, he could not arrive at any satisfactory conclusion regarding it, nor was he "able to give any reason why one season or locality should be worse than another. With regard "to the belief that as the country was opened up, and the coolies provided with better built huts "on more elevated spots, they would not suffer so much, all he could state was that he had "found fever as prevalent in opened up country as in the forests; and he had seen coolly lines

"on elevated ground where nearly every one of the inmates was prostrated, whilst other lines "situated in a swamp, on the same estate, had no fever patients at all." In a subsequent letter, dated Vythery, August 31st 1865, he writes as follows:—

1st. "That the months of April, May and June of this year have been exceptional as "regards the amount of sickness in Wynaad."

2nd. "That as a rule, in cases of fever contracted just previous to the monsoon, I consider that they are likely to do better by remaining *here* than by going down to the low "country. My reason for this opinion is that as a rule, fever almost entirely disappears "when the monsoon has fairly set in. This has not been quite so this year, as during the "present monsoon, there has been a certain amount of fever, but in comparison with the "previous months, very slight."

3rd.—"That the station itself (of Luckady) is more healthy than the other parts of "Wynaad generally, as proved by the prevalence of disease amongst the coolies being much "less there than elsewhere in the Districts."

"Yet Lieutenant Colonel Walker, under whose orders, I understand the Luckady Ghaut works are being carried on, and some of the Sapper Officers advocate the removal of the detachments before the commencement of the sickly season in April; the only objection being, in their opinion, the great expense to the Sepoys in conveying away their families, and on their return again, in the repair of their huts which are sure to fall into ruin from being unattended to and unoccupied during the rains.

"On the day of my inspection there were nine cases under treatment in Hospital, three being intermittent fever in a very mild form, and all unimportant.

"Amongst the women of the detachment for the whole year, there were sixteen deaths, eleven from fever and five from dysentery and diarrhoea, and amongst the children twenty-four deaths."

(True Extract.)

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
6th February 1866.

(Signed) G. MACKAY, M. D.,
Offg. Secy., Prinl. Insp. Genl. Medl. Dept.

ORDER, No. 663, 21st February 1866.

The Governor in Council sanctions the Detachment of Sappers and Miners being removed from Luckady at the end of the month of March next, and in consideration of the frequent removals the men have been subjected to, Government authorize the families in this instance being conveyed by rail at the public expense, as recommended by the Commander-in-Chief.

2. Paragraph 5 of the Quarter Master General's letter above recorded, will be communicated to the Department Public Works, in view to instructions being issued regarding the Detachment for the Coonoor Ghaut.

(True Extract.)

Manuella
Deputy Secretary to Government

To the Quarter Master General.

- " Controller of Military Accounts, with an enclosure.
- " Principal Inspector General Medical Department.
- " Military Accountant.
- " Examiner Pay Department.
- " Adjutant General.
- " Commissary General.
- " Examiner of Commissariat Accounts.
- " Public Works Department.
- " Financial Railway Department.

With 5 spare copies.

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

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4. After the repeated experience had of the evils of keeping the Sappers during these months in Wynaad, the Commander-in-Chief thinks that further information may safely be dispensed with. The fact is certain that from March to September the climate is such that they should not be retained there.

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Exd. A. W. Cooke.

Not 20 spare copies.

Dec 23 1886 Department
 Sec of Land for Alaska
 (Dec 23 1886)
 No. of the Alaska Coast
 in the Military Dept.

Dec 23 1886
 (Dec 23 1886)

Communicating
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 the Alaska Coast with
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 Department on the Alaska
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 to that place, if the duty
 Dept will procure for
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 on arrival.

Dec 23 1886
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