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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3364

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Dated 19

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th October 1869.*

No. 376. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Quarter-
master-General, relative to the question of
providing a Place-of-Refuge and Defensible } (Here enter 7th October 1869, No. 3,520.)
Post at Bellary.

No. 377. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1869, No. 3,364.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 12.

COMMUNICATED to the Superin-
tending Engineer of the 3rd Division.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
7th October 1869.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 132. From the Quarter Master General, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George; dated Head Quarters, Coonoor, 1st September 1869, No. ⁸⁵⁹₅₄₁₁.

Adverting to the Order of Government, dated 10th March 1868, No. 1030, I have the honor, by order, to submit for the consideration of Government, the accompanying memorandum from the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division, containing that Officer's views on the question of providing a place of refuge and defensible post at Bellary.

2. Colonel Moberly's proposals meet with Major General Shubrick's concurrence; and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion that they will sufficiently provide for the requirements of the station. If the Superintending Engineer's suggestions are approved of by Government, an estimate for the necessary repairs to the Fort walls might be called for.

3. With reference to Colonel Moberly's remarks regarding the entrances to the Fort, I beg to mention that the Municipal Commissioners of Bellary have already requested permission to make the suggested improvements to the Gateways out of the funds of the Municipality—vide order of Government, 13th November 1868, No. 4423.

MEMORANDUM.

The fortifications of Bellary, as may be observed from the accompanying plan, comprise a citadel, an upper fort and a lower fort.

2. In the first of these is a Native muntapum, and over the gateway is a room which was, I am given to understand, a guard-room where there was a guard kept there over the Rajah of Kurnool, who for some years was a prisoner here.

3. In the upper fort there is only one small Native muntapum; but there is ample space for buildings.

4. There are several pools of water in hollows in the rocks which are stated never to have been dry: these I believe to be merely rain-fed pools without any springs.

5. In the lower fort are the Arsenal and Commissariat buildings, the Powder Magazines and the Engineer's yard, beside a number of residences.

6. As already stated, the upper fort has ample space for accommodation for the Europeans and Eurasians who might have to take refuge there in case of any disturbance, the number of whom I put down at 1,000, after deducting the troop of Horse Artillery and the greater part of European Regiment who I conclude would go into the field, but there are no buildings for their accommodation. I cannot think it would be anything but waste of money to construct buildings up there now as provision for a disturbance, which might never take place, and consider that the lower fort could be easily defended until such time as the Arsenal and Commissariat Stores and building materials could be taken up the hill.

7. The number of Camp followers and Natives whom I calculate might wish to take refuge in the fort and who might be safely taken in, is 3,000.

8. At first sight of the Survey plan it strikes one that the lower fort might be reduced into a small compact space by merely enclosing the Arsenal, Main Guard and one Powder Magazine, so as to cover the steps leading to the upper fort, but to the east and north east of the Arsenal some rocks may be observed which completely overlook the whole space: these are from 30 to 40 feet above the floor of the Main Guard.

9. If a line is drawn so as to take these rocks in, it would interfere greatly with private buildings for which heavy compensation would have to be paid, and if taken further east so as to include the Orphanage, but leaving out Mr. D. Abraham's house, the Church and the few private

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
7th October 1869.*

dwelling in its neighbourhood, it would reduce the present fort by so little at so great a cost that after mature consideration I have come to the opinion that it would be a mistake to reduce the present lower fort. I would however suggest that the walls be thoroughly repaired and be always kept in order, and that at the south gate the mound of earth, which acts as a traverse to protect the gateway from the fire of guns, be removed. At the east gate I would suggest that the walls connecting the glacis and outer works with the main walls of the fort should be removed; that small round bastions should be erected on either side so as to command the approach to the gate, and that the roadway out of the gate should be taken out straight, as at present it is winding and accidents are likely to happen from carriages &c. coming and meeting those going out.

10. On the north side there is a good deal of communication between the Commissariat Cattle lines which are just outside the fort on that side and the offices inside the fort. At present the people have made a way for themselves as the distance round by the east gate is five or six times as far as the direct line, and I would therefore suggest either that a small gateway be constructed or else a flight of steps which could be knocked away in case of any disturbances.

11. The lower fort is so completely commanded from the upper fort, that I cannot think that any but a very large number of assailants, having at the same time big guns would attempt to attack the place.

12. It is, I think, a pity that the Railway have been allowed to put the station and other buildings on the open ground on the east, thus bringing a number of buildings within two or three hundred yards of the walls; at the same time, however, it is convenient in some respects, and the whole of the station buildings will be under the guns of the fort.

13. In short, I advocate that with the exception of the slight alterations referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10, the fort and its belongings should remain just as they are, with the understanding that the fortifications on the rock be considered the place of refuge in case of sudden emergency.

BELLARY, }
24th July 1869.

(Signed) A. S. MOBERLY, Lieut. Colonel, R. E.,
Suptg. Engineer, 3rd Division.

This memorandum embodies my views and recommendations equally with those of Lieutenant-Colonel Moberly

BELLARY, }
August 3rd, 1869.

(Signed) R. SHUBRICK, Major-General,
Comdg. Ceded Districts.

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1869, No. 3520.

The Governor in Council concurs in the advisability of the proposition recommended by General Shubrick and approved of by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and sanctions the improvements proposed to be made by the Municipal Commissioners in their communication recorded in Proceedings of Government, dated 13th November 1868, No. 4423.

(True Extract.)

Michael

Major,

Offg. Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General, with two enclosures.

.. Public Works Department. *With 2 enclosures to file*

.. Adjutant General.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

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No 376-377

Defensible fort at Bellary

Produce paper, paper, rolls
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section and relative to the
question of providing a place
of deposit and defensible fort
at Bellary. Also, the 6th command