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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1840	Press
22-23	Mis.
Dated 5 6	1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th June 1869.*

No. 122. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on certain correspondence connected with the provision of Gymnasias for this Presidency } (Here enter 27th May 1869, No. 1,981.)

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1869, No. 1,846.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 8.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. O'R., Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department.
27th May 1839.

Read the following papers —

No 684 From the Adjutant General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 3rd March 1869, No 151

I have the honor, by order of the Commander-in-Chief to request, you will be good enough to submit to Government, the accompanying correspondence forwarded by the Officer Commanding Malabar and Canara, relative to pay claimed for the Instructor and Assistant Instructor of Gymnastics, of the 1st Battalion 1st Royals

2. The claim has been rejected by the Pay Department, on the provisions of G. O G., No. 366, dated 2nd October 1866, and with that G. O for his guide, the Pay Examiner could not of course act otherwise.

3. Lieutenant General McCleverty, however, is desirous of bringing the question before Government, on the grounds of assimilation with the practice obtaining in Bengal.

4. General Order No 58, dated Calcutta, 14th March 1867, page 93, Madras Orders of that year, authorizes temporary Regimental Gymnasia

5. In the Proceedings of Madras Government, Order No. 3009 B, 28th August 1866, paragraph 6 of letter No. 1107½ E, dated Simla, 4th December 1865, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, embodied therein, it is stated "that Instructors must be paid for their time and trouble."

6. In the Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3923, dated 13th November 1866, it is ruled, that the "Regimental Staff as laid down in G. O G. G., "No. 673 of 1866 alone, is sanctioned for this Presidency."

7. Again the correspondence embodied in Proceedings of Government, No 4249, dated 6th December 1866, bears on the question of pay to Regimental Instructors, irrespective of the permanent gymnasia to be established.

8. Captain Stockwell, Director of Gymnastics, is now here, and informs that in Bengal and in the Bombay Presidencies also, Serjeant Instructors and Corporal Instructors are appointed in Regiments on their names duly appearing in General Orders by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, on the recommendation of the Director of Gymnastics, or on the application of Commanding Officers of Corps in which apparatus has been provided for the use of the men from any available funds, and when once appointed these men continue to draw their pay, whether the course of instruction is interrupted, or in progress, in the same manner as Regimental Serjeant Instructors of Musketry.

9. Lieutenant General McCleverty, when visiting Cannanore in 1868, noticed the marked benefits accruing to the 1st Battalion 1st Royals, from the system of gymnastics then adopted, and trusts that in this, as in any other Corps similarly exercised, remuneration may be passed to the Instructors, as is already done in Bengal.

2 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,*
27th May 1869.

From the Officer Commanding Malabar and Canara, to the Adjutant General, Fort Saint George,
dated Cannanore, 23rd February 1869, No 45.

In forwarding, for submission to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the accompanying
1 Copy of Pay Examiner Memo No $\frac{B Y}{41}$, of 4th February 1869
1 Copy of contingent bill, with vouchers, (3) attached
1 Copy of letter, from Captain Hassell, dated 15th February 1869
copies of correspondence, marginally noted, relating to the pay of the Instructor and Assistant Instructor of Gymnastics of the 1st Battalion "The Royal" Regiment, I have the honor to express my recommendations, should the step meet with His Excellency's approval, that the subject may be forwarded for the favorable consideration of Government, with a view to the suggestions contained in Captain Hassell's letter being carried out.

From Captain J. W. HASSELL, "The Royal" Regiment, to the Acting Adjutant, "The Royal" Regiment, dated Cannanore, 15th February 1869

I have the honor to request you will lay before the Officer Commanding, the following letter as well as its accompaniments, with a view to their being forwarded to higher authority in the hopes of obtaining from Government an acknowledgment of the claims therein set forth.

The remark made by the Pay Examiner in his memorandum, herewith forwarded, viz, that experimental gymnasia in this Presidency having only been granted to Bangalore and Secunderabad, &c. &c., is perfectly correct; but I would most respectfully suggest this reflects still more credit on Serjeant York and Corporal Gibson for the extremely satisfactory manner in which they have performed their duties with the uncertain prospects of remuneration.

They have instructed not alone the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of their Regiment, but Officers and Privates of other Corps at this station.

I have the honor further to point out that, although this is not an acknowledged experimental gymnasium, the system as laid down at the Royal Gymnasium, Aldershot, is maintained in its integrity, each Instructor has his two classes daily, one hundred and ten Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates have already finished a course, many of them a second, and there are at present eight Officers, six Non-Commissioned Officers and forty-eight Privates undergoing instruction

The Instructors have most willingly performed their duties and have never, through indisposition or misconduct, been a single day absent from their classes, clearly demonstrating the interest they take in their work

I have further the honor to suggest that the gymnasium of the Royal Regiment be converted into a 4th class experimental gymnasium, giving at once more apparatus, more means at command for improvement and a further inducement for those undergoing instruction of availing themselves of healthy recreation

Should the above suggestion meet with approval, those Serjeant Instructors who have already been sent out to the Presidency might be attached to the gymnasium, keeping up what they have learnt, improve themselves still further and be available for their duties when called upon to perform them, so that when gymnasiums are instituted, there will be a foundation to work upon, and the system of gymnastics will easily be carried out at the various stations throughout the Presidency.

From the Pay Examiner, to the Paymaster 1st Battalion "The Royal" Regiment, Cannanore,
dated Fort Saint George, 4th February 1869, No $\frac{B Y}{41}$.

Your abstract for allowance to Serjeant York and Lance Corporal H. Gibson, 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment, as Instructors of Gymnastics to that Battalion from 27th May and 22nd June 1868, respectively, forwarded for pre audit, is herewith returned unpassed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
27th May 1869.

3

Provisions for experimental gymnasia in this Presidency having only been made at Bangalore and Secunderabad and until the system has been introduced under due authority, the allowance for Regimental Instructors cannot be admitted.

G O G, No 366 of 2nd October 1868.

1st BATTALION "THE ROYAL" REGIMENT.

Her Majesty's Government of India, Dr.

Particulars	Amount.		
	RS	A	P
To amount of pay due to the undermentioned Non-Commissioned Officers as Instructors in Gymnastics.			
Serjeant Instructor R. York from 27th May 1868, @ 1-6 per day	118	4	7
Assistant Instructor H. Gibson, from 22nd June 1868, @ 1s. per day.. ...	68	1	4
Vide extracts from orders and certificates attached.			
Total Government Rupees ..	186	5	11

Received the amount, viz, Government Rupees (186 5-11,) One hundred and eighty-six, Annas five and Pies eleven only

CANNANORE,
18th December 1868 }

(Signed) GRAHAME, CRAIG, Captain,
Paymaster 1st Battn. "The Royal" Regt.

To the Pay Examiner Fort Saint George, Madras

I do declare upon my honor that the above charges of Government Rupees one hundred and eighty-six, annas five and pies eleven only, have been necessarily incurred and will be paid by me for the purpose set forth.

(Signed) GRAHAME, CRAIG, Captain,
Paymaster 1st Battn. "The Royal" Regt.

I do hereby certify that the above charges contained in this bill are correct to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed) F. WELLS, Lieut-Colonel,
Comdg 1st Battn. "The Royal" Regt.

EXTRACTS FROM ORDERS.

Battalion Orders by Colonel the Honorable
C. D. PLUNKETT, Commanding.

KAMPTEE,
7th August 1868.

4. The following Extract from General Orders is published for information.

4 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,*
27th May 1869.

HEAD QUARTERS, OOTACAMUND,
18th July 1866

With the sanction of Government, the Commander-in-Chief notifies in Orders that the under-mentioned Non-Commissioned Officers are appointed Instructors of Gymnastics, Fencing, &c., subject to the further orders of the Government of India as to their position and allowances

Rank	Names	Corps	Remarks.
Corporal	R. York.	1st Battalion 1st Foot.	Gymnastics

By order,

(Signed) F R STANTON, Lieut.,
Ag Adjt 1st Battn "The Royal" Regt

Battalion Orders by Lieutenant Colonel
F WELLS, Commanding

CANNANORE,
27th May 1868

3. Serjeant York is taken off all duties from this date 27th instant, to be an Instructor in the Gymnasium.

By order,

(Signed) R E. BOUCHIER, Ensign,
Ag. Adjt. 1st Battn "The Royal" Regt

Battalion Orders by Lieutenant Colonel
F. WELLS, Commanding.

CANNANORE,
22nd June 1868.

Drummer Gibson to act as temporary Instructor in the Gymnasium

By order,

(Signed) R. E. BOUCHIER, Ensign,
Ag. Adjt. 1st Battn. "The Royal" Regt.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) F WELLS, Lieut.-Colonel,
Comdg 1st Battn "The Royal" Regt.

I certify that Serjeant York, has performed the duties of Instructor in Gymnastics from 27th May 1868, and that Lance Corporal Gibson has performed the duties of temporary Instructor from 22nd June 1868.

CANNANORE,
18th December 1868 }

(Signed) F. WELLS, Lieut.-Colonel,
Comdg. 1st Battn. "The Royal" Regt

This is to certify that No 714, Lance Corporal Henry Gibson, 1st Battalion "The Royal" Regiment, is qualified to act as Assistant Instructor of Gymnasiums.

CANNANORE,
18th December 1868. }

(Signed) J. W HASSELL, Captain,
1st Battn. "The Royal" Regiment.

No. 685 With report from the Controller of Military Accounts, 15th March 1869, C.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
27th May 1869. 5

No 686 Read the following Memorandum from the Inspector General of Military Works, Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 15th February 1869, No 146M.—

The undersigned is directed to invite attention to Public Works Department, Circular No 52, of the 23rd June 1868, forwarding for information and guidance plans of Gymnasia for British Troops, and to enquire what progress has been made towards the provision of Gymnasia in the Madras Presidency.

(Signed) W. A CROMMELIN, Colonel,
Inspector General of Military Works

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1869, No 733.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 9

Communicated to the Military Department, with reference to G. O, No 2,420, dated 29th July 1868, and with a view to the necessary report being made to the Government of India, regarding the provision of Gymnasia in this Presidency.

(True Extract)

(Signed) CHARLES A ORR, Colonel, R E.
Secretary to Government.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief, (Quarter Master General's Department) for remark, with advertence to Proceedings of Government, No. 3805, dated 29th September 1868.

11th March 1869

No 687. From the Quarter Master General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 31st March 1869, No. 2368.

In reply to your reference docket, dated 11th instant, on the Proceedings of Government, in the Public Works Department, No. 733, of the 6th idem, I have the honor, by order, to report that nothing has yet been done in this Presidency, towards the provision of permanent gymnasia.

Vide O G No 3435, dated 2nd October 1866

2 They were sanctioned in October 1866 for two stations in this command, viz, Bangalore and Secunderabad

3. The money which has been assigned by the Government of India during the years 1867-68, and 1868-69 for Public Works in this Presidency, has been allotted to Military buildings, &c, which were very necessary for the accommodation and health of the European troops, and which were deemed much more essential than gymnasia But even had not this been the case, nothing could, up to this time, have been done in the matter, for the plans of these buildings were only received in this office on the 27th October last, and the funds for the current official year had already been bespoken.

4. Previous to the receipt of the plans, the list of works proposed by the Commander-in-Chief for entry in the Public Works Budget for the ensuing official year 1869-70 had been laid before Government, and even in it no funds were asked for for permanent gymnasia at Bangalore for the reasons already given. His Excellency is not disposed to modify the list upon which the order of the local Government

was passed on the 3rd November last, but he recommends that the Government of India be now applied to for a special grant of Rupees 50,000, irrespective of the assignment for 1869-70, for the construction of the requisite buildings at the above station. In the meantime the troops there will be provided with the two temporary gymnasia for which two sums of Rupees 400 each were included in the list of "Minor works" submitted with my letter dated 14th October last, No. ⁵⁸³/₇₁₅₅.

5 The Public Works Department at Secunderabad being under the Government of India, the Officer Commanding the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force communicates with the Resident at Hyderabad in regard to the Military requirements at that station; and forwards to this office the list of works which he recommends for execution. In the list for the ensuing official year are entered three items of Rupees 10,000 each for gymnasia to be constructed for the European troops at Trimulgherry in 1869-70.

No. 688. From the Adjutant General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 31st March 1869, No. 210.

I have the honor, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to request you will be good enough to submit to Government, the accompanying letter from Captain Stockwell, Director of Gymnastics in India, dated 17th March 1869, on the subject of gymnasia in this Presidency, a matter adverted to in my letter, dated 14th October 1868, No. 366

2. The standard plans for gymnasia were not received by the Quarter Master General, till the 27th October 1868, too late for the insertion of estimates in the budget of 1869-70, submitted with the Quarter Master General's letter of the 14th October 1868, No. ⁵⁸⁹/₇₁₅₅. Had a sum in anticipation been entered in the budget, the completion of barracks and works of emergency, would have been injuriously deferred

3. In that budget, two sums of 400 Rupees were noted for Bangalore, for the Cavalry and Infantry, for the erection of temporary gymnasia only.

4. At Secunderabad, the sum of Rupees 10,000 each has been noted for the commencement of three gymnasia for the European Corps at Secunderabad, but to carry this into effect, rests with the Supreme Government.

5. It was intimated in a letter from the Adjutant General, dated 27th November 1868, Simla, that the Director of Gymnastics in India, would visit Madras, for the purpose of receiving His Excellency's orders and assisting in establishing the system of Military gymnastics in a uniform manner throughout India, and further action was deferred, till his arrival. He only arrived on 1st March 1869, and was directed to proceed to, and report upon Bangalore and Cannanore, at the latter station the Commander-in-Chief had seen the laudable efforts of Captain Hassell, of the 1st Royal Regiment, a qualified Instructor, in establishing principally from private funds, with the assistance of the Commanding Officer, a system which, on grounds of sanitation and recreation, His Excellency found most beneficial, as it could be carried out at all hours of the day under cover by both Officers and men.

6. Captain Stockwell, by his letter, dated 17th March 1869, does not appear to have been aware that the standard plans had not been received till too late, for adoption in the budget of the ensuing year.

7 It would be unnecessary to add further to that letter, but the Commander-in-Chief would request Government to apply to the Government of India, for the reasons assigned, for a supplementary budget, for the erection of two 4th class gymnasia at a cost of 40,000 Rupees each at Bangalore, for the Cavalry and Infantry Barracks.

8. At Secunderabad, the Commander-in-Chief would urge the erection of three gymnasia for the Artillery, and Infantry which now occupy the newly erected Barracks.

9 In Bengal, a Director of Gymnastics was appointed preliminary to the provision of gymnasia, and the Commander-in-Chief thinks the time has arrived when, after his consultation with the Director of Gymnasia in India, his application of 14th October 1868, No. 366, may be re-considered, and that Captain Hassell, 1st Royals, be appointed Assistant Director of Gymnastics in this Presidency, as in Bombay, when it is expected the experimental gymnasia will be handed over during the year and on the principles laid down in the correspondence accompanying the letter of the Officiating Secretary to Government of India, Military Department, dated Simla, 6th June 1866, No. 42, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George, re-published in the Order of Madras Government No. 3009B, 28th August 1866.

10. I am further to observe that the Director of Gymnastics in Bengal was appointed on the 3rd of May 1866, prior to estimates for the erection of buildings, and in Bombay, the Assistant Director was appointed on the 17th June 1868. It would appear therefore, that these Officers must have been partially employed in superintending the erection of the buildings, which the Commander-in-Chief considers to be a most necessary duty.

From Captain J. H. STOCKWELL, Director of Gymnastics in India, to the Adjutant General, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 17th March 1869, No. ⁸⁹/₇₁.

In compliance with the instructions received from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, to inspect the gymnasia at Bangalore and Cannanore, and then report on the general condition of gymnastics in this country, I have the honor to state that

Bangalore

I visited Bangalore on the 6th instant and found that no gymnastic exercises were actually going on, but that two small out-door gymnasia were in course of construction, one in the new Infantry Barracks and the other on the Race Course, at a cost of about Rupees 400 each, including dumb bells.

They may be described as totally inadequate, as regards the proportions, nature and quantity of the apparatus for the wants of a Regiment, being deficient of some of the most important machines on which many of the elementary, but yet most useful exercises are performed. They are adapted for purposes of re-creation and for occasional use only, and as no regular course of gymnastic exercises could be carried out on them, they cannot properly come under the accepted meaning of the term out-door regimental gymnasia.

A very small gymnasium was successfully worked by the Officer Commanding a Battery of Artillery lately quartered at Bangalore, but now removed to another station, when the apparatus was disposed of and the instruction ceased

Consequently, at the present moment no gymnastic exercises are actually in progress at Bangalore, and further there is no immediate prospect of a beginning being made, as the apparatus in course of construction is insufficient for purposes of Military gymnastics.

The 16th Lancers are in possession of the fencing material, sanctioned for the swordsmanship of Regiments of British Cavalry in India, and are therefore in a position to carry out the prescribed course of instruction in fencing and swordsmanship, and subsequent annual competition for prizes

It appears that the office of the Assistant Quarter Master General, Mysore Division, has not up to this date, been supplied with copies of the standard plans of gymnasia for India, sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, and to be seen at the office of the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George. To the want of these plans must be attributed the fact that no estimate of the cost of the 4th class gymnasium sanctioned for Bangalore, could be prepared, and, without such an estimate, no monies for this institution, entered in the annual budget for the Military works of the province, could be passed by the Government of Madras. However, a rough estimate of the cost of gymnasium, computed for want of any data to go upon, at Rupees 30,000 was only entered in the Division Supplementary Budget and list of works to be eventually executed. For the above reasons, added to the fact that there were other works considered of prior utility and importance, to be done, the item for the 4th class gymnasium, was neither brought forward nor pressed on the notice of the authorities, and therefore, beyond deciding on the probable site of the building, absolutely nothing up to the present has been done, whether as regards plans or estimates, or obtaining the necessary funds towards the construction of the 4th class gymnasium at Bangalore.

Cannanore—On the 13th March, I inspected a small regimental gymnasium in the Barracks of the 1st Royals at Cannanore, constructed almost entirely at the expense of the Officers and men of the Corps, supplemented by a small grant in aid, for shoes and belts, &c, situated in part of an unused Barrack room. It was skilfully laid out and constructed under the superintendence of Captain Hassell, 1st Royals, an Officer who has qualified by a lengthened course at Aldershot for an appointment connected with gymnastics, and who holds a certificate to that effect from the Director of Gymnastics at home. Thanks to the judicious management and practical knowledge of this Officer, the small private regimental gymnasium of the 1st Royals, has been utilized to the utmost, and for this reason far exceeds in value and usefulness, although built at no greater cost than the gymnasia now being set up at Bangalore, and which, from the absence of all professional advice and supervision, are of very limited capability, and consequently, utility.

The gymnasium at Cannanore admits of three classes of men, averaging a total of about sixty, and an Officer's class likewise, to be instructed daily, and supported by the Officer Commanding the Regiment. Captain Hassell is gradually putting all the men under ten years' service and young Officers, through a three months' course of training.

That the result is highly beneficial to those instructed, will be testified to by the general appearance of the men and the measurement and health returns. I am likewise informed by the Officer Commanding that it has been conducive to a marked improvement in the conduct of the men, thus abstracted from idle and perhaps vicious habits, and incited to laudable emulation in a

* By two classes

healthgiving exercise and recreation. The exercises performed in my presence* were highly creditable to the men and to Captain Hassell,

who has devoted gratuitously much time and trouble to the gymnasium. Also creditable to the Serjeant Instructor and his Assistant, both of whom, I regret to state, have now been toiling for a long time past without any remuneration, although they are undoubtedly entitled to their respective salaries, called working pay, enjoyed by all other Serjeant Instructors in gymnastics under exactly similar circumstances, in the Bengal and Bombay Presidencies, but in Madras withheld on an erroneous interpretation of orders and on the plea, which however is not valid, that only at Bangalore and Secunderabad can pay be issued to Instructors in gymnastics. As Director of Gymnastics in India, I would wish to place on record that no such restrictions prevail in the sister Presidencies, and I would but invite a perusal of the orders issued from time to time by the Govern-

ment of India, on the subject of the pay of Serjeants and Acting Serjeants, Corporals and Acting Corporals, instructors of gymnastics, to show that no system of localizing the issue of such working pay, is either alluded to or entertained.

I cannot however leave the subject of the regimental gymnasium at Cannanore, without referring to the conclusions that the example now under consideration permits one to arrive at, supported as they are by the most ample and satisfactory evidence.

In the first place I would point out the results obtained by this institution, and chiefly due to the enterprise and perseverance of one individual.

I think the evidence is conclusive and amply borne out by facts, open to and courting enquiry that a marked benefit has attended the progress of gymnastics in the 1st Royal Regiment. The men are physically improved; in some instances to an astonishing degree. Their general health has also been the better for a judiciously applied course of exercises, and their general good behaviour is reported by the Officer Commanding, as being due in a great measure, to the practice of gymnastics, which he considers for those very reasons, to be a most desirable and useful thing to establish in his Regiment.

Susceptible of easy and successful application, under proper supervision and care, these exercises can be carried on at any time of the day and year, that is to say at midday as well as in the mornings and evenings, in the hottest as well as in the other seasons, and more particularly as regards the important point of the climate of Southern India, the experiment may be considered an undoubted success, and is suggestive of the inference that if possible at Cannanore why not also at other stations in the Presidency. As far as they go the results have been very satisfactory and I believe should be more than sufficient to dispel any lingering doubt in the mind of the most sceptic, that exercising the British soldier in India, at any time of the year, is either feasible or desirable.

I would further point out that a large share of this result is due to the fact that a properly qualified and experienced Officer superintended both the construction of the apparatus and the practice of gymnastics at Cannanore, thus securing the maximum of advantage with the minimum of cost, whilst at the same time professional knowledge, guarding against any over-exertions and work, prejudicial to the well being of the men.

From the instance of this gymnasium, I think the inference is permissible that important advantages would equally accrue to the public from the services and advice of an experienced and qualified Officer, on the establishment of the system of Military gymnastics in this Presidency.

Secunderabad—Although Secunderabad was not visited as no gymnastic exercises were going on, still, as the station for the 2nd experimental gymnasium sanctioned for Madras, I consider it necessary, for the completeness of this report, to allude to it now.

As at Bangalore nothing has been actually begun or done. But I am informed by the Quarter Master General, Fort Saint George, that an item of Rupees 10,000, for a 4th class gymnasium, has been entered in the budget for the forthcoming official year, of the Department Public Works at Secunderabad, subject to the Government of India, as regards the execution of the works, but also, I believe, to the authority of the Government of Madras.

I am of opinion that the sum demanded in that estimate, is totally inadequate for the construction of a 4th class gymnasium, on the only authorised and standard plan, and that if it be the full estimate for such a work, there can be very little doubt, that as at Bangalore, the authorities at Secunderabad cannot have been supplied with the plans in possession of the Department Public Works, Fort Saint George. At present the commencement of the works for the gymnasium at Secunderabad is contingent on the grant of Rupees 10,000, and its completion subsequently, on some further sums to be obtained in some future budgets. Consequently it may be stated that for the next two years there is little, if any chance, of the 2nd experimental gymnasium at Secunderabad, being ready for use.

General state of gymnastics in the Madras Presidency—In laying before His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, the facts that have come to my knowledge, I am under the

painful necessity of reporting, for his information, that the question of the establishment of Military gymnastics is in a very backward condition, and I may say, still in its infancy, being in that respect far behind the Bengal, and comparatively speaking, likewise behind the Bombay Presidencies.

In the former, not only are the four experimental gymnasia, more or less advanced in construction, but there are also a considerable number of large gymnasia in the double storied barracks, now building, and in one instance ready for use. In Bombay, the two experimental gymnasia will, it is hoped, be handed over in the course of a year, as everything is now ready for carrying out till completion, the works at Poona and Mhow.

But in the Madras Presidency, I regret to state that not only have the two experimental gymnasia not been begun, but the very estimates of cost required to obtain the necessary funds, have not yet been prepared. Unless some immediate steps are taken, as matters stand at present, the money required for these buildings will only be included in the budget for 1870-71, and allowing two years more for construction and fitting with apparatus, it is pretty certain there will be no gymnasia at two such large stations for British Troops, as Bangalore and Secunderabad, until about the middle of the year 1872, or in other words, six years after they were sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, and in the orders by the Government of India, in 1866.

Confining myself strictly to my duties as Director of Gymnastics in India, I have not presumed to enquire into any other causes or reasons for the past regrettable delays upon which, however, I am obliged to remark as far as they concern the speedy establishment of Military Gymnastics in India and the interest entrusted to my charge. And I consider I should fail in the discharge of those duties were I to neglect to bring prominently to notice the gravity of these delays, not so much as regards the time already lost, but more particularly with reference to the next two or three years.

In England there are now twenty Military Gymnasia in full work.

In the Bengal and Bombay Presidencies a beginning, followed by rapid extension, it is hoped, will have been made in the course of the next twelve months, and even much earlier, as far as Bengal is concerned. In some of the large and most important Colonies, gymnasia have likewise been established, and consequently in almost every country where British Troops are stationed, facilities already exist or will shortly be afforded for training them in Military gymnastics, now a recognized and daily becoming a more important branch of the soldiers' education, as the progress of gunnery and perfection of fire arms necessitate a change of tactics based on increased mobility, that is to say, increased activity, agility and endurance on the part of the soldier.

But in Madras only will an exception to this improved state of things be found. There the Soldier must remain necessarily without the advantages that gymnastics, from a Military point of view, is intended to confer, to say nothing of what in this country specially, I believe to be of even greater importance. I refer to gymnastics, considered in its sanitary aspects, as a health giving and improving exercise and recreation, capable of extension and application to any extent. I believe it will be acknowledged, when better understood, to be a valuable agent in India, of what is now called sanitation, bearing with considerable influence both on the health and morals, and as such, a fit study for the Military economist.

And lastly, that it can be perfectly adapted to the climate of Madras, I have endeavoured to prove by the results obtained at the gymnasium at Cannanore.

Having now shown that the practice of gymnastics in this Presidency is quite feasible, but that unfortunately no beginning worth speaking of, has been made as yet by the Government of Madras, towards introducing at the expense of the public, this most useful and formally sanctioned branch of Military training, I would request permission to submit, for consideration, one or two suggestions which might help to make up for lost time, and promote the establishment of gymnastics and place Madras in this respect more on a footing of equality with the sister Presidencies.

The first step would necessarily be to obtain the indispensable funds for commencing immediately two experimental or 4th class gymnasia. I have shown what will be the earliest probable

date of completion should these items be remitted to the Military budget of 1870-71. To gain a year the funds should be forthcoming this year, but as the annual budget for the year has already been submitted, a supplementary budget would be necessary.

I trust that the very backward condition of Military gymnastics in this Presidency may be found a sufficiently urgent and good reason for such an application being both made to and granted by the Government of Madras.

I would likewise suggest the appointment of an Assistant Director of Gymnastics for Madras, similar in all respects to that sanctioned for the Bombay Presidency. I am induced to make this recommendation by the consideration that, as the system of gymnastics becomes developed, there will arise constantly many points and subjects for reference, quite out of the province of any but a qualified Director of Gymnastics, to decide. Neither the Quarter Master General's nor the Public Works Departments, can be expected to possess that knowledge of the requirements of the system which an Officer specially trained in gymnastics, can bring to bear on the subject. Besides gymnastics being a special branch, like Musketry Instruction, soon becomes a Department, requiring for the satisfactory carrying out of all orders, as also its practice and details, a person at its head, thoroughly conversant with gymnastics. On him would devolve the responsibility of introducing the practice of gymnastics in this Presidency, conformably with that which obtains at Home and in Bengal, subject to such regulations and modifications that may be found necessary for India.

I do not think that any progress in gymnastics can be made without at once experiencing the necessity of such an appointment, as all that concerns the construction, nature and supply of apparatus and fixtures and stores must necessarily come under his professional cognizance and require his superintendence and control.

The safety of the lives and limbs of the men using the machines depends in a great measure on the proper construction and material of the apparatus. To the discretion of an experienced Gymnast only familiar with the nature of every exercise, and its effect on the men, must be given the control of the practice, and it would be his duty to guard against any injurious effects to the men, resulting from its injudicious or careless application, by the Serjeant Instructors.

All matters likewise pertaining to pay, orders, returns and reports on the subject of Gymnastics are also referable to the Director of Gymnastics, and were it considered desirable that the Officer who is to hold this appointment should become acquainted as soon as possible with all the details connected with his duties and ascertain what has been done in Bengal in the matter of building apparatus and supplies, he might be sent to that Presidency at the public expense for the purpose of gaining the necessary information which this office will be happy to afford him whether in person, or by official communication.

In conclusion I beg to forward herewith, for general information and guidance, sets of plans of apparatus *in situ* in the experimental gymnasium, and books of plates of gymnastic apparatus, copies of all of which with explanations, will be duly supplied to this Government, by the Government of India, Department Public Works.

With their aid and that of the standard plans, approximate estimates of the cost of 4th class gymnasia, complete with apparatus and fittings, will be readily prepared and will be found to total, as in Bengal, an average for each of about 50,000 Rupees.

Referred to the Public Works Department, for information, whether, with advertence to the ordered* reduction of two lacs of Rupees in the budget allotment for new works under "Military," arrangements can be made for providing funds from other sources, from the sanctioned budget for the current official year, for meeting the expenditure contemplated in the foregoing papers, and, if so, to what extent?

5th April 1869.

*Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department,
2nd April 1869, No 1074

No. 689.

DOCKET.

As in consequence of the reduction of two lacs of Rupees which has been made by the Government of India from the budget assignment of the current year for Military buildings in this Presidency, it will not be possible to appropriate any money for the construction of Gymnasia without putting a stop to the progress of works of the utmost importance for the accommodation of the Troops, these papers will be returned to the Military Department, with a view to an application being made in that Department to the Government of India for a special grant for the construction of two Gymnasia at Bangalore, as recommended by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief

FORT SAINT GEORGE, { (Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
7th April 1869 { Secy. to Govt, P. W. D.
To the Military Department

No. 690 ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1869, No. 1981.

Ordered that the foregoing correspondence be forwarded to the Government of India

2. A reduction of two lacs of Rupees having been ordered by that Government in the Budget allotment for new Military Works in this Presidency for the current official year, it is found impracticable to appropriate funds for the construction of Gymnasia, without putting a stop to works of the utmost importance for the accommodation of troops. The Government of India will, therefore, be earnestly solicited to sanction a special grant of Rupees (50,000) fifty thousand for expenditure during the year 1869-70 in providing the Gymnasia which are stated, by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to be so much required in this Presidency.

3. Adverting to the Adjutant General's letter of the 3rd March 1869* above recorded, it is observed that, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, this Government, in their Proceedings of 12th May 1868, No. 1899, sanctioned the supply of certain Gymnastic apparatus for the use of what was termed a "Voluntary Class" in the 1st Royal Regiment at Cannanore, but this concession was not intended to disturb the effect of G. O. G. No. 366 of 2nd October 1866, which, under instructions from the Government of India, limited the introduction of experimental Gymnasia to the stations of Bangalore and Secunderabad.

4 The Government are therefore unable to sanction the claim to pay as "Instructors of Gymnastics" preferred on behalf of the two Non-Commissioned Officers of the 1st Royals, who have assisted Captain Hassell in exercising his voluntary class.

5 With reference, however, to the very favorable report made by Captain Stockwell of the beneficial results which have attended the voluntary labors of these men at Cannanore, the Governor in Council will apply to the Government of India for authority to remunerate them at the rates laid down for Instructors and

Assistant Instructors in Gymnastics, with effect from the 27th May 1868,—and further, for permission to establish a 4th Class experimental Gymnasium at Cannanore, besides those authorized at Bangalore and Secunderabad.

6. Looking also to the fact that an Assistant Director of Gymnastics has been appointed in Bombay, and that a similar appointment in this Presidency is strongly advocated by Captain Stockwell, supported by the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the Government of India will be requested to empower this Government to appoint Captain Hassell of the 1st Royals, Assistant Director in the Madras Presidency, in order that the required buildings and apparatus may be provided in accordance with the instructions which his experience qualifies him to give.

No. 691. *To the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept.* } Here enter 27th May 1869, No. 1982.

(True Extract.)

Michael

Major,

Offg. Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General, with eight enclosures.

.. Controller of Military Accounts.
.. Public Works Department.
.. Quarter Master General.
.. Inspector General of Ordnance.

Ed. T. Stubbs.

1869
Genl. of 1869
MILITARY.

1869

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Ac., Ac., Ac.

Dated May, 27th

Recd. June 2nd

Post

G. O., 27th May 1869, No. 1981.

Nos. 684-691.

MAY

Passing orders on certain correspondence
connected with the provision of Gymnasia for the
Presidency

1869-5 June 1869

Write me later

Ordered the account

1869
1869

1869-5 June 1869

1869

Cue 2297
Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

de, de, de

Recd.

Encl

G O 5 June 1869, No 1866

Nos. 122-123

Gymnasia For high Dept
relative the provision
Gymnasia in this Reg-
lement.