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## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

**Government of Madras.**

*Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| G.O. No. 965-966. | Press<br>Mis. |
| 96-97-98          |               |
| Dated 6-4-        | 1870.         |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
6th April 1870*

No. 96. Read the following letter from Colonel W. A. CROMMELIN, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads—Military,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 23rd February 1870, No. 222-B-M. :—

WITH reference to entries Nos. 1 and 2 in the Proceedings of the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department (Military Works) for the month of December 1869, regarding the appointment of a Committee to select a suitable site for the Gun Powder Factory at St. Thomas' Mount, I am directed to inquire whether it is in contemplation to abandon the present factory (which is understood to be complete) and to provide a new one on some other site ; and to request that, if this be the case, the Government of India may be favoured with a report of the reasons for the proposed measure.

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 6th April 1870, No. 965.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 3.

ORDERED that the following letter  
be sent :—

(Here enter No. 966, dated 6th April 1870.)

(True Extract.)

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

*Secretary to Government.*

Govt. of (1870) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated April 6th.

Recd.

G. O., 6th April 1870. No 965

APRIL

Nos. 96 97

*Gun Powder Factory at St. Thomas' Mount.*—Passing orders on the letter from the Government of India inquiring, with reference to the appointment of a Committee to select a suitable site for the Gun Powder Factory at St. Thomas' Mount, in the Madras District, whether the present factory is to be abandoned and a new one provided on some other site.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,  
FORT ST. GEORGE, 6th April 1870.

No. 98.

No. 966.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 4.

E. M. C., dated 20th July 1858, No. 1,416.  
" " 21st Aug. " " 3,017,  
Military Department.  
" " 25th Sept. " " 1,984.  
" " 30th Nov. " " 4,310,  
Military Department.  
" " 14th June 1859, No. 2,094,  
Military Department.  
To Secretary of State, dated 13th Sept. 1859,  
No. 235, Military Department.  
E. M. C., dated 10th Jan. 1860, No. 124,  
Military Department.  
" " 22nd May " " 1,067.  
" " 11th June " " 1,225.  
" " 26th Feb. 1862, " 317.  
To Secretary of State, dated 25th March  
1862, No. 85.  
E. M. C., dated 28th March 1863, No. 1,059,  
Military Department.  
" " 1st July " " 1,732.  
To Secretary of State, dated 11th July 1863,  
No. 170.  
E. M. C., dated 27th April 1864, No. 1,211.

Bullet Factory, beyond the risk of bombardment from the sea, and in a place of security against tumultuary attack of any nature. This being at the time deemed of sufficient importance to compensate for the great cost likely to be entailed, the measure met with the approval of this Government, and, having been referred to

the Secretary of State, received his sanction in December 1859. Beyond making inquiries with a view to the selection of sites for the necessary buildings at St. Thomas' Mount, no steps were taken for the immediate carrying out of the design thus decided upon, and a question having meanwhile been raised as to the suitability of St. Thomas' Mount for a dépôt for Military stores with reference to its distance from Madras and the Railway, a further reference was made to the Secretary of State, who, in his Despatch of the 8th January 1863, No. 1, adhering to his opinion in favour of St. Thomas' Mount as the fittest site for the location of all Ordnance Manufacturing Establishments, directed that an estimate of the probable cost of carrying out the removal should be submitted to the Government of India in order that the propriety of entering the works in the Budget might be considered and decided.

2. That Despatch having been communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for an expression of his views, Sir Hope Grant, in a Minute dated 30th May 1863, after pointing out that from the positions which the Manufacturing Establishments in question now occupy they were practically secure from bombardment from the sea and that any local disturbance was unlikely in the extreme, expressed his opinion that, under the circumstances, the abandonment of costly buildings and the erection of others would entail an unnecessary and vast expense upon the State. His Excellency, therefore, recommended that, with the exception of the large Powder Magazine situated to the north-west of the Town and of the reserve of ball ammunition kept in the Fort, there should be no other removal, but that the Sea Batteries and defences of Fort St. George should be placed in a state of efficiency. Concurring in this view this Government made a third reference to the Secretary of State, but without success, for in his Despatch of the 30th November 1863, No. 159, Military Department, Sir Charles Wood declared that he saw no reason for departing from his previous decision, and desired that plans and estimates might, as he had directed, be prepared.

3. A large magazine has been completed at St. Thomas' Mount at a cost of Rs. 46,200; but no measures have yet been taken for the actual commencement of any of the other buildings beyond fixing upon suitable sites for them and calling for plans and estimates for the proposed new Gun Powder Manufactory.

4. Meanwhile, to enable the existing Manufactory to carry on its operations on the improved system now necessarily employed, considerable additions have been made from time to time to the buildings, and, with a view to place it in a position to meet large demands from Bengal and Bombay, as well as to guard against the consequences of any failure of the machinery now in use, it is in contemplation to erect a accommodation for the duplicate machinery which has been received from England. Plans and estimates for the requisite additional buildings have, therefore, been called for, and, should these buildings be erected, the establishment will be placed on such a complete and effective footing as to make its removal more than amply and, in the opinion of this Government, unnecessary.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R. E.,  
Secretary to Government.

All communications  
should be addressed  
to the Secretary.

No. 222 B. M.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

*Buildings and Roads.  
Military.*

To  
The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras.  
in the Public Works Department.

Fort William, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1870.

Sir,  
With reference to entries No. 142  
in the Proceedings of the Government of  
Madras in the Public Works Department  
(Military Works) for the month of December 1869,  
regarding the appointment of a Committee to  
select a suitable site for the Gun Powder Factory  
at Saint Thomas' Mount I am directed to en-  
quire whether it is in contemplation to abandon  
the present Factory, (which is understood to be  
complete) and to provide a new one on some other  
site; and to request that, if this be the case  
the Government of India may be favoured  
with

with a report of the reasons for the proposed mea-  
sure. —

Shine the honor to us,

Yr most obed<sup>t</sup> & fervent

Hamuelia  
 Deputy Secretary to the Govt of India

*P. W. Department.*

965 966  
Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Under date the 6 April 79

Leaving

23 Feb 1979

Richard L. Ladd

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محمد رضا خان

مجلسه اول در روز دوشنبه ۱۳۰۲

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L. B.

of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February last

4222 B. M. I am

not directed

1070 Sept  
Pro: of Govt for April  
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Govt of India.

28 Feb/70

14th 5 March

Pro: of Govt

Requesting to  
be informed whether  
it is intended to erect  
a new Gun Powder  
Factory at St Thomas  
Mount, & if so, desiring  
a report upon the  
reasons for the measure.

ch 96

Pro: 965 & 966-6 April/70

P. W. Department

965 966

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Under date the 6 April/70

Read the following

Trans. Sec. Government of India. H. C. No 222 B. M. of 23 Feb/70

Ordered that the fol-

-lowing letter be sent.

Trans. Sec. 966

The Secretary to the Govt  
of India

With reference to

Col. Croome's letter

of the 23rd February last

No 222 B. M. I am

directed

with  
sure.

directed to forward

the papers as per margin  
from which it will be  
seen that the question

of removing the Arsenal  
as well as the Gun Powder

and other manufacturing  
Establishments from  
the exposed position

in which they are now  
located at Madras  
and of concentrating  
them under the protec-  
tion of a system  
of defensible works  
at St Thomas Mount  
was first mooted  
in 1858, when the subject

|                                                 |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Mem. of 26 <sup>th</sup> July 1858              | Rs 1446 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug -                          | 3017    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept -                         | 1984    |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov -                          | 4310    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1859                       | 2094    |
| To Secy of State of 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1860  | 235     |
| Em. of 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1860               | 1167    |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> May -                          | 1225    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June -                         | 317     |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1862                       | 85      |
| To Secy of State of 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1863 | 1059    |
| Em. of 28 <sup>th</sup> March 1863              | 1732    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> July -                         | 170     |
| To Secy of State of 13 <sup>th</sup> July -     | 170     |
| Em. of 27 <sup>th</sup> April 1864              | 1211    |

of the repairs of the walls  
of Fort St George, was  
engaging the attention  
of Govt. The object ap-  
pears to have been to  
place the inflammable  
military stores deposited  
in the Arsenal, the  
Gun Powder and Gun  
Carriage manufactories,  
the Great Reserve Powder  
Magazine and the Bullet  
Factory beyond the risk  
of bombardment from  
the sea and in a place  
of security against  
tumultuary attack of  
any nature. This being  
at the time deemed

of sufficient im-  
-pance to compensate  
for the great cost likely  
to be entailed. The  
measure met with the  
approval of this Govt.  
and having been referred  
to the Secretary of State  
received his sanction.

in December 1859. (By order Despatch No. 177 of 1<sup>st</sup> Decr)  
making inquiries with  
a view to the selection  
of sites for the necessary  
buildings at St. Thomas'  
Mount, as steps were  
taken for the immediate  
carrying out of the design  
within

13  
the decision upon, and  
a question having mean-  
-while been raised as to  
the suitability of St. Thomas'  
Mount for a depot for  
military stores with re-  
-ference to its distance  
from Madras and the  
Railway, a further re-  
-ference was made  
to the Secretary of State  
who in his Despatch  
of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1863  
adhering to his opinion  
in favor of St. Thomas'  
Mount as the fittest  
site for the location  
of all Ordnance Manufac-  
-turing Establishments,

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directed that an esti-  
-mate of the probable  
cost of carrying out  
the removal should  
be submitted to the  
Governor and ordered  
that the propriety of  
entering the works in  
the Budget might be  
considered and decided.

That Despatch  
having been commu-  
-nicated to His Excellency  
the Commander-in-Chief  
for an expression of  
his views, Sir Hope  
Grant, in a minute  
dated 30<sup>th</sup> May/63

15  
after pointing out that from  
the positions which the  
Manufacturing Establish-  
-ments in question now  
occupy they were prac-  
-tically secure from bom-  
-bardment from the sea,  
and that any local dis-  
-turbance was unlikely  
in the extreme, expressed  
his opinion that under  
the circumstances the  
abandonment of costly  
-buildings and the erection  
of others would entail  
unnecessary and  
wasteful expense upon  
the State. His Excellency  
therefore recommended

that with the exception  
of the large Powder Ma-  
gazine situated to  
the north west of the Town  
and of the reserve of  
ball-amunition kept  
in the Fort, there should  
be no other removal,  
but that the Sea Batteries  
and defences of Fort St.  
George should be placed  
in a state of efficiency.  
Concurring in this view the  
Govt made a third refe-  
rence to the Secretary  
of State, but without  
success, for in his des-  
patch of the

30<sup>th</sup> Nov 1863 to 159. No. 8.  
Lieut Charles Wood declared  
that he saw no reason  
for departing from his  
previous decision, and  
decided that plans and  
estimates should be  
prepared, as he  
thought it best, he pre-  
pared  
A large magazine  
has been completed at  
St Thomas' Mount at a  
cost of Rs 46,296, but  
no measures have yet  
been taken for the actual  
commencement of any of  
the other buildings beyond  
fixing upon suitable  
sites for them and  
calling

the Balling Press and  
of estimates for the proposed  
new Gun Powder Man-  
- factory and  
- the existing Manufactory  
to carry on its operations on the im-  
- proved system now successfully  
employed  
- of Bengal and  
Bombay considerable  
additions have been  
made from time to time  
to the building, and with a view to place it in a  
position to meet large demands  
to guard against the  
consequences of any  
failure of the machinery  
now in use, it is  
contemplated to

construct accommodation  
for the duplicate ma-  
- chinery which has been  
received from England.  
Plans and estimates  
for the requisite addi-  
- tional buildings have  
therefore been called  
for, and should ~~they~~  
be erected, the esta-  
- blishment will be  
placed on such a com-  
- plete and effective  
footing as to make  
its removal more  
than ever costly and,  
in the opinion of this Govt.,  
unnecessary.

Recd 7/4/70 into the papers  
noted in the margin of the  
letter.

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Govt. of 1870: Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Secretary to the  
Govt of India

Further Pro No 121 of 11 Feb 71

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 6 April 1870. No 4966 & 4966

No 3. 46-97 & 98

Gun Powder Factory at St. Thomas'  
Mount Papers received on the letter  
from the Secy of India enquiring with  
reference to the appointment of a Committee  
to select a suitable site for the Gun Powder  
Factory at St. Thomas' Mount in the  
Madras District, whether the present factory  
is to be abandoned and a new one provided  
on some other site.

Defensible <sup>works</sup> Papers relative to the proposal  
for concentrating under the protection  
of a system of defensible works at St.  
Thomas' Mount in the Madras District, the  
Arsenal as well as the Gun Powder  
and other manufacturing establishments,  
forwarded by the Secy of India with remarks