

(1) Number of pages.....

(2) Date of receipt.....

(3) Initials of the Referent.....

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

18

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th September 1870.*

No. 202. Read the following docket from the Government of India, (Buildings and Roads—Military,) dated Simla, 13th August 1870, Nos. 847—57 B. M.:—

COPY of the following correspondence forwarded to the Secretary to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab in the Public Works Department; to the Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, and British Burmah; the Resident at Hyderabad; and the Governor-General's Agents for Central India and Rajpootana, for opinion on the proposal, and for the submission of approximate estimates of the cost of carrying out the same.

By order,
(Signed) J. W. ALEXANDER,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 30th July 1870, No. 658.

THE undersigned is directed to transmit to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department, the accompanying letter*

* To be returned.

from the Quarter-master General, No. 2,970, dated 23rd July 1870, with its annexures, and to request that the Government of India in the Military Department may be favoured with an expression of opinion on the proposal to lay down boarded floors in Cavalry fencing-rooms, as well as with an estimate of the probable cost of the scheme.

From the Quarter-master General, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated Simla, 23rd July 1870, No. 2,970.

I AM instructed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to submit, for the favourable consideration of Government, the accompanying representation from the Director of Gymnastics in India, on the subject of laying down boarded floors in Cavalry fencing-rooms, and to recommend that, for the reasons set forth, the suggestions may be given effect to.

From the Director of Gymnastics and Fencing in India, to the Quarter-master General, dated Lucknow, 9th July 1870, No. 151E.

IN referring a Memorandum from the Officer Commanding 20th Hussars for your information, I have the honour to state that it is very desirable that the floors of the fencing-room, or School of Arms, set apart for fencing purposes in the barracks of every regiment of British Cavalry in India, should be boarded instead of consisting, as at present, of stone flags.

The School of Arms, however, lately vacated by the 7th Hussars at Sealkote is an exception to the rule, because boarded; but this was only effected through the personal exertion of the Officer Commanding the Corps, whose outlay was eventually defrayed by the Local Government.

No good fencing can ever take place on stone floors, as it is scarcely possible to use fencing shoes, failing which, ammunition boots must be worn, and these from their very weight preclude anything like activity and quickness. They are very apt to slip and consequently cause injury to the men;—a fact in itself quite sufficient to prevent the full and free extension of the legs so necessary in the lunge.

This has been already urged in the case of the floors of the School of Arms for Gymnasia, the result being the sanction of boarded floors for these buildings.—*Vide Circular No. 45, Public Works Department, Simla, 19th June 1869.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th September 1870.*

But the requirements of any regiment of British Cavalry in the matter of School of Arms, etc., far exceed that of a gymnasium, seeing that instruction in swordsmanship is constantly going on, because now about the most important part, after horsemanship of the Cavalry soldier's military training.

A School of Arms or fencing-room, however, to be of any practical utility, should have a boarded floor, and this, I believe, if sanctioned, could be laid down at a very moderate cost.

A teak-flooring is of course the best, because scarcely affected by the alteration of seasons, but then it is also very costly.

If the expense of teak-flooring is objected to, good floors can be made of seasoned sal or toon wood, provided the planks of one and a half inch wood are cut into strips not more than two inches wide, which, after immersion for some days in water and subsequent drying in the sun, should be tightly screwed down by two and a half inch screws to joists not more than six inches apart, laid perfectly even on one course of bricks and mortar, in every way preferable to a bed of sand, through which the white-ants are found to penetrate.

The most important point in any fencing-room, after the arms, is the floor; and good fencing-rooms have become a matter of necessity, since the increased attention paid to good swordsmanship in the Cavalry.

But as this want is every succeeding year more urgently felt, I have availed myself of the opportunity now offered by the Memorandum of the Officer Commanding 20th Hussars, to bring to your particular notice the disadvantage under which the Cavalry labours generally from having to fence on stone floors, because desirous of submitting the matter for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to whom I would request the question may be referred.

From the Officer Commanding 20th Hussars, to the Director of Gymnastics and Fencing in India, dated Umballah 23rd May 1870, No. 203.

The undersigned has the honour to request that he may be informed what steps should be taken to have the flooring of the building now occupied as a fencing-room boarded.

No. 203. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1870, No. 2,192.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 12.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, who will, in communication with the Military authorities, submit his opinion on the proposal to lay down boarded floors in the fencing-room of the British Cavalry at Bangalore, together with an approximate estimate of the cost of carrying out the work.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division,
Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Mr. J. N. Sept 30
No. 2192
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date 13th August 1870
Read the following*

*From the Secretary to the
Govt of India
J. N. S.*

*(H. E. No. 847-57. B. M. dated
13th Aug 1870)*

*Communicated to
the Superintending Engineer of the
5th Div. who will, in communication with the
Military authorities, submit his opinion on the
proposal to lay down
boarded floors in the
fencing room of the
British Cavalry at
Bangalore, together
with an approximate
estimate of the cost of
carrying*

carrying out the work.

[Signature]

6-
Further On at 1024 E/13-7-71

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6 The Suppl Cong. 5.
15th Military Dept. 1

Dec 3 14/9/70

carrying out the work.

Cp 3397
Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Superintending Engineer
S. L. (Private)

W.S.

At:

Recd.

C. O. 13 Sept. 1922

207-203

Cavalry fencing - rooms - Docket
from the Govt. of India for-
warding, for opinion, Corres-
pondence on the proposal for
to lay down boarded floors
in Cavalry fencing rooms
+ requesting the submission of
approximate estimates of the
cost of carrying out the
same, communicated to the
Superintending Engineer with
instructions.

10/10/22