

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1125	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	30. 4.	195	1874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

16

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th April 1874.*

No. 438. Read the following endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 15th April 1874 :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. CAMPBELL, R.A., Officiating Deputy Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, in charge Ordnance Office, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 11th April 1874, No. 8-G.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of Government, that in consequence of the unsafe state of the chimney of the building containing the 14-horse power engine for working the machinery of the granulating, glazing, and reeling rooms, it has become necessary to stop the progress of work at the Gunpowder Manufactory, and as the District Engineer states that it will take two months to repair the chimney, the manufacture of gunpowder will necessarily cease in this Presidency for that time at least.

2. An opportunity is thus afforded me, which I gladly avail myself of in the interests of the workmen employed at the factory, to respectfully urge advantage being taken of this opportune occasion to remedy the gravest existing defect in the arrangements of the establishment.

3. At several times, and by more than one Superintendent, it has been brought to notice that the labourers at the Madras Gunpowder Manufactory perform their work under circumstances of extreme danger, attended with the maximum of risk, by reason of the very objectionable position which the three rooms referred to occupy relatively to each other and to the engine-room on which they depend.

4. Situated in dangerous proximity these rooms are centred by a building in positive contact with one of them, and holding a steam engine and boiler, and it is not too much to say that the "lives of the men employed in these rooms as well as the safety of the whole factory has for years depended on a happy but accidental exemption from an explosion which the above arrangements seem naturally calculated to produce.

5. As these rooms must now for a season be closed, the moment appears opportune for making those alterations required to lessen the risk to which the operatives are at present subjected, and I therefore venture respectfully to submit for the consideration of Government a small sketch, prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel Childers, showing the present and proposed arrangement of the buildings under review, and I trust I may be allowed, under the circumstances which I have detailed, most earnestly to solicit the sanction of Government for the immediate execution of the proposed work as an emergent one.

6. I may add that if sanctioned and carried out the alterations will place the factory on a fair footing as a single factory; that is, as one having no duplicate working rooms to fall back upon in case of accident.

TRANSFERRED to Department Public Works for immediate execution of the work.

A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th April 1874.*

No. 439.

ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1874, No. 1,125.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 9.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engineer,
Presidency, who will submit plans and
estimates without delay, proceeding with
the collection of materials meanwhile.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Presidency, with Sketch.
.. Military Department.
.. Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

ORDNANCE OFFICE

My dear Mr. John
I would thank
you to send the
Sketch referred to
in G.O. No. 1125
of 30 April/74.
Yours
J. Francis

Ordnance Department.

ORDNANCE OFFICE.

Fort Saint George,

11 April 1874.

No. 8

From,

Sent: Colonel N. G. Campbell R.A.

Off: By: Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

In charge Ordnance Office.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Military Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that in consequence of the unsafe state of the chimney of the building containing the 14 H.P. Engine for working the machinery of the granulating, glazing and peeling rooms, it has become necessary to stop the progress of work at the Gun Powder Manufactory, and as the District Engineer states that it will take two months to repair the chimney the manufacture of Gunpowder will necessarily cease in this Presidency for that time at least.

2. An opportunity is thus afforded me, which I gladly avail myself of in the interests of the workmen employed at the Factory, to respectfully urge advantage being taken of this opportune occasion to remedy the gravest existing defect in the arrangements of the Establishment.

3. At several times and by more than one Superintendent

Superintendent it has been brought to notice that the laborers at the Madras Gun Powder Manufactory perform their work under circumstances of extreme danger attended with the maximum of risk by reason of the very objectionable position which the three rooms referred to occupy relatively to each other, and to the Engine room in which they depend.

4. - Situated in dangerous proximity these rooms are centred by a building in positive contact with one of them and holding a Steam Engine and boiler, and it is not too much to say that the "lives of the men employed in these rooms, as well as the safety of the whole factory has for years depended on a happy but accidental exemption from an explosion which the above arrangements were naturally calculated to produce."

5. - As these rooms must now for a season be closed the present affords opportunity for making those alterations required to lessen the risk to which the operatives are at present subjected and I therefore venture respectfully to submit for the consideration of Government a small sketch prepared by Lieut. Colonel Childers showing the present and proposed arrangement of the buildings under review and I trust I may be allowed, under the circumstances which I have detailed, most earnestly to solicit the sanction of Government for the immediate execution of the proposed works as an emergent one.

6. - I may add that if sanctioned and carried

carried out the alterations will place the factory on a footing as a single factory, that is, as one having no duplicate working rooms to fall back upon in case of accident.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Nepier Yamples Lieut. Col. R. S.
Off. Dy. Insp. Genl. of Ord. Stores
In charge Ordnance Office.

E. S. B.

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441055.

Communists do the best
engineer necessary who without plan
and estimates without delay, proceeding in the
collaboration of materials and articles.

10

Collection of materials in woods.

Stiles reading with sketch.

Truly, Obedt. V

A. C. Lewis Sept 26th 1875/14.

27

is done

Pub: Works 1874 Dept:

No: 2274A

7
and

The Secy. to Genl:
Mittig-Sept:

Dated 15th April 1874.
Recd 26/5

Enc: 1.

Learned Sir,
a letter from the City
of London, dated 15th April 1874,
has been received containing
a request that the
City authorities should
be asked to provide
a site for the proposed
structure.

438-439

2274 *af*
Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Dist. Ingr.
Presidy.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 30 April 1874, No 25

Nos. 438-439

of Plans & Estimates,
~~the~~ proceeding with the
collection of materials
meanwhile -

Gun Powder Factory

Letter from the Offy of
Insp. Genl. of Ordnance &
Magazines requesting the
early execution of the repairs
required at the Gun Powder
Factory, Comd. to the S. & G. R.
Engineering for the submission