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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*P.W.D.* DEPARTMENT

|          |          |        |
|----------|----------|--------|
| G.O. No. | 3186-W   | Press. |
| B.P. No. |          | Mis.   |
| Dated    | 8-8-1878 | 197    |

*R.R.*  
Not to be folded or roughly handled

3186  
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

8th August 1878, No. 3,186 W.

Buildings and Roads.  
Military Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 107. From Major ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 11th July 1878, No. 2,172.

I HAVE been requested by the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines to

One diagram. have an entrance roadway to the fort strengthened to bear the weight of one of the 12-ton guns just received from Bombay. The gun with the carriage or "Drag" on which it is to be conveyed from the Railway Station weigh together between 14 and 15 tons. None of the fort gate bridges would bear this weight without going to considerable expense in strengthening them. The Inspector-General informs me that he has no funds at his disposal for the purpose.

2. In a demi-official letter received from him this morning\* he says: "I think it

\*10th July 1878. absolutely necessary that for the present the bridges should be able now to bear 18 tons; but, having in view the much larger guns with which we may eventually (and ought to) be supplied with, I think the bridges ought when you are at them be made to carry 40 tons."

3. I think it would be an unnecessary expense to make all the fort gate bridges strong enough to bear 40 tons each. I would therefore propose to strengthen the North Sea Gate only. There is only one ditch to cross at this gate, and it is nearest to the Harbour and Pier from whence heavy weights may in future be expected to arrive.

4. The present roadway over the ditch at the North Gate consists of wooden girders and superstructure, having a centre bearing on a brick-work pier—*vide* diagram.

5. The pier is constantly sinking, so it could not be depended upon. I would therefore propose spanning the ditch with a masonry arch or with iron girders. Girders would, however, be liable to rust. The masonry arch would not be open to this objection, and could readily be demolished by gunpowder or other explosive in the event of its being necessary to isolate the fort in the presence of an enemy. Suitable mine chambers could be arranged when constructing the arch, so that they could be easily loaded, tamped and fired; delay caused by having to cut out mine chambers in the solid masonry would thus be avoided. I have informed the Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines that none of the bridges are fit to bear a weight of 15 tons passing over them in their present condition, and he has replied that he will make other arrangements for the present for the reception of the six 12-ton guns on their arrival from Bombay.

No. 108. ORDER THEREON, 8th August 1878, No. 3,186 W.

As it is not intended to remove the guns in question into the fort, there is no present necessity for strengthening an entrance roadway across the fort ditch.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,  
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Presidency.  
„ Military Department.

BUILDINGS AND TOADS  
MILITARY WORKS  
Gmt. of 1878/1879  
PUBLIC WORKS.

TO DISTRICT ENGINEER  
PRESIDENCY

Dated August 6th.

Received

By

For

G. O. No. 2494 1878. No. 2,156 W.

AUGUST

No. 107-108.

Entrance Roadway across the Fort Gate.  
Mr. G. O. intimates that there is no present  
necessity for strengthening on.

(No. 2172

From,

The District Engineer,  
Presidency

To,

The Chief Engineer, and  
Secretary to Govt P. W. D.

Sir,

I have been requested by the Inspector  
General of Ordnance and Magazines to have  
an entrance Roadway to the Fort strengthened  
to bear the weight of one of the 12-ton Guns  
just received from Bombay. The Gun with  
the carriage or "Daisy" on which it is to be  
conveyed from the Railway Station weigh  
together between 14 and 15 tons. None of  
the Fort Gate Bridges would bear this weight  
without going to considerable expense in  
strengthening them. The Inspector General  
informs me that he has no funds at his  
disposal for the purpose.

2. In a semi-official letter received from  
him this morning he says - "I think it  
absolutely necessary that for the present the  
bridges should be able now to bear 18 tons -  
but

Encl: 1

1 Diagram

10 July 1878.

Not having in view the much larger guns  
with which we may eventually (and might)  
be supplied with, I think the bridges right  
when you are at them, be made to carry  
"as long."

3. — I think it would be an unnecessary  
expense to make all the Fort Gate bridges  
strong enough to bear as long as I would  
therefore propose to strengthen the North Sea  
Gate only. There is only one ditch to cross  
at this Gate, and it is nearest to the sea.  
At Bombay and Poonah from whence heavy weights  
may in future be expected to come.

4. — The present roadway over the ditch at  
the North Gate consists of wooden girders and  
superstructure having a centre bearing on a  
brick work pier - vide diagram.

5. — The pier is constantly sinking, so it  
could not be depended upon. I would therefore  
propose spanning the ditch with a  
masonry arch or with iron girders. Girders  
would however be liable to rust. The masonry  
arch would not be open to this <sup>objection</sup> ~~suggestion~~, and  
could readily be demolished by gunpowder or  
other explosives in the event of its being ne-  
cessary.

31/80  
necessary to isolate the Fort in the presence of  
an enemy. Suitable mine chambers could be  
arranged when constructing the arch, so that  
they could be easily loaded, tamped and  
fired - delay caused by having to cut out  
mine chambers in the solid masonry would  
thus be avoided. I have informed the  
Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines  
that none of the bridges are fit to bear a  
weight of 15 tons passing over them in their  
present condition and he has replied that he  
will make other arrangements for the present  
for the reception of the six 12-ton guns on their  
arrival from Bombay.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

W. Thompson Major R.E.  
Substanting Officer

Resident Magistrate

Fort St. George,  
11 July 1878.

Geo. G.

J.H. 1878

No. 7876

General

From

The District Engineer  
Presidency

No. 2172

Dated 11<sup>th</sup>  
Recd 11<sup>th</sup> 3 July 1878

No. of Enclosures, one.

Fort St George Gate Bridge

Observations on the  
strengthening of the  
for the reception of 12-ton

Recd 12-7-78  
Recd 1-8-78  
Cir 16-7-78

21/5/78 P.H.D.

Letter from the District Engineer  
Presidency, No. 2172, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July  
1878.

For Orders.

Edmond John P.H.

Secy: to Government  
P.H.D.

16th July 1878

When the bridge is  
strong enough to support  
a 12 ton gun, then  
we have to take account  
of the bridge being  
strengthened to the limit.

11/

11/

I am not aware that  
any present necessity  
exists for taking  
a 12 ton gun into  
the fort. but it  
certainly seems  
advisable to have  
at least one of  
our Fort St  
George's bridges strong enough

I carry any portion  
from Anna's account.

I think estimate

shd be prepared to  
be can then judge  
better of the expediency  
of incurring the  
cost.

90/7  
M. M.

The District  
Engineer will certainly  
be able to provide  
a sketch for  
strengthening the works  
in the bridge as  
proposed by the  
Government. The  
Government will  
be able to provide  
the necessary  
funds.

Recd.

17-8-78

As the work is not  
likely to be completed  
the Government will  
be unable to pay the  
time of the officers and  
men employed.

To Govt 12-7-78  
Recd 1-8-78  
Cir 16-7-78  
17-8-78  
H. Presidency  
M. L. B. P.

No 3186 of 78  
Proceedings of the Madras Fort  
Read the following  
Letter from the District Engineer,  
Presidency, No 2172 dated 11 July 78

3186/6

As it is not in-  
tended to remove the  
guns in question into  
the Fort there is no  
present necessity for  
strengthening our en-  
trance roadway  
across the Fort Ditch

out 1/8

W. E. B. P.  
July 17-8-78

R. L.

Cr 7816 ✓



Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Dy. Engr.  
Presidency

Date

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 8 Aug 1. 1878. No. 3186 W

Nos. 1076708

Entrance road may across  
the North Estate, Madras

Intimates that there is no  
present necessity for strengthening  
ing on

Encl. in Reply