Archives I—10,006—16-8 77.

(1) Number of pages 32

(2) Date of repair 8.9.86.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS. **DEPARTMENT**

G.O. No. 3955. W.
~~B.P. No.~~
Press.
~~Mis.~~

Dated 11-10-1878 ~~197~~ .

2.B.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

11th October 1878, No. 3,955 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Military Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 126. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, District Engineer, Malabar, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department—through the Examiner of Public Works Accounts—dated Lakidi, 21st September 1878, No. 68.

I HAVE the honor to report that on the 16th ultimo the Royal Artillery skittle alley at Cannanore, a thatched building, was burnt down by accident, and the loss to Government will probably be about Rupees 200.

2. The building being a temporary one, it was not brought on the register of buildings. I do not think another skittle alley should be built, as on the removal of the present Battery, I understand it is not probable that another will be stationed at Cannanore for some time.

3. A Military Court of Inquiry* was held. and departmental inquiry was also set on foot; the result arrived at by the former is that the fire was caused by a spark from a fire lit to windward of the skittle alley by some coolies of the Engineer Department employed in repairing the barracks, Royal Artillery; but this conclusion Lieutenant Dobson, Cannanore Divisional Officer, contests, stating that the fire may have taken place from the inside, as some boys were seen smoking in the shed, and that the Department Public Works coolies, who are steady men and accustomed to the kind of work, appear to have taken precautions against fire. The Brigadier-General allows the coolies of the Department Public Works the benefit of the doubt, but at the same time says that the presumption is *very strong* against these coolies, by the fact of their having lighted a fire out in the open and to windward of a building roofed with cadjan. I myself think, in consideration of the long interval between the time when the coolies left the place and outbreak of the fire, that there is much room for doubt.

*Cannanore Divisional Officer's letter No. 178, dated 2nd instant, with five enclosures.

No. 126-A. From the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, dated 4th October 1878, No. 120 M.L.

No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1878, No. 3,955 W.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

(True Copy.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Malabar.
,, Military Department.
,, Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
MILITARY WORKS.

Govt. of (1878) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MALABAR,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 11th.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 11th October 1878, No. 3,955 W.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 126-127.

Skittle Alley, Cannanore, Malabar.—Letter from the District Engineer intimating the accidental destruction by fire of the — recorded.

1155
4 Sept

Cannanore Division Office D. P. W.

No. 148.

2nd September 1878

From

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE
CANNANORE DIVISION, D. P. W.

To

THE District Engineer
Malabar D. P. W.,
Calicut

SIR,

1 Letter No 180 of 16th Aug from the Sub Overseer in charge of Cantonment
1 Copy of Proceedings of a Military Court of Enquiry
6 Original Statements of a Departmental Enquiry
1 Copy of letter No 369 of 2 Aug to the Dy. Asst Qr Mr Genl
Copy of docket No 1195 of 28 Aug from the Dy Asstt Qr Mr Genl

With reference to my letter No 170 of 20th Ultimo, I have the honor to forward herewith, copies of documents as per margin, with regard to the burning down of the R. A. Skittle Alley at the same time I beg to state that on the removal of the present Battery it is not probable that another Battery will be stationed here for some time more; I therefore consider it unnecessary to rebuild the Skittle Alley until it is actually required and in that case I would strongly recommend a pukka building with tiled roof to save the annual expenses of thatching.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obdt Servt

A E Dobson Lt. R. E.

Asst Engineer Malr

29 SEP 78
ACCOUNT

PW 1119 6/78
6

W. O. Form 263.

* N.B. The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Enquiry, the blanks to be filled in accordingly.

The signature of each officer composing the Board, &c, should be attached at the end of the Proceedings.

Proceedings of a* Court of Enquiry
assembled at Cannanore
on the 17th August 1878
by order of Colonel W. E. White Comdg
Malabar & Canara
for the purpose of investigating the origin
of a Fire that occurred on the 16th
August 1878 in the Royal Artillery Lines

President
Captain R. A. Cartwright 48 Regt.
Members
Captain J. W. McLaughlin 48 Regt
Captain A. W. Carter 9th Regt N. I.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceeded to take evidence.

The Board having first inspected the site of the Fire.

1st Witness — Gunner Thomas Graves Royal Artillery states at about half past nine or ten o'clock yesterday the 16th August I was in the back Verandah of No 4 Sub-division Barrack

I saw some natives drying some palm leaves over a fire for thatching purposes. about 12.15 P.M. I heard a native boy shout "Fire" I ran out and saw that the Skittle alley used as a Ration shed, was on fire.

The fire was lit to windward of the Skittle Alley and any wind would blow the sparks on to the Roof of the Skittle Alley which was thatched with leaves. The Skittle alley was entirely destroyed.

Gunner J. West, Royal Artillery states, At Cannanore yesterday the 16th August 1878, I was coming out of the Wash House near the Skittle Alley, and I saw the ~~the~~ Ration Shed was on fire, I saw some natives burning green palmleaves some 30 yards from the Ration Shed. I attribute the cause of the fire, to the wind blowing the sparks of this fire onto the roof of the Ration Shed

2d Witness

Tindal Lascar Innduray Moottoo Royal Artillery states, I went to rice yesterday, 16 August 1878, at 11.45 A.M. I saw some Coolies of the Engineer Department drying leaves over a fire near the Skittle Alley.—

3d Witness

Opinion

The Court having inspected the site of the fire & also having taken evidence are of opinion that the fire was caused by a spark from a fire lit to windward of the Skittle Alley by some coolies of the Engineer Department employed in repairing the Barracks Royal Artillery.—

(Signed) R. A. Cartwright
Captn 45th Regt
& President

Cannanore
17th August 1878

(Signed) J. W. M. Langlem
Captn 45th Regt
(Signed) A. W. Carter
Captn 9th Regt
} Members

(Signed) W. E. White Colonel
Comdg Malr & Canara

(True copy)

Lt. R.E.,
Assistant Engineer Malr.

AMINER
25 SEP 78
ENCS
ACCOUNTS

1119 6/7

From

The Asstt. Engineer
Cannanore Range

To

The Dy: Asstt. Qr. Mr. General
Malabar & Cannanore
Cannan

Sir

Your docket No. 1424* of 17th Ins

*Enclosure here=
with returned

I have the honor to forward the proceedings of departmental Inquiry I held about the fire at the Royal Artillery Barracks, and to quest that the same may be laid before the ficer Commanding and kindly return wh done with as I have to forward them to District Engineer

I wish to point out that in my opinion it quite as possible that the fire may have tak place from the inside as some boys were smo king) in the shed and from the large quanti rain we have had lately and the shower that that morning ~~the~~ shed probably would be d on the outside. The D. P. W. Coolies who are men & accustomed to the kind of work appe to have taken precautions against fire. therefore that from the evidence it appear whether the fire was caused from the insi out, it was ~~accident~~ purely accidental

I have &c

(Sd) A. E. Dobson Lt.
Asstt. Engineer

(True copy)

A E Dobson
Assistant Engineer

Enquiry about the Skittle
alley being burnt down — 1

XAMINE
No 124
26 SEP 78
ENGR
ACCOU

Malabar & Canara 6
Dy. Asst. Qr. Mr. General's
Office. Cannanore.

From
The Dy. Asst. Quarter
Master General.
Malabar & Canara.

To
The Assistant Engineer,
Malabar
Cannanore

Dated 28th August }
Received } 1878.

No. 1495.

Your letter No. 369 of the
22nd Instant.

Has the honor to forward the papers received with the above and to inform that as there appears to be a doubt as to the Origin of the fire by which the R.A. Skittle Alley was destroyed, the Officer Commanding the

the Provinces is willing to allow the D. P. W. Coolies the benefit of the same, but at the same time the presumption is very strong against these coolies by the fact of their having lighted a fire out in the open and to windward of a building roofed with cadjans, which as "steady men and accustomed to the kind of work" they ought never to have done

(By order)
(Signed) A. G. Hutchins
Captain
Offg Dy Asst Qr Mr General M. C.

S4/111/96/17

(True copy)

A. L. Dobson Lieut R E
Assistant Engineer
Malabar

Enquiry about the Skittle
alley being burnt down— 7

August 19th

My name is Thonden— I am a head cooly. I was making tatties at the R.A. Guard Room— last Friday—

There were seven coolies including myself doing the work— I made a fire for burning the green cadjans at ½ past 8 a.m.— The fire was only required for a quarter of an hour— as there were only four green cadjans to be burnt. The [illegible] of the coolies, there were [illegible], also [illegible] cadjans [illegible] Cunny Pangil [illegible] maker— & [illegible].

The fire was [illegible] from the skittle alley— on the South side, towards the bath— At twelve o'clock all the coolies went away for their meals— I remained in the verandah of the Guard Room. I was looking after the things— It was about ¼ of an hour after the coolies left the work that the fire took place— I didn't see the fire— a soldier saw it first and I didn't see it until I heard the bawling out— and went out to look— Directly the fire was seen water was brought in a bamboo and put over the fire and it was also scattered with the men's feet—

Sub Overseer P. Kalen in charge of Cantonment Works states. I went to inspect the work of the tatties at the RA. Guard Room about 9 am. I didn't see the fire as I didn't go the South side of the Shed. When I heard of the fire about ½ to 1 on my way to the office I went down to inspect the damage. I found the skittle alley quite burnt down. I inspected the place where they were burning cadjans. I measured the distance. It was 84 feet in a straight line. There was no appearance of any fire at all there. There were no ashes either; but the ground was black and burnt. the green grass being burnt. There had been rain that morning about 8.30 or 11. It was only light showers but it was sufficient to wet the cadjans and make them damp.

August 28th I can't quite remember of the Coolies were all round the shed, but they often get spoilt and pulled down, and it was only lately that it has taken place ~~lio~~ →

Cunny Perry. Oudaken — states — Last Friday. I was
working at the Artillery latties, tying cadjans —
I was looking after the fire ~~[illegible]~~ for burning
the green cadjans — there was another cooly with
me — I was making the fire at 8. o'clock. a.m.
The fire lasted till about 8.30 — there were
only four green cadjans burnt — After the fire
was done with I brought water and extinguished
it — I received water from Moolundaakaly Kalen
an artillery water-boy. he gave it me in a Tambu —
I didn't see the fire at all after 8.30 a.m.
From that time I was outside the guard room
making the latties — and I never went to the fire
it wasn't necessary — I went for rice at 12. noon
to the bazaar — Camp bazaar — I didn't return till
1 p.m.

=

Mullayel Cunny. Amlov — Last Friday. I was
making Artillery latties — Before I tied the
cadjans I went to burn the green Cadjan — there was
about 8. o'clock — I was burning for about an
hour — There were four green cadjans —
After the fire was done with I came guard Room side then side —
also after extinguishing the fire
The fire was to the South side of the Skittle alley —
it was distant about 100. or 150 feet. There
was not much wind that morning, but I do
not remember what side it was blowing from.

After I [illegible] [illegible] the cadjan. I extinguished the fire well – I put water over it. I got water from a waterman in a bamboo:- besides the water I trampled on the fire with my feet. I didn't see the fire place again after having put water on it and scattered it with my feet. The few cadjans were enough for the work and it wasn't necessary for me to go to the fire place again. After which I went to take my meals. ~~near~~ close to the toll gate. I didn't know anything about the fire until I returned, at one p.m.

MINER 25 SEP 78

August 26th

Mullenkandy. Kalen. states. I am a bath room waterman of the Artillery Barrack I was filling the RA bath about 8.30 a.m. and drawing water from the well – I was filling No 1. and 2. [illegible] bath room of No 1. Barrack that is the South end I do no see work on the South side – I saw the Public works department coolies, the coolies were doing tatty work – the coolie asked me for water; I asked see what for are [illegible] me for water? for ask the coolie said they wanted ~~for~~ water to put in a fire. I didn't see the fire – I gave the water – in a bamboo. the coolie brought the bamboo. I gave water twice to the coolies – It was about 8.30. a.m. only one coolie asked me for water – his name was ~~Makken~~ I know his name was Makken because I heard the head coolie calling for him. I had seen the coolie doing work for four days and had often heard them called. I formed the work of coolie after the bathi within 10 yards – I work from 6 till 10 in the morning –

I don't know many of the coolies in the P.W.

INER
26 SEP.78
ENDS
ACCOUNTS

Rauen – I am a saleswoman 12
female hospital – I am present at
– female hospital from 6 till 2.30 –
Every alternate day. – I go at 10 o'clock
and came away at 2.30. Last Friday it
was half past two when I left the hospital
I went away home for food – about eleven
o'clock. I went to Barracks. taking vegetable
I went by the Road from the hospital to the
Artillery Barracks. the road passes between
the Barracks. When I returned from Barracks
it was about 11.30; I saw some boys fighting
in the Artillery stable alley. They were fighting
inside. – I heard the noise and turned
round. I could see inside as they were in.
latties – on the other side there were latties
and on the side; one or two latties were
wanting; one or two boys were
sitting on the table inside and were
smoking. – I don't know the boys. I was
going quickly with the vegetables. It was
half past two & I was going home. I saw the
Avenue ~~p~~ ~~board~~ near the magazine, he
asked me if I knew anything about the fire
then I told him just what I have said now.
I only saw the shed burning from the hospital
gate.

RW 1119 b/78

Cannanore 16th August 1878.

13

To

The Divisional Officer
Cannanore.

Sir,

I regret to report that a broke out at the R. A. Skittle Alley at about twelve noon this day and burnt the whole roof together with some of the wooden pillars, except s which were pulled out by people on seeing the fire heard of this on my way to Office at ¼ to 1, an immediatily went to the spot and enquired as t the fire occurred. Some say that some Paraya b were smoking inside the shed and others that have seen the D. P. W. Coolies, working tatt at R. A. Guard room, were drying green cadjans n the shed at about ½ past 8 and also at 10 in the mor and the breaze blew the spark of fire on the shed so happened to burn it - I examined the place where D. P. W. Coolies were drying green cadjans - it is 84 feet fr the shed - there was neither fire nor ashes on the spot at time, but a burnt black mark only - I also felt spot with my hand to know whether it is warm - it w but I do not think it was owing to fire having been used there, as it was a sunny day - On questi the head cooly Thondu, who was in charge of the Tatt work, he admitted that the green cadjans were dri and that only once at about 8 in the morning and at the same time they had put the fire out, which was ma up by the stems of dried cadjans - I do not think tha the fire originated by the carelessness of our Coolies, as t were slight showers after that hour (8 A.M) once at ½ 10 and another at 11 O'Clock, which showers would have pu out any fire if there was any left -

C Kalen

No. 68.

Malabar Dt. Engrs. Office
Camp Luckadie 21st September

From

The District Engineer,
Malabar.

To

The Chief Engineer,
Roads and Buildings.
Thro' The Examiner P. W. Accounts
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on the 16th Ultimo, the Royal Artillery Skittle Alley at Cannanore, a thatched building, was burnt down by accident, and the loss to Government will probably be about Rs. 200.

2. The building being a temporary one it was not brought on the Register of Buildings; I do not think another Skittle Alley should be built, as on the removal of the present Battery, I understand, it is not probable that another will be stationed at Cannanore for some time.

3. A Military Court+ of enquiry was held, and Departmental enquiry was also set on foot; the result arrived at by the

+ Cannanore Divisional Officer's letter No. 178 of 2nd Instant with 5 Enclosures.

the former is that the fire was caused by a spark from a fire lit to windward of the Skittle Alley by some coolies of the Engineer Department employed in repairing the Barracks Royal Artillery; but this conclusion, Lieutt: Dobson Cannanore Divisional Officer, contests, stating that the fire may have taken place from the inside, as some boys were seen smoking in the shed, and that the D. P. W. coolies who are steady men, and accustomed to the kind of work, appear to have taken precautions against fire; the Brigadier General allows the coolies of the D. P. W. the benefit of the doubt, but at the same time says that the presumption is very strong against these coolies, by the fact of their having lighted a fire out in the open, and to windward of a building roofed with cadjan. I myself think in consideration of the long interval between the time when the coolies left the place, and outbreak of the fire, that there is much room for doubt.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant,

Robt. B. Kenney
Lt. Col.
District Engineer, Malabar.

P.W.

25 SEP 78

Roads and Buildings.

quote

E. Nº 120 M. L.

From Nº 1196

The District Engineer,

Malabar

To

The Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Buildings and Roads Branch

Forwarded for the information of Government.

L. Conway-Gordon

Examiner P.W. Accts & Major R.E.

Nº 68

Dated 21st September 1878.

W. 3/10

R.H. 4/10

No 3955 W d/ 11 Oct 78.

Recorded.

8/10

Enclosures 6.

D.E. Malabar

Mily. Dept.

Ex. P.W.A.

Skittle Alley at Cannanore.

Reports that the ___ was burnt down, by accident on 16th August 1878.

Desp. 25-10-78

To Copy 7-10-78

Cir 9-10-78 Exd 11-10-78

With order

11196

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Distt Engr
Malabar

Dated

Issued

Regd.

Encl.

G. O. 11 Octr 1878, No. 3953W

Nos. 126 to 127

Skittle Alley – Cannanore

Letter from the D.E. Malabar intimating the accidental destruction by fire of the — recorded.

Entd in Regr.

Cir 9-10-78 Rtd 11-10-78 With orders