

W.C. 26/27
Govt. of (1882) Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 21st.

Issued

Recd. 4/10

Encl.

G.O., 21st September 1882, No. 5041.

No 2607 w of 6-11-82

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 312-313.

S

Sanitary.

Fort St. George.—Suggestion of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to cleanse at first, experimentally, a small section of the ditch round — and to remove during that time the 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment, to Pallavaram, approved.

No 2607 w of 6 October
B

Communicated
to the Lupt. Genl Fifth
Circle in continuation
of G.O. No 1834 w of 18th
July 1882.

Cu

5.10.82

S.S. 21st Circle 7/10

with order

P.W. Dept.
No 2605 W. of
6th October/82

To

The Under Secy. of
State for India

Sir,

In Compliance with
Lord Crombrooke's
Despatch No. 14, Public,
of 24th Decr. 1879, I am
directed to forward
in duplicate a list
of Despatches received
from Her Majesty's Secy.
of State which remain
unanswered in the
P.W. Dept. at the end of
the quarter ending
30th Sept. 1882.

Despt 10/10/82.

Cur

6/10/82
Dy. W.

5.10.

List of Despatches received from the Majesty's Secy. of State for India, which remain unanswered at the end of the yr. ending 30th. Sept. '82.

Dept. to date date of despatch Receipt	Subject	Remarks
S.W.D. 16 21-7-81 23-6-81	Requested to be furnished with a report of the working of the steam launch for the Podawari helms—	The L.E.I. Circulars have requested to submit a report in due course.

6.10.82
By: W.

th. 5/10.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following letter from

the Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated 19th Septem-
ber 1882 No 429.

In continuation of this Office letter
No 266 dated 24th June 1882 and 324 dated 28th
July 1882, I have the honor to forward a report
of the Executive Engineer on the Taluk Treasury
at Pattikonda, recommending certain altera-
tions for its better security in the necessity
for which I agree.

2 The Government have directed
in their Orders in the Financial Depart-
ment 1st July 1882 No 611, and 14th August
1882 No 866, that the alterations already
recommended should be executed. The
work being professional, I have asked
the Department Public Works for
Plans and Estimates, and those of the
Kurnool Treasury are ready. For the
Kurnool

No 2605-2 d/ 8-10-82

Surgeon I can find the money, Rs 490/-
wanted, from savings under other Civil
Works. For the Taluqs I have the
honor to ask that an allotment may
be considered when I know the exact
sum required.

Report on the Sub Treasury at
Pattalunda, Inspected on the 13th September
1882.

The treasury or Strong Room,
dimensions $16\frac{1}{2}' \times 10\frac{1}{2}'$, is built in a corner
of the Taluq Butcherry, the enclosure
walls forming two sides of it, the other
walls are 2 feet in thickness.

2 Two iron gratings one $6' \times 5'$ the other
 $7' \times 5' 6"$, are fixed into the walls, these
gratings are made of square iron bars,
rivetted top and bottom into lengths
of flat iron, passing through another
piece of flat iron placed in the
centre, the whole three extend and
are built into the walls

3 Stout pieces of Yaghee wood
are placed at the top and bottom of the
gratings and holes have been drilled at
intervals through the flat iron to screw or
bolt it to the wood work - but no screws
or bolts have ever been put in.

4 The exposed surface of the wood work,
to which the iron work should be screwed,
should be covered with $\frac{1}{8}"$ sheet iron.

5 The door is an iron one, strong & secured
by one large Chubb's lock; it should have
a chain in addition and another Chubb's
lock.

6 The roof is a mud one, supported
on Yaghee wood joists about 18 inches
apart, stout pieces of jungle wood
placed close together, are laid over the
joists, and on these the mud, $\frac{1}{2}"$, is laid
- this renders the cage very insecure.

A pucca terrace roof should be
substituted as soon as possible.

7 The Comi, Yea, is kept in 2
large

large iron clamped boxes, with 2 good
Shubb's locks to each, they are not
lined with sheet iron.

8 At present there is only Rs 2000/-
in coin in the Treasury, but the
Sheristadar informs me that during
the time the revenue is being collected
(November to March) there is sometimes
as much as Rs 40,000 in the strong
room for a fortnight or even a
month at a time.

Order thereon 28th September 1882 No 1354. Mis

The alterations in the
Pattikonda treasury, recommended
by the Executive Engineer, will
be carried out.

2 Estimates of the cost
of the alterations to the Salug
treasuries

treasuries in the District will be
forwarded in due course to Govern-
ment, in view to the provision
of funds.

(True Extract)

Ending happens
for Chief Secretary

of

The Collector of Kurnool
Public Works Department

cl

Gobt. of {188 } Madras.

Dated

}

188 , No.

Recd.

Nos.

6723/82

Govt. of 1881 Madras.

M.C. No 6723

To

The P.W. Dept

No 4/10.

Proceedings, dated 28 Sept 1882.
No. 1354 Mis

Subject.

No 2606 of 6-10-82

Directing to carry
out the alterations
in the Pallikonda
Treasury as recom-
mended by the
Ses. Engr.

No 2606 of 6-10-82

B

Communicated
to the Sublg Engr. Mird
Circle.

C

4.10.82

S.E. Mird Circle 7/10

La

Entd. in Receipt Rep.

In the order

16TH SEPTEMBER 1882, No. 990, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Memorandum from ROSS THOMPSON, Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E., Acting Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 13th September 1882, No. 734-E:—

With reference to G.O., No. 1493-W, dated 15th June 1882, the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, has the honor to inquire whether any steps have been taken towards the acquisition of the property known as "The Exchange House" in Fort St. George, and to point out that, unless the special assignment of Rs. 80,000 made by the Government of India be utilized within the current official year, the amount will lapse.

ORDER—dated 16th September 1882, No. 990, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to G.O., 3rd July 1882, No. 2107, Mis., for very early attention and for report what steps have already been taken to acquire the property in question.

(True Extract.)

W. H. French
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

60 Copies.

M.C. No 6793

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
REVENUE.

No 2608W a/7. Oct 1882

B
Recorded
6-10-82

Rev 6/10

20. 10

Order, dated 16th Sept. 1882, No. 990.

No 2608W a/7. Oct 1882

The Exchange House.—Memorandum from Public Works Department, inquiring whether any steps have been taken for the acquisition of the property known as —, communicated to Revenue Board, for early attention.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

21st September 1882, No. 5041.

Sanitary.

Read the following paper:—

No. 312. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. EWING, Officiating Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 15th September 1882, No. 1006.

Having submitted to the Commander-in-Chief para. 2 of O.G., No. 2903, dated 15th June 1882, on the subject of cleaning out the main ditch of Fort St. George, His Excellency desires me to forward, for the information and orders of Government, the correspondence as per margin, which has since taken place on that subject, and, with reference to it, to state that, as the ditch cannot now be periodically flushed with sea water, as it formerly used to be, owing to the mouth of the culvert which connects the ditch with the sea having, from the recent accretion of sand to the foreshore of the fort, receded from high water-mark, it seems to His Excellency therefore very necessary that the actual condition of the ditch should be ascertained.

2. It may prove that nothing much will have to be done; on the other hand, the state of the ditch may possibly be the cause of the frequent visitations of cholera to which Fort St. George is liable.

3. His Excellency considers that only a very small section of the ditch need be experimented upon at first, during which time the 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment, might conveniently be encamped at Pallavaram.

From Colonel A. R. GLOAG, Commanding Eastern District, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated Fort St. George, 22nd August 1882, No. 239-G.

Letter, No. 1838, of 28th July 1882, from the Executive Engineer, urging the cleaning out of the main ditch.
Letter, No. 841, of 17th August 1882, from Deputy Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Eastern District, reply thereto pointing out in a sanitary point of view the undesirability of the proposal.

I have the honor to forward the correspondence as per margin regarding the cleaning out of the main ditch of Fort St. George and to request that you will be so good as to bring the matter to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for his orders thereon.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. BURTON, R.E., Executive Engineer, Presidency, to the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Eastern District; dated Chepauk, 28th July 1882, No. 1838.

With reference to G.O., No. 2903, dated 15th June 1882, and the correspondence connected therewith, I would request permission to offer the following remarks, in order, if it be possible, that the very important subject referred to may not be considered without a certain misapprehension of the whole.

2. The objections which have been raised on sanitary grounds to an early cleansing of the main ditch of Fort St. George leave out of sight the fact that the present sanitary state of all the ditches left uncleansed (as I suggested they had been for many years, &c., &c.) is exceedingly bad; it is the cause of frequent complaints of bad smells arising therefrom, as well as of frequent applications for a fresh supply of sea water to the ditch. More especially has this latter been the case since, and directly owing, in my opinion, to the construction of the Madras Harbour Works: before that work was commenced, and for a few years afterwards, the

replenishing of the fort ditch by sea water was easy and frequent; but owing to the recent accretion of sand to the foreshore of the fort the mouth of the culvert, constructed in 1857-58 for this very purpose of replenishing the water in the ditch, has receded more and more from high water-mark, and so now no sea water can be admitted into the main ditch.

3. I submit that for this reason alone, even if that expressed in my letter of 5th April is unimportant, the ditch should be cleansed effectually, and soon.

4. Again, the proposals to clean out the main ditch rapidly did not, and does not, involve, as has, I perceive, been erroneously assumed, a general stirring up and disturbance of the mud all over the four miles of existing ditches at one and the same moment.

5. Dr. Madden, before giving his views, as he says, on sanitary grounds why the ditches should not be treated as proposed, had not been first informed—

- (1) how very little of the main ditch it was practicable to clear out at any one time without any interference with the adjacent parts,
- (2) how impossible it was now to replenish with sea water the existing stagnant water,
- (3) how beneficial up to very recent years such a replenishing of the main ditch was in a sanitary point of view,
- (4) which part of the main ditch it would be proposed to commence upon with reference to the season of the year and prevailing winds during which such commencement should be made,
- (5) he did not consider to what distance or place the mud moved was intended (this detail was explained in my report of 5th April 1882) to be carried, deposited, and covered up,
- (6) what area of mud was to be exposed to the sun's rays at any one time and other minor details, all affecting the sanitary conditions of the work and its surroundings whilst in progress,
- (7) also that this sort of work is now, or was two or three days ago, in active progress in two places in Madras—one close to the fort and one close to Chempauk and about 100 yards from the office in which I am now writing. Here I daily perceive the Municipal work-people carting, emptying, handling, and up to their knees in the blackest and foulest of sewage with impunity to themselves and without any reasonable cause of complaint from any reasonable man. Also I see the work-people employed by the Executive Engineer, Buckingham Canal, basketing out great quantities of black mud highly charged with sewage from the adjoining river Cooum; both works proceed without involving a higher mortality than usual.

6. Had inquiries been made how it was proposed to proceed with the ditch-cleansing operation, I would have stated that early in November we may expect the north-east monsoon. With two or three weeks' notice that the works might commence I should be prepared with a large number of sand bags or other means with which to make small coffer dams round each site of the proposed additions to the counterscarp walls as well as with sufficient building materials. Commencing at this season (the north-east monsoon) at the south-east demi-bastion and along the south front of the fort, and working during the continuance of this monsoon only on the south and west faces or fronts, I would expect to complete the whole work on these fronts by end of March, including the emptying the main ditch by steam power (available in the fort) or by picottahs and the basketing out of the mud and depositing it in the adjacent and nearest out-works ditches. The out-works would be demolished after a fair commencement of the basketing out had been effected; the two descriptions of work would proceed *pari passu*—the demolition slightly in rear of the emptying process—until the north-east monsoon was over or the completion of the works on the south and west faces were finished. Whichever of these two events happened first would stop all these proceedings for the spring of 1883.

7. With the above explanation I would also submit that the process described need not in any way be compared as involving risk to life either of the garrison or of the work-people on these apparently *prima facie* insanitary works, already named, or to the more violently insanitary work involved by the Madras Municipality sewage grass experiments on the north glacis last year. This last, indeed, was to a certain extent inconvenient to the garrison; but nevertheless it was permitted and approved of by various authorities.

8. I would observe that, whilst opposition is raised to cleansing the ditches on sanitary grounds, none is put forward from a military point of view. I would, nevertheless, further remark that upon the effective cleansing of the main ditch depends its very existence of this fort. On sanitary grounds alone no garrison can live on four miles of uncleansed cesspits unfed by fresh sea water; if the ditch is not cleaned out, whether on well or ill-founded grounds, it must be filled up to kill the sewage in it. If it is filled up the fort will become well nigh untenable by a refuge garrison; the part to be defended and occupied would still be the 63 acres within the crest of the glacis; but the largest and least reliable of this body would be naturally kept without the enceinte. Fill up the ditch, and what becomes of the enceinte? It would be easy to escalate it all round. Already there are too many authorised means of ingress to, and egress

from, the enceinte; with the ditch filled up access to, and from, it would be easy almost everywhere.

9. For these reasons I must request you to forward this report for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. I cannot but think that if the measures taken for cleansing the ditch are carefully thought out before the work commences there will be no real necessity for any removal of the troops on that account alone.

P.S.—I observe there is another important and total misapprehension concerning Fort St. George. I allude to water-supply. As yet it is not at all correctly described in the accompaniments to G.O. under review.

From Brigade-Surgeon G. M. SLAUGHTER, Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Eastern District, to the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Eastern District; dated 17th August 1882, No. 841.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum, No. 2591, of the 3rd August, forwarded with letter, No. 1838,* of the 28th July, from the Executive Engineer, Presidency, requesting me to report, for the information of the Brigadier-General Commanding, whether the plans recommended by the Executive Engineer could be carried out without detriment to the health of the inhabitants of Fort St. George.

2. I have in consequence carefully considered the report in question and have examined the locality, and am of opinion that emptying the ditches even in the gradual manner proposed, and the deposition of such a large amount of foul mud, in close proximity to the barracks and other inhabited buildings could not fail sooner or later to be injurious to the health of those living in the fort and might not improbably occasion a serious outbreak of sickness.

3. It must be remembered that the operations suggested by the Executive Engineer will, according to his own estimate, occupy a period of two years, but unforeseen difficulties may arise in carrying out the work, which will greatly extend the time.

4. I therefore consider it would be unsafe to carry out the proposed alterations unless the inhabitants of the fort are first moved out.

From C. D. MADDEN, Esq., Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, to the Quartermaster-General; dated Ootacamund, 7th September 1882, No. 69-O.

In returning the correspondence connected with the cleansing of the ditches of Fort St. George which you forwarded to me on the 5th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I have ascertained the wishes of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the subject and I am of opinion that the best course to adopt would be the following, viz. :—

To have the troops removed from the fort in the month of January and placed in a suitable camp at some distance and to commence the operation of cleansing the ditches by removing only a small portion of the sewage matter as an experiment and with a view of ascertaining its nature and if its removal on a larger scale will be so deleterious as is anticipated.

2. In any operation of the kind I think it necessary that the matter removed should be carried to a distance from Fort St. George and not deposited in the vicinity, as suggested by the Executive Engineer. Considering the probability of its being a valuable manure it might perhaps be profitably disposed of for agricultural purposes to the Municipality of Madras or other parties desirous of making use of it.

No. 313. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1882, No. 5041.

The suggestion contained in para. 3 of the Quartermaster-General's letter is approved.

(True Extract.)

For Ag. Secretary to Government,
Mily. Dept.

To the Quartermaster-General.
" Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces.
" Public Works Department.
" Adjutant-General, for information.
Exd. A. S. Rodgers.