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Public Works Department.

*From
The Public Dept*

No. ^X1556 Mis.
Dated 9 Decr 1882
Despatched
Received 18 Decr 1882

^X Confidential

SUBJECT.

*Reports on Native
Newspapers in the
Madras Press for the
month of Decr 1882*

No. 3350 Waf 18-12-82

*B/ Recorded
Initialed/ C.R.*

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1882, No. 2825.

Military Buildings—Native Lines.

Read the following paper :—

No. 191. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. EWING, Officiating Quartermaster-General,
to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military
Department; dated Ootacamund, 7th June 1882, No. 392.

With reference to Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 640, dated 3rd February 1881, sanctioning an advance of Rs. 14,290-8-0 to the Officer Commanding 26th Regiment Native Infantry, for the construction of lines for the head-quarters and six companies of that regiment at Palamcottah, for which sum the lines were estimated to be constructed by a contractor named Ninar Pillai, I have the honor, by order of the Commander-in-Chief to whom the papers have been submitted, to forward, for the consideration and orders of Government, the enclosed two petitions, dated 18th December 1881 and 28th February 1882, from the contractor, who states that, having been ordered to construct a double line of huts by the Commandant of the 26th Native Infantry instead of single as contracted for, and also to build certain out-houses to each hut, he has been a loser of Rs. 4,476-8-0, and prays that this amount may be reimbursed him.

2. On the matter being referred to the Military authorities at Palamcottah, they report as follows :—

- (1) The original plan of the lines not having been in accordance with the Madras Army Regulations, required certain modifications, to which the contractor agreed, and even signed an agreement to that effect, making no demand at the time for any increase to his estimate, the reason being that the construction of the huts on each side of a centre wall saved him considerable expense, as, in the case of building them in accordance with the estimate, he would have had to construct two walls instead of one.
- (2) That the only extra expense the contractor has been put to is the building of latrines in each compound, to make up for which he has been more than compensated by being allowed to build only half verandahs, and moreover that he had been excused the whitewashing of all except the inside of each hut. Also that a great portion of the old walls had been utilized by the contractor, which he has failed to take into account in his petitions.
- (3) That the erection of the lines in double rows was a voluntary act of the contractor, as, when he first stated that he was losing by the transaction, he was asked to build a sample Havildars and Sepoy's hut on his own plan of single houses, and, on the same being approved, he was directed to complete the rest of the lines on that plan; but, finding that this would not pay him, he reverted to the construction of the lines on the plan of double rows.
- (4) That the contractor has not profited by the transaction simply from his having under-estimated the cost of building the lines, and not from any extra work having been required of him.
- (5) The Executive Engineer, having inspected the lines, estimates the contractor's loss at Rs. 3,574, and not Rs. 4,476-8-0 as stated by him.