GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

---

13 July 1885, No. 3783

Defences—Forts.

Read the following paper:—

No. . *From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Quarter Master General, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 29th June 1885, No. 1446-B.*

I am desired by the Commander-in-Chief to submit to Government the annual Inspection Report of Fort St. George, dated 1st April 1885.

2. His Excellency would again urge on Government the desirability of carrying out as soon as possible—

(i) the demolition of the outworks;
(ii) the improvements to the water-supply of the Fort;

both of which works were prominently brought forward last year.

3. The erection of a new magazine in the berm of the Wálajá Gate, which is one of the works proposed by the Committee for execution in the current year, Sir Frederick Roberts would suggest might be allowed to remain in abeyance until a decision is arrived at in regard to the removal of the Arsenal from Fort St. George.

4. Sir Frederick Roberts quite agrees with the Committee that the site selected for the new High Court * is not a desirable one, and His Excellency would not have approved of it had he not been informed that no other suitable site could be found. His Excellency now learns that the Government Architect has proposed another site somewhere near the entrance to Popham's Broadway; this His Excellency would consider in every way more suitable.

* O.G., No. 2626, dated 15th May 1885.

From Brigadier-General A. C. JOHNSON, C.B., Commanding Eastern District, to the Quarter Master General, Madras Army, Ootacamund; dated Fort St. George, 1st April 1885, No. 147-G.

I have the honor to inform you that on the 1st April, accompanied by the Officers as per margin, I held an inspection of Fort St. George as directed in para. 16, Section V, Madras Army Regulations.

Colonel H. L. Prendergast, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
Colonel E. L. Hawkins, R.A., Commanding Royal Artillery, Eastern District.
Lieutenant-Colonel S. E. Atkinson, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Eastern District.

2. The reports submitted by a Senior Officer, Royal Artillery, Fort St. George, and by the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, were duly considered on the spot and hereinafter embodied.

3. *Armament.*—The authorized armament consists of—

(*a*) 5 80-pdr. R.M.L. converted guns, 5 tons.
(*b*) 38 24- „ 50 cwt., S.B.C.I. guns.
(*c*) 3 10-inch C.I. Mortars.

In addition to the above used for signal time and saluting purposes there are—

6 18-pdr. C.I. guns.
6 9- „ Bronze guns.
1 6- „ C.I. gun.

Two Gatling guns have been authorized as per Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 6854, dated 29th October 1880, and Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3364, dated 15th June 1883, but these two guns have not been received. The question of the type of machine gun for Fort St. George is still under consideration.

Two Gardner guns have been received and platforms erected for them on the sea face of Fort St. George, but it is not yet known whether these guns are to form a part of the armament of Fort St. George.

4. With reference to the remarks of the Committee in 1884, and reply of Inspector-General of Ordnance regarding the condition of the guns, carriages, &c., it appears that the Ordnance Department have remedied, as far as possible, the defects pointed out; for the condition of the guns, carriages appear to be good; all lacquering and pointing properly carried out and new carriages and platforms have been supplied for the guns, but the armament is, however, still incomplete, as, with the exception of four of the 24-pdr., none of the guns are in position; their present positions are only temporary; fresh embrasures and platforms with proper pivots for the five 80-pdr. are under construction, the two 24-pdr. to be mounted on the left flank of the Royal Bastion are not yet placed in position owing to the wash-house and store rooms; when a fresh store room is built and stores removed, one gun will be placed in position.

Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 3819, dated 7th August 1884.

5. *Ammunition.*—The regulated proportion of ammunition is complete and good.

6. *Store Room.*—There is an insufficiency of store room at present; one store room has to suffice for the guns mounted in the Wálajá, St. George's and Royal Bastion; it is situated in St. George's Bastion, at far too great a distance from the other two groups of guns for their efficient service, and is insufficient for the proper arrangement of stores so necessary to prompt equipment and service of garrison guns. There is also no store room for the protection of the Gardner guns; the present room is very damp and quite unsuited for this service. When the Fort armament is completed, there will be a set of store rooms at each Bastion.

7. *Stores.*—The tampions of the 24-pdr. are too small for the bores allowing dust and dirt to lodge. The Officer Commanding Royal Artillery, Eastern District, reports that other tampions have been demanded from the Ordnance Department but have not yet been received. The Inspector-General of Ordnance will now be addressed on the subject by the District.

8. *Magazine.*—No. 9 Magazine is not available for use just at present, being unprovided with properly secured doors and windows and having insufficient ventilation; the door and window will be completed in a few days. A plan and estimate have been framed to improve the ventilation and providing lamp boxes, &c., to both Nos. 9 and 3 Magazines. No. 24 Magazine has been condemned as a magazine as being very damp and unfit for storage of powder. There is in fact only one magazine available for the armament, viz., No. 3 or Artillery Reserve Magazine in South-east Demi Bastion; this is in good order.

9. *Defences.*—A detailed description of every part of the defences is contained in part II, Annual Report of Fort St. George, published in G.O., 23rd July 1883, No. 4035. It is therefore needless to repeat the description in this report.

10. *Works completed during* 1884.—During the past year the undermentioned works were done—

(*a*) The North-east counterguard of the Orillon Demi Bastion was partly demolished, but the work was stopped by order of Government (*vide* Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 1040, dated 3rd March 1884).
(*b*) The gas works have been in part demolished and the iron fittings have all been sold.
(*c*) The draw-bridges of St. George's, St. Thomé, South sea face, and Wálajá Gate have all been put in working order, the first three are calculated to carry loads of 1½ tons, and the Wálajá Gate 6 tons.
(*d*) Further portions of the escarp wall of *enceinte* have been repaired on the north face.

11. *Works proposed for the following year.*—The Committee consider the following addition and repairs needed :—

(*a*) Completing the Fort armament, 31,000 rupees.
(*b*) Erecting a new magazine on the right berm of the Wálajá Gate for the Ordnance Department to store reserve powder required for up-country stations, Coast batteries, and Fort armament. Estimate is under preparation. Approximate cost not known.
(*c*) Improving the Seven Wells water-supply at a cost of 10,700 rupees.
(*d*) Demolition of the outworks, 34,000 rupees.
(*e*) Rendering and pointing of the escarp walls of the *enceinte* on the south face.
(*f*) Magazines 3 and 9 in Artillery charge to be improved and ventilated.
(*g*) The rendering the whole of the exterior walls of all buildings in the Fort with plain cement instead of lime plaster and wash.

12. *Works in Progress on the Defences.*—The works sanctioned for the Fort armament have been commenced at the North-east angle, the South-east angle, and the Flagstaff redan; more progress would have been made but for the untimely death of the contractor in December 1884, and Executive Engineer, Military Works, in January 1885.

The following is the progress made :—

(*a*) Two emplacements for 80-pdr., partly completed.
(*b*) Two platforms for Gardner's guns, completed.

(*c*) Fourteen embrasures for 24-pdr. S.B. guns, completed.
(*d*) Eight ground platform for 24-pdr. S.B. guns, completed.
(*e*) One ground platform for 24-pdr. S.B. guns, partly completed.
(*f*) Three sets of shell cartridge and Artillery stores, partly completed.
(*g*) One laboratory, partly completed.

13. No practical progress has unfortunately been made in the matter of rectifying the distribution of water-supply to the Fort in consequence of a report from the Sub-divisional Officer that the main from the Seven Wells was choked; the main is being examined, in view of this; when put in full working order the other project will be gone on with.

14. The conservancy has been removed from the charge of the Barrack Master and Executive Engineer and placed in charge of the Staff Officer and Superintendent of Details. The system appears to be working well.

15. The Offices of the Accountant-General and Controller of Military Accounts are not yet removed. These buildings are greatly needed for the accommodation of the troops. A quantity of the obsolete stores referred to in para. 18 of the report of 1884 has from time to time been removed by Indian Government steamers. The guns and projectiles now remaining are systematically and neatly arranged in the vicinity of the Ordnance buildings.

16. Before concluding the report, the Committee desire to bring to notice the serious objections they consider there is to the erection of a new High Court House on the Light House esplanade in such close proximity as 300 yards from the Fort outworks and 116 yards from the Light House Battery, interfering as it must with the defence of the Fort on the north and to a certain extent prejudicing the offensive powers of the Light House Battery.

17. Part I of the Annual Report of Executive Engineer consisting of a plan and sections through the most important part of the works of Fort St. George is attached.

No. . ORDER THEREON, 13 July 1885, No. 3783

Ordered that the report on Fort St. George, submitted with the foregoing letter from the Quarter Master General, be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council observes that there is little or no prospect of funds being available for the demolition of the outworks for some time to come.

3. The Public Works Department will be requested, with reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 3819, dated 7th August 1884, to cause early attention to be given to the improvement of the water-supply.

4. Para. 16 of the report and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's remarks in connection therewith will be communicated to the Judicial Department, with reference to Proceedings of Government in that department, No. 1066, dated 24th April 1885.

No. . *To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department; dated 13 July* 1885, *No.* 3784.

(True Extract.)

A Kinney Herbert Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Inspector-General of Ordnance.
" Public Works Department.
" Judicial Department.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

Rect 6209

Govt. of {1885} Madras.

MILITARY.

To

THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

10 L.C.

Dated July,

Issued

Recd. 16/7/85 *Encl.*

G.O., 13th July 1885, No. 3783

No 1719 W. dated 23/7/85

JULY.
Nos. — .

Defences—Forts.

Fort St. George.—Orders passed on the annual Inspection Report on — for 1885.

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No 1719 W.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23 July 1885

READ the following

G.O. Military Department N.E. No. 3783 of 13th July 1885

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, for information, and for report, ~~with reference to paragraph 3, report to be submitted in pursuance of the foregoing order.~~

~~2 It is requested that Govt. in the P.W.D. may be informed what~~ upon the further action Such has been taken in regard to the preparation of an estimate for the rearrangement of the water supply of Fort Saint-George, referred to

in para 4 ~~of his letter~~
Colonel Henderson's letter dated 5-9-84, No. 2170.
~~letter recorded in G.O.~~
~~No. 22887 of 16th Septr 1884.~~

CS
18.7.85

JS
18-7-85

No 729/10 dated 23rd July/85

J. 8/14

2 copies sent to
Delhy - 15-8-85
SP

To

The Military Dept.t

" Supdg Engr V Circle

Recpt 23-7-85

Sd 27/7

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