

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

G.O., dated 18th January 1886, No. 143 W., Public Works.

Read—the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works department, dated 4th December 1885, No. 3792 :—

In continuation of my report, No. 3685, dated 27th November 1885, in which I reported that the Master Attendant had, on the 26th ultimo, waived all further objections to the tree plantations at the Lighthouse battery if limited to the boundary then pointed out to him, but I omitted all mention of “the necessity of the casuarina plantation which Colonel Burton considers desirable.” The history of these plantations has, in reality, nothing to do with what I thought desirable, for it is as follows.

2. G.O., No. 753 W., dated 26th March 1885, sent to me by Colonel Prendergast, R.E., Superintending Engineer, for guidance, enclosed a confidential memorandum from the Inspector-General of Fortifications. I consequently prepared an estimate providing for two epaulements of sand on either flank of each of the three coast batteries at Madras, and a tree plantation in front of Clive's and Lighthouse batteries. The committee, which selected the site of the Napier battery in 1878, renders it impossible to provide any such shelter as was required by the above memorandum at this work.

3. This estimate reached the Military authorities in due course, but was transferred back again to the Public Works department with Quartermaster-General's letter, No. 1197 B, dated 28th May 1885, in consequence of paragraph 4 in which I was called upon to revise the estimate, so as to provide for the “extension of the screen of trees along the coast, thus giving no indication of the position of the batteries from the sea.” This estimate so revised was resubmitted to the Chief Engineer by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with Colonel Prendergast's letter, No. 1651, dated 18th July 1885, and was sanctioned by Government in G.O., No. 1877 W., dated 14th August 1885.

4. The three tree plantations, as originally proposed by me, were, in fact, thus increased to twelve, but I confined them all to land which I believed to be in charge of the Military department so as to avoid loading the estimates with any sum for compensation for land which would otherwise have been necessitated. For instance, I showed the plantation at Clive's battery within the Military department land, as bounded on north and south by lines running from flanks of the battery direct to the sea, at same time avoiding all interference with the existing tramways, and the remaining eleven plantations were all between the line running seawards from the Military department boundary pillar at north-east corner of the esplanade, dated 1st January 1773, and the usual mouth of the Cooum river—this being land, according to my experience, appertaining to the site of fort and island which are in charge of the Military department.

5. The six epaulements and trees in the twelve plantations are, in my opinion, really necessary to render the six-gun emplacements as invisible as possible from the sea. The epaulements, until the time when the trees have grown, will render the sky

line of the batteries, as seen from the sea, less prominent in outline, this object is being aided as much as possible by encouraging rank vegetation and shrubs on the superior and exterior slopes of the batteries.

6. Sir A. Clarke, the Inspector-General of Fortifications, in fact, says in his confidential memorandum of September 1884, after the submission of the sanctioned estimate circulated with G.O., No. 1687 W., dated 20th July 1885, "invisibility will be striven for by all possible means. It is the cheapest form of protection. Clean cut lines and even slopes will altogether disappear, while vegetation will be judiciously encouraged. At Alexandria the great difficulty of our ships was to find a definite object to aim at. In a well-designed earth battery there should rarely be anything clearly defined."

7. Again, the extension of the three plantations, as advocated by His Excellency Sir Frederick Roberts and sanctioned by Government, will not only very greatly increase the invisibility of the Lighthouse and Napier batteries, but will render comparatively safe at all times communication between them, the fort, and the town when a hostile ship is off the coast, for such a vessel would not probably waste her ammunition by firing at a wood 2,500 yards long as these extended plantations will be.

8. Should an opportunity of obtaining land for extending the plantation on either side of the Clive battery offer, and when the harbour works are finished and the concrete blocks and rails on north side of the Lighthouse battery are removed, the extension advocated by His Excellency Sir Frederick Roberts might be carried out inexpensively in these portions of the coast also.

Order—dated 18th January 1886, No. 143 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Marine department in continuation of No. 2017 C, dated 2nd December 1885.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. McN. CAMPBELL, Captain, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Marine department.
" Military "

G.O., dated 22nd January 1886, No. 182 W., Public Works.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, Proceedings, Marine department, No. 18, dated 8th January 1886, passing orders on correspondence in respect of that part of the foreshore where timber is landed and stored, and the casuarina plantation that masks the Lighthouse battery.

ORDER—dated 17th February 1886, No. 86, Marine.

In G.O., 2nd November 1885, Mis. No. 459, the Government, after requesting the Superintending Engineer, Presidency division, and the Master Attendant to arrange a *modus vivendi* between the Marine and Military departments in respect of the stacking of timber near the Lighthouse battery, called for a report as to "the necessity for the casuarina plantation masking the battery which the Superintending Engineer considered necessary."

2. The Superintending Engineer now explains that this plantation forms part of a series of plantations considered by the Military authorities necessary for the concealment of the shore batteries.

3. Before the communication of this report to the Marine department, Government in that department had issued their Proceedings of the 8th January 1886, No. 18, accepting the joint proposals of the Superintending Engineer and the Master Attendant in respect of the timber landing difficulty, and asking the Military department for certain reasons stated whether the series of plantations was necessary and expedient.

4. As it appears from the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 4th December, that these plantations are considered essential for Military reasons, so much of G.O., dated 8th January 1886, No. 18, as questions their necessity, will be cancelled.

(True Extract.)

W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works department.
" Military department.
" Master Attendant, Madras.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No 557 Wd/ Mar: 3rd 1886

Communicated to the
Supg: Engineer V Circle,
in continuation of G. O. No
182 W dated 22nd Jan'y: 1886

Sd/ J.S.S.

Gobt. of {1886} Madras.
MARINE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 17th February 1886, No. 86.

No 557 Wd/ Mar: 3rd 1886

FEBRUARY.

Shore Batteries.

Cancelling so much of G.O., dated 8th January 1886, No. 18, as questions the necessity for the casuarina plantations to conceal the — in Madras.

S.E.V.C.

W.H. Anderson

17TH FEBRUARY 1886, No. 86, MARINE.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT.

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2. G.O., No. 753 W., dated 26th March 1885, sent to me by Colonel Prendergast, R.E., Superintending Engineer, for guidance, enclosed a confidential memorandum from the Inspector-General of Fortifications. I consequently prepared an estimate providing for two epaulements of sand on either flank of each of the three coast batteries at Madras, and a tree plantation in front of Clive's and Lighthouse batteries. The committee, which selected the site of the Napier battery in 1878, renders it impossible to provide any such shelter as was required by the above memorandum at this work.

3. This estimate reached the Military authorities in due course, but was transferred back again to the Public Works department with Quartermaster-General's letter, No. 1197 B, dated 28th May 1885, in consequence of paragraph 4 in which I was called upon to revise the estimate, so as to provide for the "extension of the screen of trees along the coast, thus giving no indication of the position of the batteries from the sea." This estimate so revised was resubmitted to the Chief Engineer by the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with Colonel Prendergast's letter, No. 1651, dated 18th July 1885, and was sanctioned by Government in G.O., No. 1877 W., dated 14th August 1885.

4. The three tree plantations, as originally proposed by me, were, in fact, thus increased to twelve, but I confined them all to land which I believed to be in charge of the Military department so as to avoid loading the estimates with any sum for compensation for land which would otherwise have been necessitated. For instance, I showed the plantation at Clive's battery within the Military department land, as bounded on north and south by lines running from flanks of the battery direct to the sea, at same time avoiding all interference with the existing tramways, and the remaining eleven plantations were all between the line running seawards from the Military department boundary pillar at north-east corner of the esplanade, dated 1st January 1773, and the usual mouth of the Cooum river—this being land, according to my experience, appertaining to the site of fort and island which are in charge of the Military department.

5. The six epaulements and trees in the twelve plantations are, in my opinion, really necessary to render the six-gun emplacements as invisible as possible from the sea. The epaulements, until the time when the trees have grown, will render the sky

line of the batteries, as seen from the sea, less prominent in outline, this object is being aided as much as possible by encouraging rank vegetation and shrubs on the superior and exterior slopes of the batteries.

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8. Should an opportunity of obtaining land for extending the plantation on either side of the Clive battery offer, and when the harbour works are finished and the concrete blocks and rails on north side of the Lighthouse battery are removed, the extension advocated by His Excellency Sir Frederick Roberts might be carried out inexpensively in these portions of the coast also.

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(True Extract.)

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Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works department.

" Military department.

" Master Attendant, Madras.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No 537 Wd/ Mar 3^d 1886

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

MARINE.

—

Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer
V Circle, in continuation
of G.O. No 182 Wd/ 22nd Jan
1886

Sd/ JSS W

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 17th February 1886, No. 86.

No 537 Wd/ Mar 3^d 1886

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Shore Batteries.

Cancelling so much of G.O., dated 8th January
1886, No. 18, as questions the necessity for the
casuarina plantations to conceal the — in Madras.

With order

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Acting Chief Secretary.

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Exd. T. O'Connor.

Incl 1532

No. 557 Wd/Mar. 3 1886

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

MARINE.

—

S.C.



Issued

Recd. 26/2/86

Encl.

G.O., 17th February 1886, No. 86.

[Signature]

1/3/86

No. 557 Wd/Mar. 3 1886

FEBRUARY.

[Signature]

2.3.86

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2 Copies to Govt
[Signature]

S E T C N Despn 3-3.86 with one spare copy

182W. 22.1.86
143W. 18.1.86
2017C. 2.12.85
2724W. 15.11.85
734W. 10.10.85
573. 6.9.85