No. of pages. 56.
Date of Repair - 29.4.88
Initial of Reference No

P. W. DEPARTMET.

G. O NO. 3297

Dated: 2-12-1887

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Military Works

READ—the following letter from Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 23rd November 1887, No. 4574-A :—

The want of suitable accommodation for British troops at Poonamallee has been prominently brought to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief of late, and, having given the matter his careful consideration, His Excellency desires me to submit his opinion that the new barracks at that station, foundations of which were laid so long ago as 1879, should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

2. The work would have been undertaken in 1884-85, but was held in abeyance* when proposals for the abolition of Poonamallee as a British depot and sanitarium were under consideration, and though a year later† a decision against this proposal was given, pressing demands elsewhere have interfered to prevent the revival hitherto of the project to build new barracks there.

* Proceedings of Government, No. 5149, dated 21st September 1883 (Public Works Department, No. 2593 W., dated 10th September 1883.)

† Proceedings of Government, No. 6160, dated 10th December 1884.

3. The existing barracks at Poonamallee were condemned years ago; they nominally accommodate 100 men, but the rooms, which are very narrow and badly ventilated, do not contain the regulated space for more than 84 men, whereas the average strength of the depôt on the first day of each month, in the years 1886 and 1887, has been 156 and 186, respectively.

4. The improvement of the existing barracks has been thought of, but, while it would be necessary to spend a large sum upon them (Rs. 15,000 odd), it seems doubtful whether any decided advantage would result, and at all events their capacity would not be increased.

5. The want of accommodation for troops in Fort St. George, and the condemnation of the old barracks at St. Thomas' Mount, make it essential that additional accommodation should be provided as soon as possible at Poonamallee, not only that convalescents may be suitably housed—and the number of these is likely to be larger than ever, now that troops of the Madras establishment are employed in Upper as well as in Lower Burmah—but that the large number of details passing to and fro between Bombay and Burmah in the trooping season may be provided with accommodation during the time they are necessarily detained prior to embarkation or after disembarkation at Madras.

No. 7503, Military.

Transferred to the Public Works Department for favor of necessary action.

(By Order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
29th November 1887.

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department,
with a copy of Proceedings of Government,
No. 6160, dated 10th December 1884.

ORDER—dated 2nd December 1887, No. 3297 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, for information and guidance.

2. It is proposed to provide an allotment of Rs. 19,560 for the work in the Military Works budget for 1888-89.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
" Military Department.

Exd. J. Moses.
Spare Copies

3297/V

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
MILITARY WORKS.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 2nd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 2nd Dec. 1887, No. 3297 W.

DECEMBER.

Barracks at Poonamallee

Letter from the Quartermaster-General urging the early construction of the —, communicated to the Superintending Engineer, V Circle, with remark that Rs. 19,560 will be provided in the budget for 1888-89 for the work.

29TH AUGUST 1884, No. 2134 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

3297/3.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ again—

G.O., dated 5th February 1884, No. 303 W., on Proceedings, Judicial Department, dated 25th January 1884, No. 225.

READ—also G.O., dated 31st July 1884, No. 1896, Judicial.

Read—the following letter from Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 11th July 1884, No. 211:—

With reference to Judicial Order, 25th January 1884, No. 225, directing me to report after further consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner on the best site for the new district jail at Trichinopoly and for the cellular prison to be attached to the central jail at that station, I have now the honor to report that, although the original site to the south of the jail is more sheltered from the strong feverish winds and is in many respects preferable to the northern site, the Sanitary Commissioner is of opinion that the drains intersecting the southern site form an insuperable objection, and in this opinion the District Magistrate and the Medical Officer concur.

2. As the proposed site on the southern side is objected to on sanitary grounds, I presume it must be abandoned. The Superintendent of the Jail in his letter, No. 320, dated 5th April 1884, proposes alternative sites on the northern side of the jail, viz., the one marked A on the accompanying plan, 750 feet square, but unless more ground is taken up and one block of the police lines removed there will not be sufficient space; the other site is marked B on the plan and I think will be the better of the two; it will, however, entail some alteration in the general disposition of the buildings. The cellular prison will have to be constructed on the north-east side, and the district jail buildings will be placed on the north-west side as shown in the accompanying sketch. The cells for prisoners under sentence of death ought to be placed in the district jail and not in the cellular prison, as shown in Mr. Johnston's plan. A lodge for the warder will be required at C, the gate communicating with the central jail. The plan of this warder or gatekeeper's lodge ought to be the same as that constructed at Vellore.

3. The European head constable's quarters will have to be removed from their present site and re-erected in some other part of the ground; this, however, will not cost much and can be carried out by convict labor.

4. The Sanitary Commissioner's letter, dated 22nd May 1884, is also forwarded for information.

ENCLOSURES.

From J. W. JOHNSTON, Esq., Superintendent, Central Jail, Trichinopoly, to the Inspector-General of Jails, dated Trichinopoly, 5th April 1884, No. 320.

I have the honor to state that, in accordance with your letter, No. 1045, dated 19th March, the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Medical Officer, and I met and consulted about

the site selected for the district jail with reference to the objection taken by the Sanitary Commissioner to it. I enclose a plan of the jail and its grounds with the several sites marked therein.

2. It was pointed out by the medical officer that on sanitary grounds the southern or proposed site was objectionable. Such being the case, and the question being purely a medical one, it was decided that the proposed site should be abandoned.

3. The main objection to this site is on account of the three drains which intersect it. Of these three drains, the first carries away the surplus water of the female yard; it is in constant flow, and the water is collected in an earth cistern and utilized for the trees in the garden. No. 2 drain carries away the surplus water of No. 7 yard, which is very little indeed; it runs into the same cistern as the above. No. 3 is the main southern drain of the jail, and carries away the storm water of the jail. The storm water of drains Nos. 1 and 2 flows into a large tank. The southern site is certainly lower than the northern one, and the latter is higher than that of the central jail.

4. The northern site A, 750 feet square, will not answer, as there is not space enough on the north side to form the square, unless we take up more ground on that side and give up one block of police huts through which the eastern boundary line runs.

5. The northern site B will, however, answer very well, the area of the enclosure within the boundary wall being more than that of site A, and, with ample accommodation for both the cellular prison and district jail, the buildings for which could be arranged in blocks radiating from the centre at C of the plan. The whole will then correspond with one-half of the central jail—*vide* rough sketch enclosed.

6. The ground within the enclosure is in some places very rocky, but as stones will be required for the enclosure wall, the rocks might be utilized for this purpose. There is a spring of water in the solid rock here about 3 feet below the surface of the ground, which runs dry in the hot weather, but at other times has a good supply of water. It might be enlarged and improved. There will be no difficulty in sinking wells for water in the western half of the site, as it is not rocky there.

7. The European chief head constable's quarters will have to be taken down and re-erected in some other part of the grounds, and the road to the police lines carried along the jail wall.

8. The north-western site is not at all a suitable one, as the ground there is lower than the southern site; one or two drains run through it, and the enclosure wall will be expensive, and it will, moreover, cut off all communication with the police lines.

9. I enclose extract from official visitors' book.

From Deputy Surgeon-General M. C. FURNELL, M.D., F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Inspector-General of Jails, dated Ootacamund, 22nd May 1884, No. O.-2.

I have the honor, with reference to your demi-official of 14th May, to say I have gone carefully over the papers again, and am sorry I cannot see my way to changing my opinion about the site of the prison.

2. The objection I had to it was "it has been, ever since the central jail was built, intersected by three, if not four, drains, and the soil must be more or less contaminated." I might have added that this contamination has been also more or less augmented by manuring the garden. I do not think the "succession of crops" planted, as I saw the land at my inspection, would remove this taint. My opinion, I see by the papers before me, is shared by the Collector and District Magistrate, Superintendent, Civil Surgeon, and Police Superintendent. They record—"We all agreed that the site to the north of the central jail is the best."

3. As regards "the fierce feverish winds" which forms another objection, some part of the building must meet the winds first; at present the central jail forms the point of attack. The district jail if built on the north would be no worse off. The wind must impinge on something or somebody first.

4. The letter goes on to say the "northern site is higher and very rocky," this seems to me from a sanitary point of view advantageous, and I notice that the Superintendent of the jail in his letter, No. 451, of 12th May 1884, thus writes, "the rocky parts could be avoided by disposing of the buildings in the manner shown in the plan which accompanied my letter of 5th April 1884, No. 320.

"There is a want of space;" this is, I take it, purely an Engineer's question.

5. In conclusion, I have the honor to point out that the Trichinopoly central jail has for the past few years been very unhealthy, and although I am satisfied in my own mind that Surgeon-Major Ritchie's reports have fully demonstrated the cause of this, it behoves all concerned to be scrupulously careful to avoid any cause tending to promote or prolong this state of things.

3297/14

Order—dated 31st July 1884, No. 1896, Judicial.

The Government approve the site to the north-east of the central jail, Trichinopoly, for the new district jail and cellular prison at that station. The foregoing paper will be communicated to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

ORDER—dated 29th August 1884, No. 2134 W., Public Works.

The estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,24,080, for constructing a district jail at Trichinopoly, is sanctioned.

2. A grant of Rs. 20,000 has been provided for the work in the current year's Provincial budget.

3. In carrying out the work, the suggestions contained in paragraph 2 of the Inspector-General's letter of the 11th July 1884 should receive attention.

4. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 132 W. of 1884-85, and classified as Civil Buildings, Original Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, with plans and estimates.
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts, with duplicate abstract estimate.
„ Judicial Department.

Exd. A. Aubert
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated August, 29th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 29th Aug. 1884, No. 2134 W.

AUGUST.

District Jail at Trichinopoly

Estimate for constructing a —, sanctioned.

17TH DECEMBER 1886, No. 3325 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

3,297/5

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from Major A. C. SMITH, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Trichinopoly, 13th December 1886, No. 1406 T.J.:—

With reference to your memorandum, No. 4026 C., dated 16th ultimo, I have the honor to request that the following modification of grants may be sanctioned as soon as possible:—

Increase.		*Reduction.*
	Provincial Services. Civil Buildings. Original Works.	
		Rs.
Madura Division—		
(1) Preservation of Tirumal Naick's palace and adaptation for public offices		1,000
(2) Sub-Magistrate's office at Madura		1,000
Trichinopoly Division—		
(3) District Jail at Trichinopoly		8,500
Tanjore Division—		
(4) Improving the Taluk office, Mayavaram		4,390
	Imperial (Military). Original Works.	
Trichinopoly Division—		
(5) Construction of stone drains required for new lines		5,507

Explanation of necessity.

(1) Surrendered owing to the delay in getting possession of the site for European latrine and stables from the Municipality.

(2) In consequence of the contractor's inability to procure proper beams in time for roofing.

(3) Under instructions conveyed in G.O., No. 2888 W., dated 3rd November 1886, a sum of Rs. 6,952 will be required to complete the works referred to in connection with the new District Jail, besides the outlay of Rs. 5,468 incurred up to October 1886. The balance of Rs. 8,500 out of the current year's grant of Rs. 20,000 is now surrendered.

(4) With reference to G.O., No. 2930 W., dated 13th November 1886, a complete estimate, amounting to Rs. 11,680, is being sent to-day to Government for sanction through the Collector of Tanjore, and therefore a sum of Rs. 4,390 out of the existing grant of Rs. 9,300 is surrendered.

(5) Surrendered, as the estimate for the drains was sent to the Officer Commanding Trichinopoly on the 25th November 1886, and as it is not likely that more than Rs. 1,000 can be spent during the current official year.

Order—dated 17th December 1886, No. 3325 W., Public Works.

The following sums surrendered by the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, are resumed and credited to the Provincial reserve with the Government :—

	Rs.
(1) Preservation of Tirumal Naick's palace and adaptation for public offices	1,000
(2) Sub-Magistrate's office at Madura	1,000
(3) District Jail at Trichinopoly	8,500
(4) Improving the Tahsildar's office at Máyavaram	4,390
Total ...	14,890

2. The sum of Rs. 3,907 surrendered under Imperial (Military) from the current years grant for constructing stone drains for the new lines at Trichinopoly is resumed and credited to the reserve with the Government under that head.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) JOHN PENNYCUICK, Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Judicial „
„ Military „

Exd. G. Freeman.
Spare Copies

3297/6

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 17th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 17th Dec. 1886, No. 3325 W.

DECEMBER.

Funds

Certain surrenders under Provincial and Imperial (Military) by the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, resumed and credited to the reserve with the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Kodaikánal, 22nd August 1887, No. 297 T.C. :—

I have the honor to request that sanction of Government may be obtained to the undermentioned modification of budget allotments under Provincial, Civil Buildings :—

From Trichinopoly division.	Rs.	*To* Trichinopoly division.	Rs.
(*a*) Lump sum grant for minor works.	1,419	(*b*) Constructing a district jail at Trichinopoly	1,419

2. (*a*) Under some misapprehension Rs. 2,500 for minor works were applied for by the Executive Engineer; it is now observed that there is no likelihood of any demand being made under the head during the current year. From this sum a transfer of Rs. 1,081 have been already proposed in this office No. 437 M.D., of 2nd August 1887, and No. 325 T.N., of 15th idem, and the balance of Rs. 1,419 is now recommended for transfer to the Trichinopoly district jail.

3. (*b*) For the district jail above alluded to a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been granted in the current year's budget, and this will be spent by the end of September 1887; and as materials are ready, another sum of Rs. 10,000 will be spent before the end of the official year. To meet partly this demand the above transfer of Rs. 1,419 is recommended, and, if possible, I would request that the balance, Rs. 8,581, may be granted by Government, as I cannot at present propose any transfer from the existing grants in the circle.

4. On the jail in question Rs. 51,466 were spent up to end of the last official year; a revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 78,280, was forwarded on the 26th June 1887 to the Inspector-General of Jails for submission to Government, but it was returned by that officer with his No. 3339 of 15th July 1887 for further revision. It will be resubmitted as soon as received back from the Executive Engineer.

ORDER—dated 5th September 1887, No. 2394 W., Public Works.

As the sum available from the current year's allotment to the Trichinopoly division under Provincial, Civil Buildings, Minor Works, is Rs. 1,500 (*vide* G.O., No. 2312 W., dated 26th August 1887), that amount is transferred to the district jail at Trichinopoly.

2. The question of providing additional funds required for the jail will be considered on receipt of the revised estimate, which the Superintending Engineer reports is now under preparation.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
„ Judicial Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of [1887] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 5th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 5th Sept. 1887, No. 2394 W.

SEPTEMBER.

District Jail at Trichinopoly

Rupees 1,500 transferred to the — from the current year's allotment to the Trichinopoly division under Provincial, Civil Buildings, Minor Works.

3297/8

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chinnammanúr, 9th September 1887, No. 1098 T.J :—

In continuation of my letter No. 297 T.C., of the 22nd August 1887, I have the honor to state that the current year's allotment of Rs. 15,000 * for "alterations and improvements to St. Joseph's College buildings to fit them for use as public offices" at Negapatam is not likely to be fully utilised by the end of March next. As the estimates for the improvements could not all be prepared in time, and only two, amounting to Rs. 1,740, have hitherto been sanctioned, and those remaining, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 20,620, submitted on the 20th August 1887 through the several heads of departments concerned, as reported in my No. 984 T.J., dated 20th idem, are not likely to be sanctioned at once.

		Rs.
*In item No. 32 in the Financial budget of 1887-88	... ...	7,000
In G.O., No. 1243 W., dated 7th May 1887	... ...	8,000
	Total ...	15,000

2. I would therefore, for the present, recommend, for sanction of Government, the transfer of Rs. 5,000 from the grant of Rs. 15,000 above referred to, to the construction of the District Jail at Trichinopoly. On this work a sum of Rs. 10,000 can be well laid out during the current year in addition to the existing grant of Rs. 10,000 as already reported in my No. 297 T.C., dated 22nd August 1887.

3. I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that the estimate for District Munsif's Court at Tiruvalúr, submitted on the 2nd June last through the District Judge, Tanjore, has not yet been sanctioned. If this is not at once sanctioned, the grant of Rs. 10,000 for the work cannot be spent by the end of March next.

ORDER—dated 28th September 1887, No. 2573 W., Public Works.

In the circumstances explained by the Superintending Engineer, the following transfer of funds is sanctioned :—

Provincial.
Civil Buildings.
Original Works.

From	Rs.	*To*	Rs.
Alterations and improvements to St. Joseph's College buildings at Negapatam to fit them for use as public offices	5,000	District Jail at Trichinopoly	5,000

2. The estimate for the District Munsif's Court at Tiruvalúr having been sanctioned in G.O., No. 2491 W., dated 21st September 1887, it is hoped that the grant for the work will be fully utilised.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Judicial Department.

Fwd. J. Moses.
Spare Copies

2297
9

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 28th.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 28th Sept. 1887, No. 2573 W.

SEPTEMBER.

Transfer of Funds

Certain — from the grant for improvements to St. Joseph's College buildings at Negapatam to the District Jail at Trichinopoly, sanctioned.

3297/10

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, Trichinopoly, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Theckady, 10th October 1887, No. 1303 T.J. :—

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government to the following modification of grants :—

Reduction.

Imperial, Civil Works.
Civil Buildings.
Postal, Repairs.

	Rs.
(1) Negapatam division—From lump sum grant	315
(2) Madura division—From lump sum grant	93
	408

Imperial, Ordinary.
Military, Repairs.

(3) Negapatam division—From lump sum grant	120

Provincial Service.
Civil Buildings, Original Works.

(4) Madura division—Sub-registrar's office at Tirumangalam	500
(5) Madura division—Minor original works, lump sum grant	134

Provincial Service.
Civil Buildings, Repairs.

(6) Madura division—Lump sum grant	1,155
(7) Negapatam division—Lump sum grant	276

Communications, Repairs.

(8) Madura division—Lump sum grant	1,229

Tools and Plant.

(9) Negapatam division	300
	3,594

Increase.

Provincial Service.
Civil Buildings.
Original Works.

		Rs.
(10)	Madura division—Construction of quarters for the sub-divisional officer at Ootamapolliem	1,500
(11)	Trichinopoly division—District jail at Trichinopoly	2,094
		3,594

2. (1) Surrendered as the estimate for repairs to the post office at Patukóta, forwarded to the Postmaster-General, exceeds one-fourth the value of the building, and it will therefore have to be sanctioned under Original Works.

(2) Surrendered as it is not likely to be spent.

(3) Surrendered, the sergeant-instructor of the volunteer rifle corps of the South Indian Railway having been provided with accommodation in the old taluk cutcherry at Negapatam; cook-room and bath-room to the building are, however, required; for these, estimates have been called for for submission for sanction under Original Works.

(4) The full grant* cannot be utilised owing to delay in making over the site.

* Sanctioned in G.O., No. 1243, 7th May 1887.

(5) This is not likely to be spent.

(6) This is not likely to be spent.

(7) This is not likely to be spent.

(8) Not required. The sum was granted in G.O., No. 1667 W., of 21st June 1887, for repairing flood damages on the Cumbum-Gúdalúr and Gúdalúr-Peermade ghâut roads; it is now found that the sum was applied for by mistake by the former Executive Engineer, the balance of estimates being much less and all necessary work having been done long ago.

(9) This is not likely to be spent.

(10) In G.O., No. 1932 W., dated 19th July 1887, the construction of the quarters was sanctioned; the work is being put in hand and will be soon finished. The Executive Engineer has been asked to expedite the submission of the estimate, which will be sent up for sanction when received. In the meantime, it is requested that the amount may be granted.

(11) A revised estimate of Rs. 85,244 for the construction of the district jail has been submitted, for sanction, through the Inspector-General of Jails, with this office No. 383 T.C., dated 2nd October 1887. The original grant of Rs. 10,000 has been almost exhausted. The additional grant of Rs. 1,500, sanctioned in G.O., No. 2394 W., dated 5th September 1887, as also Rs. 5,000 applied for in this office No. 1098 T. J., dated 9th idem, can be well laid out on the work, together with the sum now applied for.

Order—dated 19th October 1887, No. 2796 W., Public Works.

The following sums, surrendered by the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, are resumed and credited to the reserve with the Government under the respective funds:—

Imperial, Civil Works.
Civil Buildings.
Postal.
Repairs.

	Rs.
Negapatam division	315
Madura division	93
Total ...	408

Imperial, Ordinary.
Military.
Repairs.

Negapatam division	120

2. The following transfers of funds are sanctioned:—

Provincial.

From	Rs.	*To*	Rs.
(1) Sub-registrar's office at Tirumaangalam	500	(1) Constructing quarters for the sub-divisional officer at Ootamapolliem	1,500
(2) Madura division, Civil Buildings, Minor Original Works	134	(2) District jail at Trichinopoly ...	2,094
(3) Madura division, Civil Buildings, Repairs	1,155		
(4) Negapatam division, Civil Buildings, Repairs	276		
(5) Madura division, Communications, Repairs	1,229		
(6) Negapatam division, Tools and plant.	300		
Total ...	3,594	Total ...	3,594

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
„ Judicial Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Gobt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated October, 1887.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 18th Oct. 1887, No. 2796 W.

OCTOBER.

Funds

Certain modifications of the allotments under Imperial, Military and Civil Works, and Provincial, in VI Circle, sanctioned.

3297/12

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

10th December 1884, No. 6160.

Sanitary.

Read the following papers :—

No. 114. *From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Quarter Master General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 17th November* 1883, *No.* 8112.

I am desired by the Commander-in-Chief to bring to the notice of Government that the question of the abandonment of Poonamallee as a convalescent depôt has for some time past engaged His Excellency's attention.

2. The introduction of the railway into this presidency, as well as the system under which invalids are now sent rapidly to Europe during the trooping season, seems to render the retention of Poonamallee as a depôt for British troops no longer necessary, and the question having been referred to the medical authorities, the Surgeon-General is of opinion that the climate does not differ very much from that of Madras, and that there seems no reason, on sanitary grounds, for maintaining the station, with its expensive *personnel*, as a convalescent depôt.

3. It was originally His Excellency's intention to bring this question before Government with that of the removal of the Accountant-General's office and the Military Account department office from Fort St. George—*vide* Proceedings of Government, No. 5464, dated 9th October 1883 (on the report on Fort St. George); but finding that further delay will arise in the collection of details connected with the distribution of accommodation, His Excellency desires me to bring the matter to the notice of Government at once.

4. The Commander-in-Chief has caused inquiry to be made as to the arrangements that would be necessary to provide barrack accommodation for those details who now are sent to Poonamallee, and His Excellency finds that there will be no difficulty in making due provision for them at St. Thomas' Mount and in Fort St. George until the removal of the garrison battery from the Mount to Fort St. George, when ample room can be found at the former place for both invalids and details.

5. This removal of the entire garrison battery to the fort is essential, now that arrangements for the armament of Fort St. George are approaching completion and the necessary accommodation for this permanent increase to the garrison will not be available until the offices of the Military Account department and the Accountant-General be removed from the fort, which is a question His Excellency proposes to submit to Government at an early date, it being not only exceedingly undesirable to retain these offices in the already overcrowded fort, but, in His Excellency's opinion, it is right that buildings intended for the accommodation of soldiers should be utilized for that purpose : this matter will, however, form the subject of a separate communication.

6. Were Poonamallee abandoned as a depôt for British troops, His Excellency would propose to convert it into a station for the two Native infantry corps, one of which is now at Pallávaram and the other may shortly be expected from Bengal (*vide* G.O., No. 5345, dated 3rd October 1883). Both Pallávaram and St. Thomas' Mount have been suggested as the station for the regiment returning from Bengal, but neither of them is found desirable, in consequence of the absence of the necessary subsidiary buildings, and of the great expense that would be involved in their

construction, but the Officer Commanding Eastern District recommends that Poonamallee might, on its abandonment as a depôt for British troops, be utilized as the station for the corps of Native infantry now at Pallávaram as well as that expected from Bengal.

7. At Poonamallee there are ample buildings which could be utilized for all regimental purposes of both corps, lines for the men being alone required; and as it would be equally necessary to undertake this work at Pallávaram, where lines do not exist, His Excellency is entirely of opinion that Poonamallee is the best place at which to locate the two corps of Native infantry.

8. It is scarcely necessary to remark that this arrangement will be economical, for not only will large outlay on barracks at Poonamallee and public buildings at Pallávaram be avoided, but a considerable annual saving will be effected by the abolition of the staff attached to the Poonamallee depôt.

9. To provide for the control of the depôt of invalids which will in future be located at St. Thomas' Mount, should the propositions now submitted be approved, His Excellency would propose an addition of Rs. 100 per mensem to the allowance of the Staff Officer, Royal Artillery, St. Thomas' Mount, and the appointment of a staff sergeant to assist him.

10. I am to solicit that these matters may receive the early consideration and orders of Government.

No. 6315.

Referred to the Controller of Military Accounts, for early report as to the financial effect of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's proposals.

(By Order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21*st November* 1883.

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 115. *With report from Controller of Military Accounts; 17th Dec.* 1883, *C.*

No. 116. *From Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department, to C. D. MADDEN, Esq., Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces; dated Ootacamund,* 21*st May* 1884, *No.* 2427.

I have the honor, by order, to forward to you the accompanying papers, from which you will perceive that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has recommended the abandonment of the depôt and sanitarium of Poonamallee.

From the Quarter Master General, No. 8112, dated 17th November 1883.
From the Controller of Military Accounts, C., 17th December 1883, and file of former papers.
(*Requested to be returned.*)

2. I am directed to observe that, although this proposal involves the abolition of a sanitarium which was carefully remodelled, and, with the sanction of the Government of India, placed upon its present footing as lately as the year 1876, no report upon the subject from you, as Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, accompanies the Quarter Master General's letter.

3. It is true that your opinion is briefly alluded to in para. 2 of that communication, but I am to say that His Excellency the Governor in Council thinks that this important question demands a very complete analysis on the part of the medical authorities, and that it is impossible for the Government to come to a decision with regard to it without ampler information than that furnished for the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, by the Quarter Master General.

3297
-13

4. I am accordingly to invite your attention to the various papers connected with the formation, on its present footing, of the depôt and sanitarium at Poonamallee, and to ask you to be good enough to answer the following questions:—

(*a*) Are you of opinion that necessity still exists for the maintenance of a sanitarium for British troops in the vicinity of Madras?

(*b*) Admitting the necessity, does the sanitarium at Poonamallee answer satisfactorily the purpose for which it was created?

(*c*) Do you think that a sanitarium, possessing all the advantages of Poonamallee, and as complete and comfortable in its accommodation, could be established elsewhere without further expense?

(*d*) At what place could you effect this?

(*e*) Is there hospital accommodation either at Madras or St. Thomas' Mount for an additional number of sick men averaging 28·5 per diem and known to have risen to a maximum of 87 at one time?

(*f*) Is there suitable barrack accommodation either in Fort St. George or at St. Thomas' Mount for an average number of 160 convalescents and for the women and children now sent to Poonamallee for change of air?

(*g*) Do you think that for the reception of the men now located at Poonamallee no further expense would be necessary in the way of improvements or additions either to the barracks or hospital at St. Thomas' Mount?

(*h*) The Officers composing the Board which assembled in 1872 to settle the question of the abandonment or re-establishment of Poonamallee recorded in their IX para.—

> "The Board having consulted with Dr. Currie and Dr. Elliot do not consider it advisable, on sanitary grounds, to place the depôt at St. Thomas' Mount. It is considered very inexpedient to place sick men, invalids and time-expired men so close to the effective and healthy soldiers. Dr. Elliot is very strongly opposed to any move of this nature, and Dr. Currie remarked that the Mount hill and the bazaar being so close to the north barracks are serious objections."

Bearing in mind the comparative isolation of Poonamallee, the existence there of an excellent hospital and the low rate of drunkenness among the convalescents, what is your opinion on this point?

(*i*) An idea prevails in the service that men are more easily invalided from sanitaria than from their regimental hospitals. Do you think that the existence of the Poonamallee sanitarium adds in any way to the invaliding average of the presidency?

(*j*) Do you consider any further expenditure absolutely necessary at Poonamallee on sanitary grounds?

It is suggested that the improvements that have been effected there are sufficient, and that the barrack accommodation, as it is, is good enough for all requirements.

I am to invite any other remarks you may feel inclined to offer upon this subject.

No. 117. *From C. D. MADDEN, Esq., Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, to Lieutenant-Colonel A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund,* 31*st July* 1884, *No.* 218.

I have the honor, in acknowledging the receipt of your letter, No. 2427, of the 21st May 1884, respecting the proposed abolition of the convalescent depôt of Poonamallee, to remark as follows for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

From Quarter Master General, No. 8112, of 17th November 1883.
From Controller of Military Accounts, of 17th December 1883, and file of former papers.
(*Returned herewith.*)

2. The above proposal was referred to me in the month of April 1883, by the Quarter Master General, and the corre-

spondence which took place at that time is appended. From this it will be seen that the retention of the sanitarium at Poonamallee would involve, it was thought, a large prospective outlay in providing improved barrack accommodation, and it became a question whether or not the men would be as favorably situated, as regards climate, if quartered at Madras or St. Thomas' Mount.

3. In the Quarter Master General's letter, No. 8112, of 17th November 1883, which has been forwarded with the correspondence, it is proposed to locate the convalescents at St. Thomas' Mount, while in the reference made to me, alluded to in the previous paragraph, it is stated that the men, with the exception of the royal artillery, would be quartered in Fort St. George.

4. I propose, therefore, to consider both alternatives as fully as possible, and, with a view to obtaining the required information to enable me to do so, I directed the matter to be investigated by a board of medical officers, which, under the presidency of the Deputy Surgeon-General, Eastern District, assembled recently at the three stations for this purpose. The proceedings of this board are appended.

5. As regards the climate of Poonamallee. In the absence of recorded meteorological observations, I am unable to state exactly how this differs from that of Madras, but I should think, from what I know of the two places, that they are much alike in this respect. The temperature of both is equable, being subject to no violent or sudden changes from heat to cold; and as this is the chief condition to be thought of in sending men from up-country stations to the coast for change, I am of opinion that a case of illness would have an equally good chance of recovery at either station. Speaking generally, the climate of Madras is moister than that of Poonamallee; and although this condition might possibly not be so favorable to some classes of patients, notably those suffering from chest affections, I do not think that any valid objection could be raised on this ground.

6. Poonamallee and St. Thomas' Mount are, in my opinion, almost identical as regards climate, being both dry and equable and therefore fulfilling the conditions necessary for a patient suffering from organic disease—the result of service in a tropical climate.

7. There are, however, other conditions than those of climate to be considered, and first, as regards the position of Poonamallee. In this respect I think the present depôt for convalescents has a decided advantage over the two alternative stations. It is thoroughly isolated; and, owing to this, the men stationed there enjoy an immunity from the usual temptations of a garrison town. There is less chance of their indulging in dissipation and immorality, and I need scarcely enlarge on this advantage to a class of men afflicted with various organic diseases of a serious nature, and for whom quiet and rest are so beneficial.

8. The buildings in which the single and married soldiers live are widely separated, so that free ventilation is insured; and in the centre of the station there is a large piece of open ground which serves for purposes of healthy recreation.

9. As regards the barracks, their condition will be alluded to in the subsequent portion of this letter, and the same remark applies to the hospital.

10. After these observations, I propose proceeding to answer the questions (*a* to *j*) of your letter, and, for convenience of reference, these are inserted in italics above their respective answers.

Question (*a*).—*Are you of opinion that necessity still exists for the maintenance of a sanitarium for British troops in the vicinity of Madras?*

The climates of Bangalore, Secunderabad, Bellary, Burma and other up-country stations of this presidency are, during some months of the year, variable, and subject to considerable changes of temperature. Diseases common to tropical climates are of frequent occurrence amongst European soldiers stationed at these places; and in the absence of a system of continuous invaliding, which, on account of the expense it would entail, is out of the question, a sanitarium on or near to the coast, to which men can be sent for change, or until the opportunity occurs for

3277
14

their being invalided to England, is an absolute necessity, if the European soldiers are to have a fair chance of maintaining a proper standard of health.

Question (*b*).—*Admitting the necessity, does the sanitarium at Poonamallee answer satisfactorily the purpose for which it was created?*

Poonamallee has, during the past, had a good reputation as a sanitarium, and its climate, after a long trial, is considered the best that can be obtained for climatic diseases of a certain class. Its isolated position, away from a large city and cantonment, is in its favor. This point I mentioned in my letter to the Quarter Master General already alluded to, and it has not been overlooked by previous medical officers. In order to elucidate the matter, I have prepared the annexed table A which shows the number of men admitted during the past five years for (*a*) cholera and enteric fever; (*b*) diseases due to intemperance and immorality. The remarks in this return will enable an opinion to be formed at a glance. At Poonamallee there has been no admission for either cholera or enteric fever during the past five years, while men have suffered from these diseases both at Madras and St. Thomas' Mount. For complaints of the latter class (*b*), 13·16 of the annual percentage of strength have been admitted at Poonamallee; 34·99 of the annual percentage of strength have been admitted at Madras, and 25·79 at the Mount. I regret that admissions for heat apoplexy have not been included in this summary, and to obtain the information some delay would be incurred. I may, however, add that, after a long service in this presidency, I cannot call to mind a single case of this disease occurring at Poonamallee, while scarcely a hot weather passes without casualties from this cause occurring at the other stations. During the past hot weather three cases of heat apoplexy have occurred in Fort St. George, and one man has died from this cause. These three cases all came from the rooms situated in the basement of the king's barracks. In connection with this, I beg to quote the following:—

Extract from the remarks of the weekly state of sick of the station hospital at Madras, ending 6th June 1884.

"Health of the regiment indifferent, partly due to climate and great heat. Fever (of the nature of febricula), boils and venereal diseases have been the chief admission causes. Sanitary condition of quarters fair; but some of the lower barrack rooms are close and oppressive in hot weather. In these the number of occupants has been considerably lessened to give increased cubic space and area, and care has been taken to see that there is no overcrowding in any barrack rooms.

"The punkah-pullers in barracks have been augmented, and in the faulty rooms before-mentioned, punkahs are pulled all day from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and again from 9 P.M. to 4 A.M."

(Signed) G. B. MOUAT, M.D.,
Surgeon-Major, A.M.D.

It will be seen from the report of medical board that some of the basement rooms in the king's barracks have already been closed, and it becomes a question in my mind if any of these should be occupied by Europeans. The buildings are much shut in, which, in severe heat, with a stagnant atmosphere, renders ventilation difficult if not impossible; and it is for future consideration what course should be adopted in this matter.

The hospital at Poonamallee is a building of quite recent construction, and it possesses all the recent improvements. The dimensions of the different wards and the general plan are given in the proceedings of the medical board. The provision for the sick is at present fifty beds, all of which are situated on the upper floor. The ventilation is perfect, and for an invalid to be under such favorable conditions as he is placed while under treatment in this hospital must be a great advantage.

Question (*c*).—*Do you think that a sanitarium, possessing all the advantages of Poonamallee, and as complete and comfortable in its accommodation, could be established elsewhere without further expense?*

From a medical point of view, and setting aside the outlay which it is thought will be required for new buildings, I certainly think, for the reasons already stated, that convalescents are better situated at Poonamallee than elsewhere. Should Government decide to abandon the present sanitarium at Poonamallee, I do not think the measure can be carried out without further provision in the way of barrack and hospital accommodation. My reason for this opinion is given in my replies to questions (*e*) and (*f*).

Question (*d*).—*At what place could you effect this?*

See reply to the previous question.

Question (*e*).—*Is there hospital accommodation either at Madras or St. Thomas' Mount for an additional number of sick men averaging* 28·5 *per diem and known to have risen to a maximum of* 87 *at one time?*

The present hospital accommodation at Poonamallee provides beds equipped for fifty-six, all situated in the upper floor and under the best possible sanitary conditions. Additional beds could be made available if required. The average daily sick at the depôt for the past five years has been twenty-eight (approximately), and the maximum number of patients during this period has been fifty-eight. In considering the amount of hospital accommodation necessary, it is advisable to look to the maximum numbers and not to the averages only. A sickly season, or the employment of a force on active service, would increase the numbers sick, and it is necessary to provide for these contingencies. In clause 152, India Army Circulars of August 1882, page 14, it is laid down that the hospital at Poonamallee is to be equipped for 12 per cent. of sick on the authorized strength. The average strength at the depôt for the past five years has been 152, and the highest number during this period was 286. The authorized equipment of the hospital would therefore fall very short of actual requirements, and I do not think it would be safe to allow less accommodation than exists at present at the depôt, viz., 50 beds fully equipped.

The hospital at Madras has accommodation for 117 patients, viz., 95 beds for men and 22 beds for women and children. Of the 95 beds for men, 62 are in the upper rooms and 33 in the basement. It will be seen from the Deputy Surgeon-General's report that the basement is used entirely for prisoners, detained men, purveyor's and medical store-rooms, guard-room, surgery and office; and that the sick are treated in the upper wards only. The authorized strength of the garrison of Fort St. George is liable to much variation and, during the hot months of the present year, there were complaints of the men being overcrowded. It is, I believe, the intention to increase the numbers by the addition of half a battery of garrison artillery from St. Thomas' Mount. Under these circumstances, I am unable to say what amount of hospital accommodation should be allotted for the garrison. It should not, however, fall short of 10 per cent. of strength as laid down by regulation, and I therefore think that the present accommodation is not too much for the future wants of the garrison. Under these circumstances, it would be necessary to provide increased hospital accommodation in the event of the convalescents being removed to Madras.

At St. Thomas' Mount the hospital accommodates 45 patients. These, as in the Madras hospital, are treated in the upper story only, while the lower is allotted to the detained men, and is used for administration purposes. This building is but little more than sufficient for the wants of the garrison, the average strength of which, for the past five years, has been 345 men, with an average daily sick of 24 and a maximum of 43.

Question (*f*).—*Is there suitable barrack accommodation either in Fort St. George or at St. Thomas' Mount for an average number of* 160 *convalescents and for the women and children now sent to Poonamallee for change of air?*

The barracks in Fort St. George accommodate 209 men in the lower and 316 in the upper rooms. Single men of the Royal Artillery and South Wales

3297/15

Borderers are also quartered in the A block married quarters. I am not aware of there being any other buildings suitable for accommodating an increased number of men in the fort. The upper rooms of the king's barracks are cool and well ventilated, but the lower are objectionable and should be entirely abandoned as a residence for European soldiers. I would strongly recommend that these latter should not be used as barracks for convalescents sent for change to the coast.

There are three blocks of married quarters in Fort St. George (A, B and C). They are reported to be well constructed and are each capable of accommodating twenty-seven families. There are at present twenty-seven women and thirty-nine children at Poonamallee, and these could be accommodated in the A block married quarters, at present occupied by men of the royal artillery.

At the Mount there are the following barrack buildings, viz., the north barracks, the south barracks, barrack No. 17 and the upper-storied barracks.

The north barracks are built on an obsolete plan and are constructed to accommodate 145 men, but at present only sixty-five men occupy them. The south barracks are also old, and, owing to their being considered unhealthy, they are at present unoccupied. No. 17 barrack is built on the new standard plan, and is at present occupied by about sixty men. The upper-storied barracks consist of three blocks each constructed for twenty-two men in the upper rooms. There are in all sixty-one married quarters.

It is stated in the Deputy Surgeon-General's report that new barracks on the same plan as barrack No. 17 are being built.

I am unaware of any other buildings suitable for barracks in this station where the convalescents if transferred from Poonamallee could be quartered.

Question (*g*).—*Do you think that for the reception of the men now located at Poonamallee no further expense would be necessary in the way of improvements or additions either to the barracks or hospitals at St. Thomas' Mount?*

As already stated, the hospital accommodation is not more than sufficient for the requirements of the garrison, and the same remark, so far as I am aware, applies to the barracks.

Question (*h*).—*The officers composing the board which assembled in* 1872 *to settle the question of the abandonment or re-establishment of Poonamallee, recorded in their* IXth *para.—*

"The board having consulted with Dr. Currie and Dr. Elliot do not consider it advisable, on sanitary grounds, to place the depôt at St. Thomas' Mount. It is considered very inexpedient to place sick men, invalids and time-expired men so close to the effective and healthy soldiers. Dr. Elliot is very strongly opposed to any move of this nature, and Dr. Currie remarked that the Mount hill and bazaar being so close to the north barracks are serious objections."

Bearing in mind the comparative isolation of Poonamallee, the existence there of an excellent hospital and the low rate of drunkenness among the convalescents, what is your opinion on this point?

I have already in several places stated my opinion on this point. I think it would be disadvantageous if the convalescents were quartered with healthy and efficient soldiers and that frequent breaches of discipline would result. It would also in my opinion be inexpedient to expose the invalids to the temptations and dangers of a populous garrison town.

Question (*i*).—*An idea prevails in the service that men are more easily invalided from sanitaria than from their regimental hospitals. Do you think that the existence of the Poonamallee sanitarium adds in any way to the invaliding average of the presidency?*

I was unaware, until recently, that this question had ever been raised, and I am at a loss to account for it. I was for some years in sole charge of the invaliding of the medical division of Netley hospital, and I have had some experience of men sent home to England from this country for change of climate or discharge. Had this allegation been true, it would, I think, have been noticed that many of those invalids who arrived at Netley from this presidency were sent to England without

sufficient cause. I was for two years in medical charge of the presidency division and was President of all the invaliding boards assembled at Poonamallee, and it never came to my notice that men were brought before these boards for insufficient reasons.

As far as my own experience and observation go, I do not think that men sent to Poonamallee are invalided to England for slighter causes than if sent direct from their regiments. It must be remembered that men are sent to Poonamallee for causes quite different from those necessitating their removal to Wellington. The former are patients suffering in very many cases from organic disease of climatic or constitutional origin; while the latter suffer chiefly from debility induced by tropical heat or malarial fever.

I regret that I have no return at my disposal which would enable me to form a statistical comparison on this point between Poonamallee and Colaba, which has, I believe, been formed for a like purpose. In the return B, herewith forwarded, the numbers sent to Poonamallee, invalided therefrom, and returned to their regiments are given for the past five years. The average per cent. of convalescents invalided during this period is 19·9, the remainder being returned to their regiments; and, considering the diseases under which these men are laboring, I think the proportion a very small one.

It may also be remarked that, if this statement were true, the number of men invalided from this presidency would be in excess of those from Bengal and Bombay. But from the statement (C) it will be seen that while the invalids in Bengal and Bombay have amounted during the past five years to an average of 36·20 and 51·20 per thousand, in Madras their number has reached only 33·00 per thousand.

A Surgeon-Major of experience is in charge of the depôt; to him and the medical board which assembles twice yearly may, I think, safely be left the duty of seeing that the invaliding is fairly carried out, and that due consideration is shown to the State and to the soldier.

Question (*j*).—*Do you consider any further expenditure absolutely necessary at Poonamallee on sanitary grounds?*

The barracks at Poonamallee are built on an obsolete plan, are narrow and badly ventilated. They have already been condemned and it was decided that new buildings should be erected in their place. They contain, however, sufficient accommodation for the men without encroaching on the regulated superficial and cubical space, and I would recommend that the question of how they could be improved, by supplying increased air and light, be referred to a board of officers who have made such subjects their especial study. If this object could be attained at a moderate cost, the chief reason for abandoning the depôt, viz., the large outlay on new buildings, would, I understand, be removed.

Large improvements have been carried out in the married quarters at Poonamallee, eight blocks having been completed, each capable of accommodating two families.

A return (D) is enclosed showing for each month of the past five years the average strength and daily sick at Poonamallee, Madras and St. Thomas' Mount.

In concluding this letter I would once more notice that the advantages of Poonamallee are the known efficacy of its climate for a large class of tropical complaints, its magnificent hospital accommodation and its isolated position away from the temptations of large garrison towns and bazaars.

From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Quarter Master General, to the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces; dated Ootacamund, 12th April 1883, No. 83.

I am directed, by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, to request that you will favor him with your opinion as to the desirability of maintaining the Poonamallee depôt.

2. The present seems a fitting opportunity for consideration of this question; for the unsatisfactory state of the accommodation there has long been made known to His Excellency,

3297
16

and, if the depôt is still to be maintained, it will be necessary to incur considerable expense in the construction of new barracks.

3. When Sir Frederick Roberts inspected Poonamallee last January it struck him that it is by no means conveniently situated as a depôt, and His Excellency could not help considering whether it was desirable to incur further expenditure on the place.

4. Sir Frederick Roberts is under the impression that the medical officer in charge of the depôt, the climate of which is very similar to that of Madras or St. Thomas' Mount, did not place much value on Poonamallee as a sanitarium, but rather he considered it a place to which men desirous of getting away from regimental duty or to be invalided endeavoured to be sent.

5. It is quite possible that for certain complaints Poonamallee may be better than Bangalore or Wellington, but there seems no reason why men requiring a change to the coast should not be provided with accommodation in Fort St. George or in the garrison hospital, or, if artillery men, at St. Thomas' Mount.

Table showing the accommodation and average daily sick at the hospitals of Poonamallee, St. Thomas' Mount and Madras.

Stations.	Number of beds available.	Average daily sick.	Remarks.
Poonamallee	...	30	
St. Thomas' Mount	48	24	Accommodation in hospital for eight women and children.
Madras	100	39	Accommodation in hospital for twelve women and children.

From C. D. MADDEN, Esq., Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, to the Quarter Master General; dated Ootacamund, 26th April 1883, No. 23-O.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 83, of 12th instant, regarding the necessity for keeping up the station of Poonamallee as a depôt and sanitarium for European troops, and in reply I beg to submit the following remarks for the consideration of His Excellency.

2. The station of Poonamallee is situated 13 miles due west of Fort St. George and about 5 miles to the north of St. Thomas' Mount. The climate does not differ to any appreciable extent from either of these places, and in my opinion who may require to be sent there would do equally well either in the Fort or at the Mount.

3. The advantages which Poonamallee offers for invalids are its excellent hospital accommodation and its isolated position. The men stationed there are placed far away from the evil influences of a populous garrison town to which they would be more or less subjected at Madras.

4. These are, however, minor considerations, and I cannot think there is any necessity, on sanitary grounds, for keeping up the station with its expensive *personnel, &c.*, and thus causing further outlay in buildings for the accommodation of the men.

5. Annexed is a return showing the accommodation, average daily sick, &c., in the three hospitals, from which it appears there will be sufficient hospital accommodation at Madras and St. Thomas' Mount for any additional sick requiring treatment.

A.

Return showing the admissions for the past five years at Depôt Poonamallee, Madras and St. Thomas' Mount for the following diseases.

Years.		Diseases.						Total.	Remarks.
		Cholera.	Enteric Fever.	Due to intemperance and immorality.					
				Alcoholic poisoning.	Delirium Tremens.	Primary Syphilis.	Gonorrhœa and its sequelæ.		
Poonamallee, average strength for past five years, 152.	1879.	...	...	...	...	7	14	21	Average annual admissions for diseases due to intemperance and immorality = 20.
	1880.	...	...	...	...	5	4	9	
	1881.	...	...	...	...	4	18	22	
	1882.	...	...	...	...	5	12	17	Annual percentage to strength = 13·16.
	1883.	...	...	...	...	12	19	31	
Fort St. George, average strength for past five years, 543.	1879.	...	...	...	3	49	113	165	Average annual admissions for diseases due to intemperance and immorality = 190.
	1880.	...	...	...	...	61	79	140	
	1881.	...	...	4	2	100	92	198	
	1882.	1	2	...	...	135	138	276	Annual percentage to strength = 34·99.
	1883.	...	...	...	1	53	117	171	
St. Thomas' Mount, average strength for past five years, 345.	1879.	...	...	...	...	59	51	110	Average annual admissions for diseases due to intemperance and immorality = 89.
	1880.	...	...	1	...	67	85	153	
	1881.	...	...	2	...	23	40	65	
	1882.	...	3	...	4	27	27	62	Annual percentage to strength = 25·79.
	1883.	...	1	...	3	23	28	55	

B.

Return showing the number of convalescents sent to the Depôt Poonamallee for change of climate, the number invalided and those sent back for duty to their regiments in each year.

Years.	Number of convalescents sent to Depôt Poonamallee from different stations.	Invalided.			Number returned to regiments.	Died.	Remarks.
		Change.	Discharge.	Total.			
1879	253	49	22	71	176	6	
1880	203	18	9	27	172	4	Average annual strength of convalescents = 177·6.
1881	142	8	1	9	125	8	Average number invalided annually = 35·4.
1882	124	19	5	24	94	6	Average per cent. to strength invalided = 19·9.
1883	166	36	10	46	117	3	

C.

Return showing the comparative rates of sickness and invaliding in the three presidencies for 1878—82.

Years.	Bengal.						Madras.						Bombay.					
	Average strength.	Average annual ratio per 1,000.					Average strength.	Average annual ratio per 1,000.					Average strength.	Average annual ratio per 1,000.				
		Admissions into hospital.	Daily sick.	Total deaths.	Invaliding.	Yearly average of invaliding.		Admissions into hospital.	Daily sick.	Total deaths.	Invaliding.	Yearly average of invaliding.		Admissions into hospital.	Daily sick.	Total deaths.	Invaliding.	Yearly average of invaliding.
1878 ...	35,836	1,675	68	21·63	40	36·80	10,815	1,392	66	21·82	48	33·02	9,825	1,848	67	20·46	58	51·20
1879 ...	29,255	2,108	82	29·87	47		10,444	1,428	63	16·66	45		9,882	2,173	78	15·78	60	
1880 ...	31,583	1,813	75	27·73	22		10,310	1,368	64	10·18	20		9,903	2,150	78	30·90	49	
1881 ...	35,901	1,729	72	17·05	37		10,390	1,160	66	10·97	28		9,895	1,784	72	13·44	53	
1882 ...	35,164	1,579	69	13·17	35		11,029	1,058	57	10·25	24		11,085	1,105	61	10·37	36	

[Statement

D.

Return showing the average strength and average daily sick per month at Poonamallee, Fort St. George and St. Thomas' Mount for the past five years, showing also the maximum number of sick in each year.

Average strength.

—	Poonamallee. 1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	Fort St. George. 1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	St. Thomas' Mount. 1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
January ...	176	229	117	118	151	524	579	480	572	563	324	441	299	307	240
February.	160	145	128	120	147	497	517	494	683	564	324	378	305	385	239
March ...	125	128	116	185	236	370	374	520	766	574	330	319	310	389	358
April ...	152	225	107	115	98	418	375	422	758	646	296	314	306	410	353
May ...	173	194	120	113	98	433	358	506	772	612	300	310	345	425	354
June ...	169	181	115	127	114	433	352	685	767	606	299	307	400	426	354
July ...	177	198	116	128	125	446	355	459	750	597	298	308	398	380	352
August ...	159	196	119	142	145	437	354	452	758	587	298	307	397	362	357
September.	193	185	120	156	152	468	458	456	763	545	296	331	396	353	362
October ...	201	175	116	141	201	494	541	450	692	548	291	381	393	373	364
November.	195	151	136	131	172	496	685	448	607	561	284	370	388	372	373
December.	195	133	149	152	177	548	626	528	660	494	332	359	406	285	230
Maximum.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Average daily sick.

—	Poonamallee. 1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	Fort St. George. 1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	St. Thomas' Mount. 1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
January ...	21	26	20	28	51	45	37	59	22	47	23	33	20	35	14
February.	9	14	24	29	55	42	28	60	36	42	21	40	22	39	14
March ...	11	12	16	20	58	20	24	60	34	41	17	43	24	37	18
April ...	16	23	15	15	25	25	24	39	41	23	18	34	27	26	15
May ...	19	20	24	20	29	33	31	38	41	23	20	27	24	30	24
June ...	14	23	25	19	36	44	31	50	38	28	23	37	23	23	16
July ...	18	23	22	23	38	43	30	40	44	31	26	24	27	14	16
August ...	26	23	23	24	50	27	27	35	36	35	24	19	28	17	12
September.	30	26	23	35	45	24	36	34	39	45	25	24	22	17	17
October ...	28	34	18	41	55	30	48	34	37	46	25	29	27	17	18
November.	27	27	27	42	54	34	60	36	41	41	25	31	33	21	24
December.	21	28	27	46	58	38	50	30	45	35	24	26	30	16	20
Maximum.	30	34	27	46	58	45	60	69	45	47	26	43	33	39	21

PROCEEDINGS OF MEDICAL BOARD.

From J. JAMESON, Esq., Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Eastern District, to the Secretary, Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces; dated Fort St. George, 7th July 1884, No. 46.

Agreeably to instructions contained in Surgeon-General's *memorandum*, No. 1583, dated Madras, 2nd June 1884, a Medical Committee—President, Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General J. Jameson; members, Surgeon-Major G. B. Mouat and Surgeon J. D. T. Reckitt —assembled at Poonamallee on the 6th June 1884 and inspected that station, and I beg to furnish the following report of its proceedings.

Poonamallee is situated on the Bangalore road, 13 miles from Madras in a westerly direction. The general aspect of the country is that with small villages here and there, patches of wet and dry cultivation and occasionally topes of mango and cocoanut trees.

The soil near the barracks is disintegrated granite and a mixture of clay and sand dry on the surface, but the sub-soil water level is always found a few feet below and rises in the wet season so as to flood the large open ditch near the hospital.

The station of Poonamallee has long been used as an invaliding depôt and to it are sent men from all the European regiments in the presidency.

The cases which experience has proved the change to be particularly beneficial are inflammation and abscess of the liver, dysentery, acute and chronic diarrhœa, phthisis, bronchitis and secondary syphilis.

In Bangalore and Secunderabad, where the range of temperature is considerable and where hot days are often succeeded by cold nights, diseases of the digestive system are of frequent occurrence and often of a severe type, defying all plans of treatment until change to Poonamallee is obtained. There the patient's skin acting without a danger of a chill, in a temperature equable by day and night, often tends, above all things, to restore a man to convalescence who otherwise would have been lost to the service.

The hospital—a modern building constructed on scientific principles and equipped with ninety beds—is, without doubt, the very best in Southern India. The ventilation is excellent and the sick treated, as a rule, in the upper story only; have ample accommodation in wards exposed to every wind that blows, and, as regards their comfort and prospects of recovery, are most favorably situated in all respects.

The contagious hospital is a one-story detached building for the use of men and women. It contains four wards with a total superficial area of 1,405 feet and a cubic space of 211,075 feet and can accommodate eight patients.

The following are the sizes of the wards of the new hospital :—

Ward.	Superficial area.	Cubic contents.	Number of patients.
Lower story—			
East male ward	2,500	47,916	20
West do.	3,120	59,800	26
Prisoners' ward	576	11,010	6
Upper story—			
East male ward	2,612	52,250	27
West do.	3,275	65,500	28
		Total ..	107

The barracks are old and are built on an obsolete plan one story high.

No. 1 block measures 4,880 superficial area, 80,480 cubic feet.

No. 2 block is a little smaller, superficial area 4,182, *cubic feet* 69,037, *and each accommodates* forty-eight men.

The rooms are narrow and stuffy.

There is an inner wall several feet thick and perforated with a number of low arches leading to an enclosed verandah. These rooms are capable of improvement by enlarging the communicating arches and by increasing the number and size of the windows in the verandah and thus permitting a better circulation of air. Ventilation is assisted by openings in the roof; but, on the whole, it must be pronounced as defective.

Married Quarters.—North half block consists of twelve rooms, separated from each other by partitions 7 feet high. They are occasionally used by single men, but generally they are not occupied. They are unsuited to the requirements of a family. By knocking down the partitions, about thirty men might be accommodated under sanitary conditions more favorable than now exist. Third-class family quarters are three in number of modern plan. Each quarters consists of a sitting room and a bed room. The former measures 5,752 cubic feet, superficial area 288; the latter 2,000 cubic feet. A kitchen, bath room and latrine are in detached buildings behind. These quarters belong to the permanent staff sergeants of the depôt.

The new married quarters, consisting of eight cottages each, adapted to two families, are very good. The old French barracks also occasionally used to accommodate seven families. Measurement of each is 247 superficial area, cubic space 3,211 feet.

The following is the average space for the first quarter of 1884:—

Hospital—average cubic space per man	... ...	7210·3
,, ,, superficial area	... ...	453·8
Barracks— ,, cubic space per man	... ...	1581·6
,, ,, superficial area	... ...	95·8

The Medical Committee composed of Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General J. Jameson, members, Surgeon-Majors G. B. Mouat and H. B. White, assembled at St. Thomas' Mount on the 10th June 1884 and proceeded to inspect that station.

St. Thomas' Mount, situated between Poonamallee and Madras, 5 miles from the former and 8 miles from the latter, is also about 5 miles in a direct line from the sea. The elevation is about 40 feet; exposed in every direction but the Mount side; adjacent country is plain like, with a few trees scattered about and soil generally dry.

The native population in the neighbourhood is apparently scanty.

The European troops consist of two field batteries and half of a garrison battery.

The station hospital is a two-storied building equipped for forty-five beds. Total superficial area 5,521, cubic space 102,002.

Patients are treated in the upper story, while the lower story is utilized by men detained for the day and for administration purposes; verandahs are large; wards, cheerful and airy and well suited for the treatment of the sick. The contagious hospital is adjacent to the kitchen and only 40 yards from the main building, originally it was constructed for a woman's hospital. It cannot be used with due regard to safety for the treatment of such cases as small-pox, and when occasion arises such diseases are received into tents pitched at a distance and to leeward. Practically therefore there is no cantagious hospital, and but for the occurrence of an occasional case of itch the building is never occupied.

The female hospital is a very fine building of modern construction and situated about 200 yards from the station hospital. Average number of patients treated has been in—

1880	3·75
1881	2·58
1882	3·00
1883	1·93
Average for four years	2·81

On the ground floor and to the right is a contagious ward 258 superficial area and 4,659 cubic feet. It is for the accommodation of all infectious cases occurring among the women and children, and it may be remarked that an arrangement whereby infectious diseases are treated in the same building as cases of midwifery cannot be depended and might prove highly dangerous. The room is, however, lofty and well-ventilated, and in other respects is admirable; next to it is the nurses' quarters consisting of two rooms; at present it is used as a waiting room and a consulting room for patients attending.

The measurement is—

No. 1 room, 238 superficial area, 4,419 cubic feet.
,, 2 ,, 243 ,, ,, 4,509 ,, ,,

Two rooms adjoining and similar in size are as a temporary measure used as quarters by the matron. On the upper story is a good sized ward, superficial area 1,105, cubic feet 20,442, equipped for eight patients; next to it are two rooms for lying-in purposes. There is a total available cubic space of 32,607 feet, or accommodation for fifteen patients, giving 2,400 to each. It seems a pity that so much good hospital room should be unused.

The barracks consist of the old and the new. The south barracks is an old building one story high. Its superficial area is 15,390, cubic feet 180,450, rank and file 145. The direct rays of the sun and the reflected heat from the neighbouring hill were supposed to give rise to fever, and since better barracks have been available they have not been used.

North barracks superficial area 13,031, cubic feet 154,202, 145 rank and file, is similar in plan to the other; number in occupation, 65 men. No. 17 barracks is a one story building constructed on a plan modern and excellent possessing rooms lofty and well ventilated by doors, windows, roof and eave.

This is the new standard plan of barracks. In No. 1 dormitory superficial area is 1,883, cubic space 47,225 feet; regulation number of men twenty, occupants twenty-one.

The dining hall is at present used as a dormitory and is considerably overcrowded; superficial area 1,143, cubic space 29,289 feet; number of occupants eighteen.

No. 2 dormitory is identical in size. In the same building is a library, superficial area 355, cubic space 5,106.

A new barracks on same plan as No. 17 is in process of construction.

New double story artillery barracks three in number contain on the ground floor sergeants mess room, orderly room, library and day room. Ventilation by opposite doors and windows only. Upstairs is the main hall, west, superficial area 2,088 feet, cubic space 44,892 feet,

number of men 22, present occupants 18. Main hall, east, is identical in size and plan and the other two barracks are also of same design.

Family quarters.—The average number of married families for the last three years has been 61·4.

New detached bungalows	32
Quarters adjoining barracks	20
Begum's compound	20 (condemned quarters).
Total ...	72

The detached bungalows are comfortable and neat, each possesses its own little garden adorned with flowers and the whole appearance is very pleasing.

On the 13th of June 1884 the medical committee—Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General J. Jameson, President; Members, Surgeon-Major G. B. Mouat and Surgeon Heath—assembled at Madras, and proceeded to inspect the barracks in Fort St. George.

The fort itself occupies a superficial area of 40 acres. The buildings contained in it are scattered about without any definite plan, one building often shutting off the sea breeze from another. The proximity to the sea is the one redeeming point, and probably has much to do in correcting the evils arising from defective construction and sanitation. As a residence for soldiers, part of it is objectionable and its condition hopelessly incurable.

The European barracks consists of an upper and a lower room, for the rooms all open into each other. The lower room is 1,483 feet long, 18 feet wide and 15½ feet high, while the upper room is 2,124¾ long, 20 feet wide and 14½ feet high.

Imperfect arches divide these large rooms into a number of smaller ones occupied as follows:—

Number of room.	Superficial area.	Cubic feet.	Number of men.	
N	780	11,289	8	
M	3,145	44,370	35	
M	2,445	33,277	13	
L	3,505	60,160	39	
K	2,722	36,036	30	
K	3,096	42,316	34	
J	2,093	30,720	...	Used as theatre.
R	735	6,480	...	Never used, as room is unhealthy.
H	2,000	26,568	14	
H	2,905	38,016	16	
O	912	11,492	10	
O	900	11,492	10	
Total ...			209	

Upper Story—

Number of room.	Superficial area.	Cubic feet.	Number of men.
F	784	12,200	8
E	3,285	50,935	36
E	2,436	38,888	27
D	3,082	44,320	34
D	2,713	44,320	30
C	3,448	63,690	38
B	7,081	1,26,108	78
A	3,307	50,653	36
G	1,113	20,572	12
G	1,551	29,074	17
Total ...			316

The rooms cannot be considered as overcrowded, and in the upper story there is a free circulation of air, assisted materially by aid of the punkahs. In the lower story ventilation is defective. The rooms are much shut in, and in still hot days the discomfort was found to be great. After the occurrence of three cases of heat apoplexy, one of them fatal, in May last, it was ordered that punkahs should be pulled from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. and from 9 P.M. to 4 A.M.

R room in the lower story is an unhealthy room and when cholera prevailed a victim was usually found in it. For the same reason, G room adjoining it is no longer a dormitory, it having been converted into a theatre.

In fact, the whole of the lower story is unsuited for occupation, and if, from necessity, they must be used, the number of men should be decreased in every way possible.

With a view of finding increased amount of barrack room, the building now occupied by the Military Accounts and Pay Examiner's office was inspected.

The following is the measurement of the different rooms :—

Second Story—

Room.	Superficial area.	Cubic feet.
1. Writers' room	344½	5,173½
2. ,, ...	350 7/16	6,268¼
3. ,, ...	657	9,855
4. ,, ...	729	10,935
5. ,, ...	544½	8,167½
6. ,, ...	279	4,185
7. Manager's room	279	4,185
8. Writers' ,, ...	530⅞	7,963⅛
9. Deputy Manager's room	696 1/16	10,450 5/16
10. Pay Examiner's ,, ...	496	7,440
11. Assistant ,, ,, ...	279¼	4,126⅞
Total ...	5,182 5/16	78,734 11/16

Third Story—

	Superficial area.	Cubic feet.
1. Controller of Military Accounts' room ...	536½	5,177⅜
	288	4,392
	573⅜	8,744
	286¼	4,372 15/16
	286¾	4,372 15/16
	559⅛	8,534¼
	841¾	12,836 1/16
	675½	10,301⅛
	936	14,274
Total ...	4,984	76,006

The total cubic space in the upper stories is 154,740, and allowing 1,800 to each man, the building would furnish room for 85 men. The basement story is so shut in as to be useless for barrack purposes. Considerable alterations would be necessary to make the building habitable. Many of the partitions between the rooms would have to be removed and the walls perforated for ventilation. If that were done, barrack rooms, certainly superior to those in the basement story of the king's barracks, could be provided.

A block family quarters, two stories high would contain forty-four families. It is at present used chiefly for single men of Royal Artillery and South Wales Borderers a few families only being in occupation.

C block family quarters is three stories high and gives room for twenty-seven families. They are fairly good.

D block family quarters has space for nine families. B block has twenty-seven families.

Station Hospital, Madras.

The situation of the hospital is very faulty. An ill-smelling river on one side, a noisy and dusty road on the other. It is part of the General Hospital and the wards, particularly those on the upper story, are well ventilated and cheerful-looking.

On the ground floor.—Two rooms, marked M each, with the following dimensions :—superficial area 1,594, cubic space 24,715. One of the rooms is used as a detained ward, the other as an office. Each has accommodation for ten beds.

One room, N, with space area and accommodation as above. The half of N room and the half of O room will be combined shortly to form a special ward for military prisoners. The remaining halves will be allotted to librarian and special orderlies' rooms and smoking room.

The guard room and prisoners' ward combined—superficial area 1,244, cubic space 19,285. Strength of guard is one non-commissioned officer and three men. Prisoners' ward has four beds.

Matron's quarters—superficial area 809, cubic feet 12,551. It will be observed that the whole of the lower story is used for such purposes as detained wards, prisoners' wards, purveyor's store rooms, medical store room, guard room, surgery, office, &c., while the upper story only is reserved for the treatment of men sick.

The dimensions of these wards are as follow :—

Number of ward.	Superficial area.	Cubic feet.	Number of patients.	
J	1,620	27,945	11	
N	1,620	27,945	11	
N. C. O.'s	810	13,972	6	
I	810	13,972	...	Reading room.
Another ward	810	13,972	5	
,, ,, ...	810	13,972	5	
G	1,620	27,945	11	
F	1,620	27,945	11	
		Total ...	60	

Female Wards.

These wards are also on the upper story of the same building.

A ward, superficial area 410, cubic space 7,072, patients two. This ward is simply a passageway and is quite unfit for accommodation of sick.

C ward, superficial area 1,175 feet, cubic space 20,268, patients eight, for the treatment of general diseases.

E ward, superficial area 1,620, cubic space 27,945, patients eleven.

D ward, superficial area 420, cubic space 7,245, patients three, used as lying-in wards.

The total accommodation may be given thus—

Basement ...	33 beds.
Upper story ...	62 ,,
	95 beds for men.
	22 ,, for women and children.
Total ...	117 beds for all classes.

There is no infectious hospital. A small ward of eight beds on basement next to the guard room is occasionally used for this purpose in such cases as itch, &c., but men suffering from such diseases as small-pox are treated, from necessity, in tents pitched between the hospital and the river.

A special infectious disease ward for men and one also for women and children are much required and the suggestion was not long ago submitted to the annual Barrack Committee.

After visiting the three stations, viz., Madras, St. Thomas' Mount and Poonamallee, an opinion was formed that the general sanitary conditions of Madras were in every way inferior to the others, and to ascertain the effect on the health of the men of the different stations the returns of sick were examined and compared. The following groups of disease are tabulated, viz.:—Febrile group, syphilitic disease (primary and secondary), diseases of the digestive system, chiefly dysentery, diarrhœa, dyspepsia and hepatic diseases and diseases of urinary system, consisting chiefly of gonorrhœa and its sequelæ.

——	Per 1,000 of strength.				Deaths.	Invalided.
	Febrile group.	Syphilitic diseases.	Digestive system.	Urinary system.		
Madras	198·3	207·4	356·5	251·3	13·7	44·5
St. Thomas' Mount ...	261·3	283	476·4	297·2	19·6	63·5
Poonamallee	213·1	138·1	714·1	88·7	36·3	197·8

It has to be noted, in reference to the above table, that it has been calculated for the years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, and that the diseases of the digestive system form the bulk of the total admissions to Poonamallee, and, excepting that class of cases, Poonamallee stands out prominently as the healthiest of the three stations under consideration. This is particularly the case in venereal diseases. Taking syphilis and gonorrhœa, we find the admissions per 1,000 of strength to be as follow :—

Madras	459·2
St. Thomas' Mount	580·2
Poonamallee	226·8

It is not quite apparent why St. Thomas' Mount should be so unhealthy and the causes can only be guessed at. The barracks are far and away better than the others and the place itself

is unobjectionable. There is, it is stated, a good deal of intemperance, not perhaps of a nature to excite notice, but certain in time to create disease, and amongst a female population, somewhat limited in numbers, a vast amount of venereal disease probably exists. The influence of resident pensioners, twenty in number, is probably unfavorable as leading to and maintaining habits of intemperance.

The conclusions arrived at are that no more men should be placed in Fort St. George, but rather that the number should be diminished.

The rooms in the basement of the king's barracks are unhealthy from bad ventilation. They are surrounded by the high fort walls on the north, and the canteen, with its contiguous buildings, on the east side.

In the buildings at present occupied by the Controller and Pay Examiners about eighty-five men might, after alteration, be fairly well accommodated and increased space for single men might be found in the married quarters.

Considering how desirable it is that patients should be treated in an upstair ward, a departure from the present custom is not recommended and additional hospital space is not available at Madras.

So far as barrack accommodation is concerned, St. Thomas' Mount possesses many advantages and the Poonamallee convalescents could easily be housed. The hospital is, however, small and fit for present wants only.

Poonamallee, in point of climate, is, for a particular class of diseases, a proved success. Its hospital is magnificent and its barracks capable of improvement.

The convalescents are removed from the influences of other soldiers, and also, in a great measure, from the risks of syphilitic and other diseases.

For the reasons already stated, the committee are unanimous in the opinion that the convalescent depôt at Poonamallee should be retained.

No. 118. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1884, No. 6160.

In consideration of the opinions expressed by the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, and the conclusion arrived at by the Board of Medical Officers assembled under Dr. Madden's orders, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is not prepared to sanction the abandonment of Poonamallee as a depôt and sanitarium for British troops.

2. It is observed that Poonamallee is shown to possess advantages which render it peculiarly suitable for patients suffering from organic diseases incidental to service in India; hospital accommodation, new quarters, and improvements to the barracks have been effected at considerable expense; and from the reports submitted, it is clear that accommodation could not be provided either at Madras or St. Thomas' Mount for the invalids and convalescents now received at Poonamallee without additional and indefinite outlay.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Lt.-Col.,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces.
" Commissary-General.
" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Adjutant-General, for information.

Exd. P. L. Persim.

3297
21

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

MILITARY.

To

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

Dated December, 10th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 10th December 1884, No. 6160.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 114—118.

2797 tv

Sanitary.

Poonamallee.—Proposal to abandon — as a depôt and sanitarium for British troops, negatived.

9790

For G. No. 32974

MEMORANDUM.

3297/27

Communication

REQUESTED for ~~reference~~ the undermentioned papers:—

1 spare copy of G.O. no 6160 of 10-12-84.

A. Sarsfield
Chief Asst

PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARIAT,
5-12 1887.

To

The Chief Asst Military Dept.

Ey 19, 5 Goombay
the balance of
the available
grant for Mayor
works, will be
provided in
the Budget.

The ay is being
sanction for
the Barracks
of the Commanding
quarters at
Poonamallee
amounting to
Rs 270,50 C X
vide (G. No 4653
of 19th July) 1887

X Plaze re... at...
Poonamallee ...
...

[illegible]
2/12

Form No. 23 A. / 10 B.

Quarter Master General's Office,
Ootacamund,
23rd November 1887.

No. 4574 A.

3297
28

From
Brigadier-General E. Faunce,
Quarter Master General,

To
The Secretary to Government
Mily. Department.

Sir,

The want of suitable accommodation for British Troops, at Poonamallee, has been prominently brought to the notice of the Commander in Chief of late, and having given the matter his careful consideration, His Excellency desires me to submit his opinion that, the new Barracks at that station, foundations of which were laid

50

so long ago as 1879, should be pro-
-ceeded with as soon as possible.

2. The work would have been undertaken in 1884/85, but was held in abeyance* when proposals for the abolition of Poonamallee as a British Depot and Sanitarium, were under consideration, and though a year later* a decision against this proposal was given, pressing demands elsewhere have interfered to prevent the revival hitherto of the project to build new Barracks there.

3. The existing Barracks at Poonamallee were condemned

years

* P.G. 5149 of 21st Septr 83 (P.W.D. No. 2553 of 10th Septr 83)

* P.G. 6160 of 10th Decr 84

years ago; they nominally accommodate 100 men but the rooms, which are very narrow and badly ventilated, do not contain the regulated space for more than 80 men, whereas, the average strength of the depot on the 1st day of each month in the years 1886 and 1887, has been 156 and 186 respectively.

4. The improvement of the existing Barracks has been thought of, but while it would be necessary to spend a large sum upon them (Rs 15000 odd) it seems doubtful whether any decided advantage would result,

and

and at all events, their capacity would not be increased.

5. The want of accommodation for troops, in Fort Saint George, and the condemnation of the old Barracks at Saint Thomas Mount, make it essential that additional accommodation should be provided as soon as possible at Poonamallee, not only that Convalescents may be suitably housed, and the number of these is likely to be larger than ever, now that troops of the Madras Establishment are employed in Upper as well as in Lower

Burmah

Burma, but that the large number of details passing to and fro, between Bombay and Burma in the trooping season, may be provided with accommodation during the time they are necessarily detained prior to embarkation, or after disembarkation at Madras.

32 97/26

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedt. Servant,

D. J. S. McLeod Lieut Col

Dy. Quarter Mast. Genl

GM

P.G. 20.2.77, No. 332/33 R
" 31.3.77 " 687-688 R
" 31.10.77 " 587-508 R
" 20.11.78 " 292-73 R
Former papers.
P.G. 23.8.83, No. 421/22 R
" 21.9.83, " 321/22 R
" 10.12.84, " 114/115 –

MILITARY (1887) DEPARTMENT.

No. 8242
3297/27

From
The Qr. Mr. General

No. 4574 A

Fort St. George
29 Nov. 1887

No 7503

Dated 23. 11. 87.
Recd. 25. 11. 87.
Registered

Enclosures nil

P. G., No. , dated

Transferred to the Public Works Department for information of necessary action
By Order
A Kenney Herbert. Offg. Secy to Govt. Mily. Dept.

Re Completion of the Barracks at Poonamallee.

Note with reply of P.W. Dept. 8.10.12.84

No.

No. 3297 W of 2nd Dept.

3297/28

Communicated to the Supply Engr V Circle for information and guidance.

2. It is proposed to provide an allotment of Rs 19,560 for the work in the Military Works Budget for 1888-89.

[illegible] 2.12.87

[illegible] 2/12/87

The expenditure up to date amounts to Rs 6648-10
The total of E.A. is 270,506; for the items under Barrack Rs 160,00[illegible]
The cost seems very great for the accommodation of 800 men only

S.E. V Circle
Mily Dept.

[illegible] 12/12

Govt. of [1887] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

25/12/87

Date

Date

G.O. 20 Dec 1887, No. 3297 W.

Barracks at Poonamallee

Letter from the Ex. Wr. Genl. urging the early construction of the ~~~~~ Sent to the Supdg. Engr. N. Cirle, with remarks that Rs. ~~~~ 19540 will be provided in the Budget for 1888/89 for the work.

10/14

53/2