Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 2124 W

DATED 11 August 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Form of Pump & well-attachment to wells

Letter from the Quarter-master General in India relating to the arrangements for supplying a suitable form of from which drinking water is drawn for British Troops in Cantonments and on the line of march

Copied to the S.E. IV Circle-

T
B
Indexed. 19/8

[P. W. 2 2,000—20-2-97.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

PW (189 1) Department.

CURRENT No. 6299

From

The Quarter master General in India

B/ No: 2124 W 8-11-89

No. 2744 B

Communicated to the Supty. Engr, IV Circle.

Dated 15.7.97

Received at Ootacamund

Registered at Madras 2.8.97

Enclosures Plans 2 others 2 3 Sets 2

Spare copies 10

Note There are Military Works in charge of the P.W.D. in the I, IV & VII Circles, but the IV Circle alone is in which there are Cantonments with British troops viz:- Coonoor, Cudal, & Mettupalayam.

SUBJECT.

Form of pump & well - attachment to well.

Relating to the arrangements for supplying a suitable from which drinking water is drawn for British troops units in Cantonments and on the line of march.

To

The Supty. Engr., IV Circle with 8 spare copies.

[P. W. 29. 1,000—28-6-99.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 1683-G. M.-W., "Cantonments Water-Supply" dated Fort William, the 14th February 1899.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,

To—The Quarter Master General in India.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 394-B., dated 8th February 1899, relative to the improvement of the present method of drawing and distributing to barracks, etc., the drinking and cooking water required for British troops in those cantonments in which either a pipe water-supply has not been installed, or in which filtering tanks, with iron buckets for distribution, have not been provided.

2. It is said that many years must elapse before all the cantonments can be completed with a pipe water-supply, and that, in the meantime, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief considers it a matter of the first importance to abolish the use of the leather vessels for either drawing or distributing the water required for potable purposes. His Excellency, therefore, recommends that as a first step towards the abolition of the use of leather vessels in connection with the drinking and cooking water-supply to British troops, and as an *ad interim* measure pending the introduction of pipe supplies, sufficient number of wells in each set of lines be selected and provided with pumps for drawing the water.

3. In reply, I am to say that the Government of India accept His Excellency's recommendation.

4. I am to add that the requirements of each set of lines should be carefully considered by the local Military authorities and carried to execution as funds are forthcoming for the purpose, the expenditure being chargeable against the Military Works Grant.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 298. Q. M. G.—23-7-99.—400.

No. 1882-B., dated Simla, the 27th June 1899.

From—The Director-General of Military Works,

To—The Quarter Master General in India.

With reference to your No. 688-B, of the 3rd March 1899, I have the honour to submit, for the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in Chief, letter* No. 1451-C, of the 12th June 1899, from the Chief Engineer, Bengal Command, with enclosures, and to state that the proposal to fix pumps in wells in cantonments is in accordance with the sanction accorded in Military Department letter No. 1683-G. M.-W., of the 14th February 1899, but I do not understand that it would apply to Meerut where a proper system of pipe supply is being introduced and for the completion of which funds have been provided in the current year's Budget.

* Return requested.

2. The provision of portable pumps and tanks for use by regiments on the line of march appears to be a new idea, and, if it could be worked, would be a good one, but there seem to be some decided objections to the proposals as now submitted.

(*a*) Where, as often happens, the surface of the water in the well is more than 15 ft. from the ground, the pumps instead of being placed on a platform would have to be lowered either into the well or into a pit at the side.

(*b*) It is not shown what labour is to be employed. At Muttra, where the water is 47 ft. below the ground level, it was found necessary to employ 6 men for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to raise 600 gallons.

(*c*) Where the camping-ground wells are Government property, there would be no difficulty about covering them in, but where they belong to the zamindars, objections would certainly be raised to an arrangement that would prevent their using ordinary charsas.

(*d*) With wells closed in the manner proposed, it would not be practicable to draw water without a pump and if the latter only arrived with a regiment, it would not be possible to clean out and work the wells before its arrival as is usually considered necessary.

G. C. Press, Simla—No. 297-Q. M. G.—23-7-99—400.

No. 2744-B.

Office of Quarter Master General in India,

ARMY HEAD QUARTERS;

Simla, 19th July 1899.

Dc afpd: 24-

To

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MILITARY WORKS,

SIMLA.

Cantonments—Water-Supply.
Camps.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1882-B., dated 27th June 1899, referring for the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, with your observations thereon, a communication from the Chief Engineer, Bengal Command, regarding arrangements for supplying a suitable form of pump and well-attachment to wells from which drinking water is drawn for British troops both in cantonments and on the line of march.

Enclosures returned.

2. In reply, I am to say that, for a permanent arrangement for use in cantonments unprovided with a pipe water-supply, the Commander-in-Chief considers the proposals made by Colonel Spratt, R. E., are suitable, and His Excellency will be glad if you will kindly communicate them to the Chief Engineers of the Punjab, Madras, and Bombay Commands, as also to such Local Governments and Administrations as may be in charge of military works in cantonments having a British garrison. The pump and well-attachment should, however, in all cases be treated as part of the well.

3. With regard to the provision of pumps and well-attachments for wells in encamping grounds, I am to say, that, for the reasons stated in your letter, His Excellency considers this will be impracticable. Reliance must, therefore, be placed by troops on the line of march on the boiling of all water required for drinking and culinary purposes, and its treatment with permanganate of potash should the medical authorities consider this also necessary; the attention of the military authorities will be drawn to this point. At encamping grounds, which are the property of the State, on frequented routes, the wells might be provided with wooden covers with trap-doors in them, with a view to preventing wind-borne impurities entering the wells.

4. Finally, with regard to the proposal to provide a pump for the well used for the supply of water for the British Infantry battalion encamped at Meerut during each cold season, His Excellency considers that the pipe water-supply should be extended into the camping ground; the provision of a pump and well-attachment will, therefore, not be necessary in this case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ALFRED GASELEE, *Brigadier-General,*

Offg. Quarter Master General in India.

Nos. 2745-48-B.

MEMORANDUM—

Forwarded* (with a copy of the letter to which it replies) for information with special reference to paragraph 3. *20 Copies. 15 " 15 " 15 "

By Order,

ALFRED GASELEE, *Brigadier-General,*

Offg. Quarter Master General in India.

To the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, Punjab / Bengal / Madras / Bombay

Nos.2749-59-B.

MEMORANDUM :—

1. Military Department No. 1683-G. M. W., dated 14th February 1899.
2. Director-General, Military Works' No. 1882-B., dated 27th June 1899.

Forwarded† (with a copy of the correspondence marginally noted) for information. †15 Copies.

W. Meredith. *Colonel,*

for *Offg. Quarter Master General in India.*

To

The Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in India.
The Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Public Works Department.
" " " " " " Bengal, Public Works Department.
" " " " " " Madras, Public Works Department.
" " " " " " Bombay, Public Works Department.
" " " " " " North Western Provinces and Oudh, Public Works Department.
" " " " " " Burma, Public Works Department.
" " " " Chief Commissioner Central Provinces, Public Works Department.
" " " " Chief Commissioner, Assam, Public Works Department.
" " " " Agents to the Governor General in Rajputana, and Central India, Public Works Department.
" " " " Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan, Public Works Department.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 291 Q. M. G.—21-7-99.—400.