M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1592	**Press** ~~**Mis.**~~
26-27		
Dated	November 22, 1859.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 26. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department; dated 16th November 1859, No. 4068.

Ordering that the Chief Engineer be instructed to call for and submit a plan and estimate for laying out the Fort of Masulipatam as a commercial entrepôt and that the duties of the Military Police at that station be transferred to the Collector and Magistrate.

(Vide Military Proceedings from 11th to 19th November 1859, Nos. 244-245.)

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 22d November 1859, No. 1592.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for information.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.

Read the following Minute by the Honorable the President.

(Here enter 15th October 1859.)

ORDER, THEREON, 18th October 1859, No. 1580.

Ordered that paragraphs 1 at 24 of the foregoing Minute be communicated to the Public Works Department, and paragraphs 17 and 32 at 34 to the Revenue Department.

2. Ordered also, that paragraphs 23 at 27 be communicated to the Military Department.

3. Copy of paragraph 35 will be furnished to the Director of Public Instruction.

4. And paragraph 36 will be communicated to Colonel Arthur Cotton.

5. Ordered further that copy of the Minute be forwarded by the next Mail to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, and that he be informed that the Proceedings of Government on the several proposals therein contained will be duly reported in the Departments to which they respectively relate, and to which they have been referred for consideration and disposal.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Extract from a Minute by the Honorable the President, dated 15th October 1859.

Para. 23. Masulipatam was formerly a place of great Military and commercial importance. The Military Force is now reduced to a single Regiment ; and the cotton manufacture, for which Masulipatam was so famous, has been nearly extinguished by Manchester. There is, however, still an industrious, well affected population of between 40,000 and 50,000 persons ; and as the canal from Bezwarra, which will connect Masulipatam with the interior system of navigation, is nearly completed, this ancient city will soon enter upon a new career. As if to illustrate the wonderful change which this will make, we saw, shortly before we entered the city, carriages containing Military Stores fixed in the so-called road (which was only a ridge of black cotton soil converted by the rain into mud,) notwithstanding the painful efforts made by long trains of bullocks assisted by labourers. More than one wealthy and spirited Native is already building passage and cargo boats to navigate the canals.

24. A remarkable feature of this place is the Fort. This was the ancient stronghold of our nation in the Northern Sirkars. It consists of a spacious, elevated platform, surrounded with a handsome brick wall and well revetted ditch, and flanked by bastions at the angles. A guard is still maintained at the gate, but breaches are left unguarded up which a company could march abreast. In short, as a Military arrangement, the Fort has become entirely obsolete, and has degenerated into a farce and a nuisance. A Military guard has to be constantly furnished from the modern cantonment, which is more than three miles off. There is a Fort Adjutant, with scarcely any duty except an occasional formal visit to the so called Fort. There is the more serious waste of a Commissariat Bazar, with a Kotwal and Police Establishment, according to the antiquated model, in all seventy-five persons, whose duties might be much better done by the Collector and Magistrate : and lastly, there is an Arsenal, complete in all the departments of such an establishment, and furnishing nominal employment to 138 persons; which was, no doubt, useful when communication with Madras was precarious, and there was a large force at Masulipatam, but is now entirely out of date and place. It would be more conducive to safety, economy, and efficiency, to consolidate this with the Arsenal at Fort Saint George, and to confine ourselves to having on this coast, proper means of unloading and forwarding Stores to Hyderabad, or wherever else they may be wanted in the interior.

25. The lower end of the canal is to be connected with the sea on one side of the Fort. In my opinion, this magnificent platform should be given up entirely to commercial purposes, for which it is admirably suited ; the ditch should be converted into a circular canal ; and, after proper reserves have been made for public purposes, the interior should be sold for warehouses and dwelling houses. There is a large church, which is now nearly deserted. The European barracks and hospital are so commodious and substantial, as to make it evident that our ancestors were not so insensible to the health of the Troops, as they are now generally reputed to have been. The hospital is well adapted for an Exchange, while the adjoining barracks and officers' square are admirably suited for public warehouses. There is a building in front of the principal landing place which may be used as a Custom House. As the Fort is the nearest land to the mouth of the canal, and is otherwise well adapted for a mercantile station, there can be no question as to the great public convenience of these arrangements. The adjoining marshes would soon be converted into gardens ; and the bar is so narrow, that dredging and buoying would make the place accessible to ships of considerable size. The Kishna has not turned round upon the adjoining ports of late years in the way the Godávari has.

26. After full consideration therefore, I make the following proposals :—

1st. That the old Fort of Masulipatam should cease to be occupied as a Military station, and should be appropriated to mercantile purposes ;

2nd. That the Arsenal should be consolidated with the Arsenal of Fort Saint George ;

3rd. That the Commissariat Establishment at Masulipatam should be broken up ;

4th. That the arrangements which have been already commenced for the transhipment of Military Stores into the interior from Cocanada should be completed ; and

5th. That a plan and estimate should be framed for laying out the Fort of Masulipatam as a commercial entrepôt, with the understanding that the sums realised by the sale of the land will be available as far as they may be required, for local improvements.

27. It will be seen, from the following Extract from a Minute recorded by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, on the occasion of his Inspection in February 1859, how entirely my recommendations accord with Sir Patrick Grant's views :—

"Masulipatam is a station for one Regiment of Native Infantry, and small Detail of Artillerymen (12 Europeans and the same number of Golundauze are now here). There is an old Fort, in a state of hopeless dilapidation, and the sooner it crumbles away and is abandoned the better. Inside this Fort, there is a rather extensive Arsenal, containing at this moment, 3000 stands of Percussion Muskets, 15 serviceable Siege Guns complete with Carriages, some 10 or 12 partially unserviceable heavy Guns (all Iron), and four 6 Pounders complete with Waggons and Limbers. There are likewise two capacious Magazines, in one of which an immense supply of Ammunition is now deposited. I consider that no such Depôts are required here, and I very strongly recommend that they may cease to be maintained. If the prescribed supply of Ammunition, *i. e.* 500 rounds per Piece of Ordnance and small Arm, is strictly kept up at the head quarters of the Hyderabad and Nagpore Forces, a permanent Arsenal, Magazine, or Depôt, at any intermediate point between the Grand Arsenal at Madras and those Forces, is, in my judgment, not only unnecessary, but highly objectionable. Let us have no large Depôts for munitions of war and Military Stores, where there is neither a fortified Post, nor a European Force effectually to protect them. Complete the water communication from the Coast to Beizwarrah, and erect a few inexpensive buildings at the Port of landing to protect the Stores while being transferred to the Boats from Ship-board, and every essential requirement will be amply met.

"The Native Infantry Lines are upwards of four miles from the Fort, so that the Details for Fort duty, (110 Rank and file,) have to march that distance daily to reach their Posts !"

No. 213. ORDER, No. 4068, *16th November* 1859.

The Governor in Council considers it advisable that the Fort of Masulipatam should be, abandoned as a Military Station, and given up for commercial purposes, together with such Military buildings within it as may not be required for Convalescent Soldiers sent from Secunderabad for their health : His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be requested to inform Government, whether any and what buildings will have to be retained for this purpose.

2. Application will be made to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, for the requisite authority to abandon the Fort and appropriate it in the manner suggested by the Honorable the President. On the same being accorded, the measures designed, as specified in paragraph 25, will be considered in the Revenue Department. Meanwhile, in accordance with the proposition in the 5th clause of para. 26, the Chief Engineer will be instructed to call for and submit a plan and estimate for laying out the Fort as a commercial entrepôt, with the understanding that the sums realised by the sale of the land will be available, as far as they may be required for local improvements.—The Plan and Estimate will be forwarded to the Revenue Department, whence further instructions on the subject will be issued.

3. The Arsenal there, may also be abolished, and the supplies of Stores, hitherto made from it, dispatched from the Arsenal of Fort Saint George as soon as suitable arrrangements for the transhipment of Stores at Cocanada, with a view to their transport into the interior, have been effected. The Chief Engineer was instructed in the Public Works Department, under date the 21st June 1859, No. 1521, to submit Plans and Estimates for the Buildings &c. necessary for rendering the transit arrangements complete, and, in communication with the Commissary General, to determine the proper place for the Depôt on the Godàvari. These two Officers and the Inspector General of Ordnance are desired to make an early report in order that there may be no unnecessary delay in breaking up the Arsenal and Commissariat Establishments at Masulipatam. Further experience of the subject convinces the Government, that what is wanted is, not expensive Buildings or Establishments at Cocanada, but a constant command of conveyance by steam between Madras and that place, and facile means of transhipment and communication by water with the interior. This Government has been empowered by recent instructions from the Secretary of State for India, to make every necessary arrangement for maintaining a line of Steamers with the Northern Ports, and the communication with the interior from Cocanada, by the Delta Canals and the Godàvari, is open to a considerable extent and is continually inproving.

4. Masulipatam was discontinued as a station for a Brigade, in G. O. G. 29th April 1859, No. 166. It will likewise cease to be a Military Bazar station, and the duties now performed by the Military Police will be transferred to the Collector and Magistrate as soon as possible ; the Commissary General will communicate with the Collector, and report to Government when this arrangement can be made, and his establishment withdrawn in order that the usual notification may be made in G. O.

5. Paras. 23 to 27 of the Honorable the President's Minute will be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief, and to Departments ; and the Military Auditor General will, in communication with the Adjutant General, Quarter Master General, Inspector General of Ordnance and Commissary General, report what will be the amount of the immediate and the probable future reductions of expenditure effected by the above measures.

A copy of this order will be furnished to the Military Finance Commission.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.
,, Quarter Master General.
,, Adjutant General.
,, Revenue Department. *With 10 spare Copies.*
,, Department Public Works.
,, Chief Engineer.
,, Inspector General of Ordnance.
,, Commissary General.
,, Military Auditor General.
,, Accountant General.
,, Superintendent of Marine. } for information.
,, Director General Medical Department.
,, Military Finance Commission.

Exd. J. Davis.

Revenue 1859 Depart.
Pro: of Govt 30 Novr.

№ 2127

Proceedings of the Madras
Govt in the Military Dept

Dated 16 November 1859
Rect 19

Ordering that the
Chief Sup.t be instructed
to call for & submit
a Plan & Estimate for
laying out the Fort of
Masulipatam as a
Commercial Entrepôt
and that the duties of
the Military Police at
that station be trans:
ferred to the Collr &
Magte.

№ 1592. 22 November
With a/c Order

Proof the Madras Govt
in the Military Depart
of 16 January 1860 Cl № 221 in
21 January 1860

№ 26 & 27.

№ 1592.

Ordered to be communi-
cated to the Board of Revenue for
information.

Fort St Geo:
22 Novr 1859.

5 Copies. Board of Revenue Cons. 22 Nov.