M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1864 Press ~~Mis.~~

178. 179

Dated 11— 8. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th August 1865.

No. 178. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Communicating a Minute by His Excellency the President, in view to orders being issued from this Department for prohibiting the practice of lifting the water from the tank situated at the northern end of the village of Oossoor, for irrigation purposes. } (Here enter 7th August 1865, No. 2,893.)

No. 179. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1865, No. 1,864.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to paragraph 3 of the Order in the Military Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Military Department, No. 2,893.

Lxd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following:—

Minute by His Excellency the President.

OOSSOOR.

I have been over the Establishment and have been much pleased with the mode in which the whole is conducted. There are at present two well marked divisions of the work performed, the Remount Establishment and the Farm, and I purpose to make a few observations upon each of these.

Remount Establishment.—The plan of castrating all the stallions, which has been carried out for 16 years, appears to answer admirably. The loss is very trifling from the operation; the capability of the horses to stand their ordinary work does not appear to be appreciably lessened; and the Government has this very great advantage, that it is able to purchase mares, and, therefore, its power of selection is nearly doubled: as, too, the mares when purchased, are often in foal, the Government gets, for the price of the mare, a good animal and a young foal. Several of these are now on the books of the Depôt, and bid fare to become very useful animals, having practically cost the Government nothing but their keep.

About 4 per cent.

There are stables for about 240 horses, exclusive of the sick lines; but as the average number of horses at this time of year will be about 540,—300 or thereabouts, are obliged to be picketed out. It is now proposed to shelter all the Cavalry and [illegible] from the weather; and it would be advisable to provide cover for the horses at the Depôt, especially as these are, to the extent of at least one-half, newly landed from on boardship, and are in no way acclimatized. I think, therefore, that it would be wise to direct Colonel Thompson, to call upon the Superintending Engineer to provide plans and estimates, for the erection of such ranges of stabling as would be sufficient to accommodate the Horses which, from want of stable-room, are now necessarily picketed out.

The Superintending Engineer should be directed to put himself into communication with Colonel Thompson, and to receive instructions from him, as to the most convenient site for the stables, the plan which will suit the climate best, &c., &c.

Complaints have been made as to the character and amount of the supply of water, not only for the horses, but also for the large population grouped about the Depôt, which consists principally of horse-keepers and their families, and other persons connected, more or less immediately with the establishment. Colonel Thompson applied to the Government to reserve the whole of the water of a tank, situated at the Northern end of the village, for the use of the horses and the people, and the Sub-Collector of the district was directed to ascertain the probable cost of compensating the villagers, for the loss which they would suffer from being deprived of the water, and the loss to the Government of the difference between nunjah and poonjah cultivation. This Mr. Thomas put (I think) at 19,000 Rupees for Compensation, and 500 Rupees annually for loss of assessment.

I have gone carefully into the whole question; have examined the sources of water supply; have conversed with Mr. Thomas on the subject; and am now prepared to make some specific recommendations with reference to the mode of providing a sufficient supply of water, both for the horses and the people connected with the Establishment.

I find that the rain-fall may be safely *averaged* at 24 inches; and as each horse may be supposed to consume 1 cubic foot, or $6\frac{1}{4}$ gallons, per day, a catch of $\frac{365}{2} = 182\frac{1}{2}$ square feet would be sufficient to supply all his wants so far as drinking is concerned. Now the length of a Stall should be 12 feet, and the width of the verandah in front, with the projection of the eaves, would be 9 or 10 feet, say 22 feet altogether, while the width of the stall, being 9 feet in the clear, a width required for the long Australian horses, would be 10 feet from centre to centre of the dividing walls, so that $10 \times 22 = 220$ feet, and the rain caught would be $220 \times 2 = 440$ cubic feet, $= 7\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per day per horse. I should, therefore, propose that arrangements should be made for catching the rain water, and conveying it into two tanks, one in the centre and one at the lower end of the ranges of stables; that these tanks should be covered, to lessen the evaporation of the water; and that a drinking trough, and pump to fill it, should be attached to each tank. As regards the tank which Colonel Thompson wished to reserve for the use of the Depôt, I find from conversation with Mr. Thomas and actual inspection, that the irrigation sluices are placed some 7 or 8 feet above the bottom of the tank; but I also saw that, although the South-West monsoon has been blowing for a month or six weeks, the level of the water in the tank was, at least, 15 inches below the sill of the sluice, and that men were at work, lifting the water for the purpose of irrigating some sugar-cane, &c. below the bund. I also examined the different wells in or near the stable yards, and found that, with one exception, they were nearly dry.

I think, therefore, that, in addition to the precaution before alluded to, as regards the retention of the rain falling on the roofs of the stables, it would be as well that positive orders should be given to the Sub-Collector to prohibit the practice of lifting the water from the tank for irrigation purposes; such a practice is, obviously, opposed to the principle which regulated the construction of the tank, which decided that all the water below a certain level should be reserved for the use of the Depôt and the people residing in the neighbourhood.

I obtained from Mr. Thomas the accompanying measurements of the tank, and the calculations based upon them; but, although there may be a sufficient quantity of water, under the level of the sluice, to supply a given number of horses for a certain number of years, yet, if to the consumption by horses is added that of 3 or 4,000 people, and allowance made for evaporation, which is, at this time of year, with a high and a dry wind, not less than half an inch, I should think, daily; and also for the amount withdrawn by people lifting water for irrigation, a pair of whom will lift at least 90,000 gallons daily, the supply of water fit for the use of man or beast would very soon be reduced to a minimum.

In one of the yards there is a well with a pump for filling the drinking trough; but the power required is very far in excess of that which ought to be used, and a simpler pump should be substituted for the present one, and arrangements should be made for simplifying the machinery required for lifting water, and advantage might be taken of the wind, which blows hard during several months, to apply a wind mill for the purpose of economising the labor of lifting the water.

Farm.—The increased extent of the farm will render necessary an addition to the number of ploughs and other implements. The object is to work the farm with the means at the disposal of the Remount Agent, and to call in as little extraneous aid as possible. Colonel Thompson should, therefore, be called upon to state,

1*st.*—The area of the farm.

2*nd.*—The number and character of the implements at present in his possession.

3*rd.*—The number and character of those which, in his opinion, would be sufficient to enable him to cultivate the land with advantage, looking to the fact that the time for ploughing and sowing the standard crop of raghi is short and precarious.

When the Government receives this Report, it will be in a position to decide whether such of the implements required, as have been sent out to the different districts, shall not be forwarded to Oossoor; or whether instructions should not be given to Colonel Thompson to write to England for such as may be decided to be necessary. There will be this advantage in the latter course, that Colonel Thompson will be able to describe, to the implement-makers, the exact character of the implement he requires, with such remarks as to the works to be done, as will enable the Engineer to modify the ordinary machine, to suit the peculiarities of the soil and climate of Oossoor.

(Signed) W. DENISON.

ORDER, No. 2893, 7th August 1865.

Ordered that the foregoing Minute be communicated to the Remount Agent at Oossoor, and to the Public Works and Revenue Departments.

2. The Department of Public Works will issue the necessary instructions for ensuring the preparation, in communication with Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, of the required plans and estimates.

3. Orders will be issued in the Revenue Department, for prohibiting the practice of lifting the water from the tank situated at the Northern end of the [illegible] for irrigation purposes.

4. Lieutenant Colonel Thompson is requested to furnish information on the several points connected with the farm, detailing the particular description of implements, which it may still be necessary to have, to extend its operations.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Remount Agent, Oossoor.
" Public Works Department.
" Revenue Department. Note 20 spare copies.

J. E. Cashart.

Pen = 1865 Dispatch
Govt of India
No 2190
Proceedings of the Madras Govt in the
Military Dispatch

Dated 7th August
Received 8th " 1865

No. 2893.

Communicating a Minute by H.E. the President in view to the orders being issued from this Dept for prohibiting the practice of lifting the water from the Tank situated at the Northern end of the village of Doosoor, for irrigation purposes.

No 1864. 8 Augt

With Order

No 1864.

Communicated to the Bd of Rev: with reference to para 3 of the order in the Military Department.

14 Bd of Rev with Corr In Dpl No 2893 Dated 11th Augt

11th August/65.

No 1780179