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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

12th August 1878, No. 4067.

Cantonment—Lands.

Read the following papers :—

No. 216. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, c.s.i., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 27th May 1878, No. 215.*

I have the honor, by order, to forward, for submission to Government, the documents, as per margin, regarding the proposed acquirement by the Military of some fields near the site for the new barracks at Poonamallee.

Letter from Commandant, Poonamallee, No. 809, dated 24th November 1877, and No. 329, dated 13th May 1878.

Letter from the Deputy Collector, Chingleput District, No. 32, dated 31st January 1878, with endorsement by Collector.

Letter from Major-General Commanding Centre District, No. 79, dated 18th May 1878.

Plan.

2. Two reasons are urged by the Commandant of the Poonamallee Depot why this piece of ground should be transferred to the Military, viz., the objection of having cultivation so near the barracks, and the advantage of substituting a tank and a grove of useful trees.

3. The cost will be trifling—Rupees 264-1-7—as stated in the Deputy Collector's letter.

4. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief recommends that the proposal be sanctioned.

No. 217. *With report from the Controller of Mily. Accounts, 17th June 1878, A.*

No. 218. *From Brigadier-General H. O'CONNELL, Quartermaster-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, c.s.i., Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 24th July 1878, No. 603.*

In continuation of this office letter, No. 215, dated 27th May 1878, I have the honor, by order, to forward, for submission to Government, the correspondence as per margin, regarding wet cultivation in the cantonment of Poonamallee.

Letter, No. 245, dated 10th June 1878, from Medical Officer, Poonamallee.

Certificate, dated 11th June 1878, from Surgeon Eagan.

Letter, No. 314, dated 24th June 1878, from Magistrate, Chingleput District.

Letter, No. 279, dated 13th July 1878, from Surgeon-Major Waters.

Letter, No. 413, dated 13th July 1878, from Commandant, Poonamallee.

2. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief directed me to call for certain information regarding the cultivation in the cantonment of Poonamallee, and in reply to these enquiries, the correspondence now forwarded was submitted.

3. The Commandant of Poonamallee has been warned not to exceed his powers in the matter of prohibiting wet cultivation in the cantonment, but to await the orders of Government.

From Major F. W. HAMILTON, Commandant, Poonamallee, to the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, Centre District; dated Poonamallee, 13th July 1878, No. 413.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of letter, No. 496-4481, dated 8th instant, from the Quartermaster-General, herewith returned, and beg to report that cultivation on the piece of ground in question is objectionable because it is so very close to the site on which the new barracks are to be built, the distance being within 50 yards; the next nearest piece of cultivated land is about 400 yards off.

2. General Raikes at his inspection approved of my suggestion about the cultivation of the ground being stopped and a tank being excavated, and on the occasion of the Commander-in-Chief's visit, His Excellency was pleased to approve of the same, and the Quartermaster-General also approved of it.

3. With reference to paragraph 2, I have the honor to enclose two letters\* from Surgeon-

\* Marked B.  
Letter marked D.

Major Waters, Senior Medical Officer at this depôt, and beg to state that I have issued notices to all cultivators to stop all wet cultivation within the limits of the cantonment. I strongly recommend for the support of His Excellency the advice of Surgeon-Major Waters, that no wet cultivation should be permitted within the limits of one mile outside the boundaries of the cantonment.

4. The Natives here have a filthy custom of bribing the toties to throw fresh night-soil on their paddy fields, and the stench for some days is perfectly horrible. I have severely punished offenders when I can catch them; I believe it is done at night, so I can rarely secure the culprits. The other day going round the paddy fields in cantonment limits, the presence of fresh night-soil floating on the water was palpable to nose and eyes, yet the Natives declared I was mistaken. I beg to annex a statement marked A with reference to the condition of certain fields visited by me and the Medical Officers in this station. I do not believe the Natives here will cease to use fresh night soil as long as wet cultivation is permitted, and I therefore trust that His Excellency will give his powerful support to Dr. Waters' recommendation about no wet cultivation being permitted within the space of one mile outside the limits of the boundary of the cantonment.

5. I addressed the Collector on this subject, and his answer is herewith attached, marked C.

6. With reference to the last paragraph of Quartermaster-General's letter, I am of opinion that it will take a gang of nine men at 3 Annas per diem and forty-eight women at 1½ Annas twelve weeks, working six days a-week, to excavate a tank and fill up the hollow. This, at a rate of Rupees 37-2-0 per week, would make a total of Rupees 445-8-0; the cost of planting a grove of trees would be about 10 Rupees, as the labor would be performed by the cantonment coolies.

No. 132-G.

Forwarded to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George, for information, having reference to his No. 496-4481, of 8th July 1878.

An approximate estimate for filling up and digging the tanks therein referred to will be furnished as soon as it is received from the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, who has been called upon for the same.

HEAD QUARTERS,  
MADRAS, 17th July 1878.

(Signed) C. M. J. THORNTON, Colonel,  
Commanding Centre District.

No. 219.

ORDER THEREON, 12th August 1878, No. 4067.

His Grace the Governor in Council sanctions the land in question near the site of the new barracks at Poonamallee being taken up, through the agency of the Public Works Department, and transferred to the Military authorities. The cost of the land will be a Military charge.

2. A detailed estimate for filling up the present tank, excavating a new one, and planting trees, will be called for in the Public Works Department.

3. The proposal to interdict all wet cultivation within the limits of the cantonment cannot be entertained. Any nuisances caused by manuring with fresh night-soil can be dealt with by the Magistrate.

(True Extract.)

*Michael*

Colonel,

Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General, with four enclosures.  
" Public Works Department, with four enclosures and plan.  
" Controller of Military Accounts  
" Revenue Department. *with 5 of copy*

A. Raitt.

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Revenue Department  
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Capt. of 1878, 200000.

MILITARY.

To  
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,  
Sec.,  
Sec.,  
Sec.

Dated August, 12th.

Recd. 12th.

G.O., 12th August 1878, No. 4067.

S.

AUGUST.

No. 216-219.

Sanctioning, with remarks, the land near the  
site of the new barracks at Poonamallee being  
taken up through the agency of the Public  
Works Department, and transferred to the Mil-  
itary authorities. O. S. 110

Communicated to

The Board of Revenue

10th October 1878