

1
764

Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultation

8th June 1858

Bach no. 49 + 50

Order no 764 of 7th June 1858

10 - sheets

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-1

செய்தியிடுபவர் பெயர்: வி. கெனட்ராவி

செய்தியிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் - 7/08
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்

26/11/08
சுப்பிரகீடும்
முதல் முற்பாள
கையொப்பம்

சுப்பிரகீடும்
2ம் முற்பாள
கையொப்பம்

சுப்பிரகீடும்
உதவிமுற்பாளர்
கையொப்பம்

2
764

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

No. 49. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department under date the 4th May 1858, No. 1567.

Read letter from the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters Ootacamund 29th March 1858, No. 137; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In enclosing for submission to Government, Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his recent visit to Jackatallah, I am instructed to add the following.

On Saturday the 20th Instant, His Excellency visited Jackatallah, and inspected the whole of the Buildings there, the Commander-in-Chief observes, that although too much time has already elapsed since these new Buildings were commenced, there is now a fair prospect of these being completed in a reasonable period from this time.

The Hospital, as Government is aware, has been finished for some time, and is a well constructed, roomy edifice, excellently adapted for the purpose for which it was built.

The Staff Serjeant's Quarters, which occupies the East end of the Plateau, on which the Barracks are placed, and contains Staff Serjeants' Quarters Serjeants' Mess Room, Court Martial Room, Guard Room, Quarter Master's Store Room, &c., is complete, and the various apartments are of the best description.

Nos. 1 and 2 Barracks may be counted also complete, indeed the latter has already been occupied, by a portion of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders. Nothing can exceed the excellent arrangements (with one exception to be noticed hereafter) that have been made for the comfort of the Troops, and all the Workmanship appears of the best description.

Nos. 3 and 4 Barracks are in a state of forwardness, giving promise of speedy completion, and No. 5 which occupies the West end of the Plateau has been commenced on. The numerous gangs of Workmen employed cannot fail to bring all the buildings rapidly to a conclusion. The Quarters for married men have been commenced, and large parties of Workmen, are, here too, busily employed, and the whole wears an aspect of stirring bustle, combined with arrangement and regularity that cannot but speedily lead to the desired end. Large Guns of the Hill inhabitants—Burghers, were engaged on all works not requiring especial handicraft.

Several subjects, regarding sites, were brought to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, these were all disposed of on the spot. A defect (above alluded to) in the finish of Nos. 1 and 2 Barracks was very evident, viz., that the ventilating Windows of the Upper Stories have been made to open on the Terrace, instead of inside the Upper Verandah, which has caused the latter to be of less height, than it otherwise would have been, and in rainy weather, prevents the full use of the ventilators by admitting rain, if kept open.

There is no doubt but that this arrangement is a very defective one, and it is but due to the Officers employed on the Works, to say, that it does not appear in any way attributable to them.

In Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Blocks, the Commander-in-Chief has directed the more correct plan, of having the ventilators under cover of the Verandah, to be carried out.

The subject of the Prison was set aside some time ago, but His Excellency has approved of the accompanying rough sketch, (plan) the Building will be erected at either the East or West end of the Hospital Hill.

The subject of Sewerage has engaged much of Captain Francis' attention, and the Commander-in-Chief has desired me to annex a copy of that Officer's suggestions on the subject, extracted from his letter to the Chief Engineer. Captain Francis' proposed plan, His Excellency considers worthy a trial, and should it fail, it will be requisite to adopt the more expensive arrangement of the Lake and Culvert, &c., on this head Sir Patrick Grant would beg to bring to the notice of Government the deodorizing effect of charred peat, and which might so easily be tested at Jackatallah. Perhaps the most difficult point satisfactorily to arrange in all Barracks is the Privies, and the keeping them and their neighbourhood free from offensive effluvia. The expence of a trial of the Peat, which has already been used, with success in England, would here be but trifling, and His Excellency would strongly urge the use of it at Jackatallah, until its effects shall be determined.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

The Commander-in-Chief has directed all Officers' temporary Quarters on the Hospital Hill, as well as all other buildings, the property of private individuals to be pulled down, and the Hill for the future to be kept quite clear of all, but the public Buildings belonging to the Hospital.

In explanation of the case of the Officers' temporary Quarters, His Excellency observes, that these Buildings were originally permitted to be erected by the Officers of the Detachment of Her Majesty's 84th Regiment first stationed here, on the condition that they would be liable to removal without remuneration at the expiration of one year, this period was subsequently extended, and as, on the arrival of the Wing of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders to relieve the Detachment of Her Majesty's 84th, very few houses had been erected on the compounds that had been marked out. The Officers of the 74th purchased the temporary Quarters at 100 Rupees each Quarter, on the same terms of liability of having them pulled down.

The time is now come, when their removal from the Barrack Hill is a matter of expediency, and His Excellency does not consider that by so doing any loss is sustained by the proprietors, who had their full value in occupancy.

The Commander-in-Chief again recommends to the favorable consideration of Government, the subject of Public Quarters for Officers at this station.

His Excellency is aware, that the Honorable Court did not approve of the measure, but the great distances at which Officers would have to live from the men in a necessarily irregular Cantonment, as this mountain one is, coupled with the fact that recent circumstances in India have rendered it more than ever expedient that Officers of European Regiments should be located as near as possible to their Regimental Barracks, it may be, that reviewing the matter in this light, sanction to the erection of Officers' Quarters may not be now withheld. The Quarters, His Excellency would suggest, for a Regiment, should consist of Rooms as follows. For all Officers of one of Her Majesty's Regiments of Foot.

For each Field Officer.

- 2 Sitting Rooms.
- 1 Bed Room.
- 1 Dressing Room.
- 1 Bath Room.

For each Captain.

- 1 Sitting Room.
- 1 Bed Room.
- 1 Dressing Room.
- 1 Bath Room.

For each Subaltern.

- 1 Bed Room.
- 1 Dressing Room.
- 1 Bath Room.

Public Out-offices, and stabling to the extent of one horse for every Officer attached to the Regiment, 2 for Field Officers, and 2 for the Adjutant with 4 roomy Coach Houses should be built, His Excellency would recommend the Building by Government, of a suitable Mess House to be erected, in the immediate vicinity of the Quarters, and if this should remain in the possession of Government, the usual monthly allowance granted by the latter would be of course withheld.

There is yet a point of great moment which Sir Patrick Grant mentions in his Minute, that is, the establishment of a Sanatorium in the vicinity of, but perfectly distinct from, the present Barracks.

His Excellency recommends that Upstairs Quarters for 400 Convalescent Soldiers with a proportion of Quarters for married men should be erected, with all contingent Buildings for such an Establishment.

The Commander-in-Chief decided on a site which appeared to him unobjectionable in every way, save the fact of its being at present outside the boundary of the Cantonment, and in possession of the Burghers. His Excellency however desired Captain Francis to put himself in communication with the Collector of Coimbatore, and he has little doubt but that for a comparatively small sum, (though to the Burghers a most liberal one) this very desirable spot of ground might be obtained, should Government sanction the measure.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

Public Quarters for Officers would be required here too, for 1 Field Officer, 4 Captains and 4 Subalterns.

Sick or Convalescent men from the following stations would be sent to this Sanatorium, viz.

Bangalore	2 Regiments, besides Artillery.
Trichinopoly	1 Regiment.....do.
Cannanore	1 Do.....do.
Madras.....A	Do.....do.
Mount.....	do.

or from 5 Regiments of European Soldiers, and from 8 or 9 Troops and Companies of European Artillery, say at the least from 5,000 men, the convalescent sick of whom, amounting to 400, the Depot would be prepared to receive.

In conclusion it is most desirable that measures at once be taken towards the erection of a Church. The subject, His Excellency is aware, is not one which is now for the first time mooted, but he cannot but express his hope that no further time be lost, in discussing the propriety of a measure, the desirability of which is admitted at all hands.

Minute by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Oolacamund, 27th March 1858.

In continuation of my Minute of the 11th Instant, I now beg to submit the following observations on the Public Buildings at Jackatallah.

The Barracks at Jackatallah, calculated for the accommodation of a complete Regiment of British Infantry, are of the best description and they are now being rapidly proceeded with by Captain Campbell, the Executive Engineer, under the active superintendence of Captain Francis, District Engineer.

A few Buildings in addition to those already sanctioned are required.

1st. Solitary Cells, with Quarters under the same roof for the Provost Serjeant, together with a small Guard Room.

2nd. A boarded Shed for Shot Drill and other minor punishments.

3rd. A School room.

4th. A Canteen.

5th. A Church with sittings for one thousand persons is quite indispensable. None has yet been sanctioned, but I cannot suppose that a suitable place of Worship will not be provided at a Station where a full Regiment of our countrymen is to be Quartered. I am informed that a Missionary Society has offered to contribute Rupees 4,000 towards the erection of a Church at Jackatallah, but it appears to me that it would not consist with the position of Government to accept this aid.

I fixed upon the sites on which those fine Buildings should be, I think, erected, and pointed them out to Captains Francis and Campbell.

The Quarters of the married Staff Serjeants should each be provided with a Water Closet. It is an outrage on decency to compel respectable females to resort to a Privy under the same roof as that used by the men. There are 12 of these married Quarters, and Captain Campbell, on a rough guess, estimated the cost of each Water Closet at from £s. 10 to £s. 15.

The Verandahs of the several blocks of Barracks should be raised sufficiently to cover the window at the top of the wall of the Barrack room. In the two most advanced blocks this window is above the Verandah instead of being under its shelter, and in consequence when rain falls either the window must be closed and ventilation impeded, or the wet beats into the interior of the apartment.

The two blocks on the same line should be so united as to admit of free and ready communication by the upper Verandahs throughout the Buildings, this will give increased facility for defence and be likewise a great convenience in other respects.

I would suggest that Barracks and a Mess room for the Officers of the Regiment at Jackatallah should be built by Government, house rent being withheld from the occupants as a fair return for providing them with Quarters. If this measure is adopted, the facilities for rendering the Station thoroughly defensible and secure will be vastly improved.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

To complete the defences, Captain Francis proposes to build a Terrace of earth with the outer slope turfed, a parapet to fire over, and round bastions at the angles to give a flanking fire, on the north side of the Barrack square. Captain Francis has also prepared a plan of a Tower or Cavalier, of which I entirely approve—as I likewise do of the suggested Terrace.

The Tower should be erected on the height on which Captain Campbell's house stands. A Tower placed on the spot I selected as a site for it, and armed with two 9 Pdr. Guns and two 34 Pdr. Howitzers, would completely command and defend the Barracks, the Officers' Quarters if they are sanctioned and built where I would suggest, the Commissariat Godowns and Mills, and every one of the numerous roads by which the Station can be approached by an Enemy in any numbers.

The Magazine and all Ordnance Stores should be placed in the lower part of the Tower. The present Magazine is so damp as to be destructive to the ammunition lodged in it. It should be pulled down.

If the Reservoir about to be formed on the slope behind the Staff Serjeants range of Barracks, is not found to be equal to containing a sufficient quantity of water effectually to carry off all sewerage and impurities to such a distance as must prevent the filth of Jackatallah from being deposited, where it would prove an unbearable nuisance to the inhabitants of the lower Bazar at Coonor, (about a mile distant in a straight line) I apprehend that it will be necessary to authorize the construction of a large "Culvert" on the plan suggested by Captain Campbell. Captain Francis is however very sanguine that the far less expensive Reservoir will fully answer every requirement.

I quite approve of the site Captain Francis has selected for a General Military Prison for Europeans. It is on a high table land $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant from the Barracks.

In 1847 (I think it was) a searching investigation in the Bengal Presidency, by a mixed Committee of highly experienced Medical and Military Officers, established the fact that the ratio of mortality amongst European Soldiers was full 50 per cent. less in the Hills than it proved in the plains, and I have shewn in my Minute dated the 11th Instant, that the recoveries amongst the Patients sent to the Hill Sanatorium at Ramandroog, amounted to 72-10 per cent. throughout the period from 1848 to 1857 inclusive.

On these grounds, therefore, I feel that it is my duty most earnestly to recommend that a Convalescent Depot for European Soldiers may be established at Jackatallah, calculated to accommodate at least 400 men, and a due proportion of families.

The Depot should be built on the site of a Burgher Village South of Captain Francis' house. I am told that the Villagers may be prevailed upon to part with the land willingly on reasonable terms, and it is essential to properly completing the Station that the ground should be purchased, independently of the spot being the best suited for the Depot.

Quarters for the Officers who must be attached to the Depot (1 Field Officer, 4 Captains, 4 Subalterns and a Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon would be a suitable proportion) should be erected on the South Spur of the Hill on which Captain Francis' house stands—and overlooking and within a few hundred feet of the site on which I have suggested that the Depot Barracks should be built.

Extract from a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore to the Chief Engineer, dated 23rd March 1858, No. 80.

7. With regard to Reservoir B. in my letter No. 59, I by no means proposed to abandon it, but having shewn that the balance remaining after the distribution of the sanctioned amounts to the new Water courses, bridges, &c., was insufficient to build it, I had advocated its postponement until it was proved necessary, whilst recognizing the more perfect system proposed by Captain Campbell in his letter as per margin, it had seemed to me to be excluded by its vast expense, as I reported at the time in forwarding it, and under the then circumstances expedient necessary. I considered that it could not effect the health of the Cantonment to pipe the sewerage into the main stream which runs very far below the level of the buildings, and at a considerable horizontal distance, which plan was rendered

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

feasible by the removal of the Coonoor Bazaar, being supplied by a stream brought from the Aravangode Valley; the Commander-in-Chief agreed with these views, but he desired me to lay the subject again before you, that the Government might consider the whole question with reference to the cost, and now that circumstances are changed, and practicable schemes of improvement for Sanitary purposes are invited by the Government of India, in Extract of Minutes of Consultation No. 351, dated 2nd March 1858, an opening appears to be made for bringing the project to a successful issue, I shall therefore now call upon Captain Campbell to send in a revised plan for a conduit of moderate dimensions, from the upper pipe of the Hospital sewerage, to beyond the Coonoor bridge, it would receive in its way all the pipes from the Hospitals and Barrack privies, as well as those of the married Quarters, and might be flushed by raising a low stone dam across the main stream just above the first pipe, the Culvert starting from the dam, and being provided with a sluice door, the pipe service item of the Barrack Estimate does not provide for pipes from the Barrack privies, neither of course does it from the new pattern privies attached to the Barrack rooms, to be used only at night, nor for the married or Staff Quarters privies, but these might be provided as shewn in the skeleton plan attached, and the disposable balance 10,430 Rupees remaining in hand as shewn above might be appropriated to their purposes, for which I request your sanction. When Captain Campbell submits his drawings and Estimate for carrying the sewerage clear of Coonoor, that project must stand on its own merits and its cost, whatever that might be, must be sanctioned separately.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. FRANCIS, District Engineer.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 15th April 1858, No. 158; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 32 of 29th ultimo, enclosing a Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the Cantonment of Jackatallah, I have now the honor, by order of His Excellency to enclose copies of correspondence with Mr. Thomas, Collector of Coimbatore, regarding the addition the Commander-in-Chief has thought it desirable to make to the Cantonment, for the purpose of building thereon a Sanatorium for European Troops.

Sir Patrick Grant observes that the valuation of the old Coonoor land, is vastly in excess of what His Excellency had hoped it would be, but nevertheless he considers that it is well worth the while of Government to pay even this high price rather than forego its possession.

In short, the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion, that it is quite invaluable to Government.

The compensation to be given to the Burghers, can, His Excellency observes, be best settled by the Government, and the Civil authorities, but he has no hesitation in saying that the ground is very urgently required for Military purposes, and His Excellency very strongly recommends that it may be appropriated accordingly.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters Ootacamund, 30th March 1858, No. 39; to the Collector of Coimbatore.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief having seen your reply to Captain Francis' note on the subject of enlarging the Cantonment of Jackatallah, has desired me to address you officially on the subject, as the best mode of commencing on the subject which he has in view, viz., the establishment of a Sanatorium for European Soldiers, in the vicinity of, but quite distinct from, the Regimental Barracks now in course of erection at Jackatallah. The project has been submitted to Government, and from the great benefit, which is likely to ensue from its establishment, and taking into consideration, the increased (and still increasing) strength of our European force, His Excellency anticipates no objection to the measure.

On 20th Instant the Commander-in-Chief visited Jackatallah, and was much struck with the piece of ground running from the knoll near Captain Francis' house through old Coonoor on to the knoll beyond it, as a most eligible site for the Sanatorium. The ground not being within the limits of the Jackatallah Cantonment, is of course an obstacle, but His Excellency trusts not an insurmountable one, and it is to ask your valuable assistance in overcoming it, I have now the honor to address you.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

Reverting to your note to Captain Francis, I am desired to inform you, that the piece of ground sought, of which I believe you have a sketch, is required strictly for public purposes and so highly does His Excellency think of its eligibility for the Sanatorium, that he would advocate the most liberal offer being eventually made to the proprietors.

The Commander-in-Chief would therefore feel obliged, by your entering into negotiations with them on the subject, pending the sanction of Government to the arrangement.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, 10th April 1858, No. 19; to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Ootacamund.

1. In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, No. 39, I beg to say, that I have lost no time in making the enquiry desired by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, though I have been unable to meet the Burghers personally, and being about to leave the District, I fear it will be impossible for me to conclude any arrangement with them before I go.

2. The additional land wished by His Excellency, comprizes, about 120 Cawnies, including the whole Burgher village of old Coonoor, with all its Cattle-kraals, Houses..... 20 Houses, and their best lands; the Burghers have known to have settled on the Hills about 200 years ago, and Coonoor is believed to be one of their early locations, at all events the lands have been cultivated, Cattle shed..... 16 of their early locations, at all events the lands have been cultivated, Buffaloe kraals..... 5 manured, and held, and the village inhabited for 100 years and more:

and the owners naturally cling to it with the same tenacity which will be probably found, under similar circumstances, every where; it was with considerable difficulty the Burghers were originally persuaded to give up the 600 Cawnies for Jackatallah; and they were assured "that no further demands upon them would be likely," if necessary for public purposes, of course they must again give away—though I fear it will not be willingly, even for a liberal compensation; and I am not aware of any equally favorable spot to which they could move—to thrust them off to some barren rocky Hill side, whereon to build, cultivate and settle, would be manifestly unjust.

3. The value of all land on the Hills is rising fast, and has risen greatly, since Jackatallah was taken up—the Burghers know this—they have often asked, and had, from 50 to 70 Rupees per Caway for worse land than that wished at Coonoor,—I do not think they would willingly take, nor would it be fair to offer them less than 70 Rupees for the cultivated, and half* that sum for the uncultivated portion, (of the area now pointed out,) per Caway; with a fair bonafide valuation of all their kraals and buildings—with 6 months† to vacate; (they could not possibly house themselves, families and cattle, and break up new

* Or 35 Rupees.

† After the settlement and order of Government.

land, in a shorter time;) they also lose a stream of water, (not easily found elsewhere,) with which they have been used to water and preserve their Garlic, Onions, Opium, Peas, and others of their best crops in dry seasons, and I am persuaded, that though the compensation may seem ample, to those who don't know the Burghers, they would much rather (if the alternative be allowed them) forego the money than their lands or houses.

4. To the Government the above amount will be of little moment, compared with the value of the locality for public purposes; and if His Excellency sees no objection, I would beg to suggest that Government should be applied to, by your Department, to sanction the amount, and my successor will no doubt do his best to complete the ulterior arrangements.

5. I think that many are not at all aware of the tenacity with which these Hill tribes cling to their old hereditary homesteads, there may be some mixture of superstition, and local attachments in it, but it is a feeling recognized and felt even in more civilized European countries, and excusable if it needs excuse in the Burghers. The Todars have the same feelings, though without agricultural claims, or reasons; and have on several occasions declined a bag of 500 Rupees (placed before them) for small building sites, of a few acres each, in Lord Elphinstone's time, when land was far less valuable than now.

6. I have stated the facts fully and fairly as I am sure His Excellency and Government could wish being personally cognizant of the cases alluded to, and of the Burghers, and their feelings for many years.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

The Governor in Council observes with much satisfaction the completeness and excellence of the buildings already erected, and the forwardness generally of the Barracks at Jackatallah as noticed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The Governor in Council concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in considering the arrangement of the ventilators in blocks Nos. 1-2 as very defective, and approves of the orders issued by his Excellency for the ventilation of the other blocks. He wishes the Commander-in-Chief's suggestion that the blocks on the same side should be united in such a manner as to admit of ready communication by the upper verandahs to be carried out.

3. Plans and Estimates will be called for in the Department Public Works for the following buildings, the sites for which have been chosen by the Commander-in-Chief.

1st. Solitary Cells sufficient for an European Regiment with Quarters under the same roof for the Provost Serjeant and a small Guard Room.

2nd. A covered shed for Shot Drill and for other minor punishments.

3rd. A School room.

4th. A Canteen.

5th. A Church—It is apparent to the Governor in Council that at a Station occupied by an European Regiment, and more especially if a Sanatorium Depôt be sanctioned, a Church is urgently required, capable of containing 1,000 men. The sanction of the Government of India to the above buildings will be applied for on the Plans and Estimates being forwarded and approved of by the Commander-in-Chief and Government.

4. A water closet to each of the Staff Serjeant's Quarters is authorized.

5. The orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief for the destruction of the temporary quarters on the Hospitall Hill meet with the full approval of the Governor in Council.

6. Reference will be made in the Department Public Works to the Supreme Government, to ascertain whether the subject of providing Quarters and Mess house contiguous to the men's Barracks for the Officers of European Regiments has been considered in regard to the Hill Stations in the Bengal Presidency.

7. The Governor in Council approves of the suggestions of the Commander-in-Chief for the defences of the Cantonment of Jackatallah, Plans (and Estimates) on the scale proposed by Captain Francis, and approved of by His Excellency will be called for in the Department Public Works.

8. A report will be called for through the Department Public Works on Captain Francis' suggestion on the subject of Sewerage of these Barracks.

9. The Governor in Council will adopt the Commander-in-Chief's recommendation with respect to giving a trial to charred peat, but refers the subject to the Director General for report, and for suggestions as to the mode in which such trial should be carried out.

10. A Sanatorium Depôt for 400 Convalescent Soldiers with a due proportion of Families and Officers as suggested by the Commander-in-Chief, is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, much to be desired.

11. The project will be referred to the Revenue Department in respect to the purchase of the ground required, and to the Department Public Works, with the view of Plans and Estimates being prepared (in conformity with the scale laid down by the Commander-in-Chief) for submission to, and for the sanction of, the Government of India.

12. The Plan by Captain Francis for a Military Prison is referred to the Department Public Works for an Estimate of its probable expense.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) W. H. WAPSHARE, Major,
Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, No. 764; dated 7th June 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue, with a request that they will direct the Collector of Coimbatore to adopt measures for the purchase of the lands required for the proposed Sanatorium Depôt at Jackatallah.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 4th May 1858.

Read letter, from the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters Ootacamund 29th March 1858, No. 52, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In enclosing for submission to Government, Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on his recent visit to Jackatalla, I am instructed to add the following.

On Saturday the 20th instant, His Excellency visited Jackatalla, and inspected the whole of the Buildings there, the Commander-in-Chief observes, that altho' too much time has already elapsed since these new Buildings were commenced, there is now a fair prospect of these being completed in a reasonable period from this time.

The Hospital, as Government is aware, has been finished for some time, and is a well constructed, roomy edifice, excellently adapted for the purpose for which it was built.

The Staff Serjeant's Quarters which occupies the East end of the Plateau, on which the Barracks are placed, and contains Staff Serjeants Quarter's, Serjeants' Mess Room, Court Martial Room, Guard Room, Quarter Master's Store Room, &c. is complete, and the various apartment are of the best description.

Nos. 1 and 2 Barracks may be counted also complete, indeed the latter has already been occupied, by a portion of Her Majesty's 74th Highlanders. Nothing can exceed the excellent arrangements (with one exception to be noticed hereafter) that have been made for the comfort of the Troops, and all the Workmanship appears of the best description.

Nos. 3 and 4 Barracks are in a state of forwardness, giving promise of speedy completion, and No. 5 which occupies the West end of the Plateau has been commenced on. The numerous gangs of Workmen employed cannot fail to bring all the buildings rapidly to a conclusion. The Quarters for married men have been commenced, and large parties of Workmen, are, here too, busily employed, and the whole wears an aspect of stirring bustle, combined with arrangement and regularity that cannot but speedily lead to the desired end. Large Gangs of the Hill inhabitants - Burghers, were engaged on all works not requiring especial handy craft.

Several subjects, regarding sites, were brought to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, these were all disposed of on the spot. A defect (above alluded to) in the finish of Nos. 1 and 2 Barracks was very evident, viz., that the Ventilating Windows of the Upper Stories have been made to open on the Terrace, instead of inside the Upper Verandah, which has caused the latter to be of less height, than it otherwise would have been, and in rainy weather, prevents the full use of the Ventilators by admitting rain, if kept open.

There is no doubt but that this arrangement is a very defective one, and it is but due to the Officers employed on the Works, to say, that it does not appear in any way attributable to them.

In Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Blocks, the Commander-in-Chief has directed the more correct plan, of having the Ventilators under cover of the Verandah, to be carried out.

The subject of the Prison was set aside some time ago, but His Excellency has approved of the accompanying rough sketch, (plan) the Building will be erected at either the East or West end of the Hospital Hill.

The subject of Sewerage has engaged much of Captain Francis' attention, and the Commander-in-Chief has desired me to annex a copy of that Officer's suggestions on the subject, extracted from his letter to the Chief Engineer. Captain Francis' proposed plan, His Excellency considers worthy a trial; and should it fail, it will be requisite to adopt the more expensive arrangement of the Lake and Culvert, &c., on this head Sir Patrick Grant would beg to bring to the notice of Government the demoralizing effect of charred peat, and which might so easily be tested at Jackatalla. Perhaps the most difficult point satisfactorily to arrange in all Barracks is the Privies, and the keeping them and their neighbourhood free from offensive Effluvia. The expense of a trial of the Peat, which has already been used, with success in England, would here be but trifling, and His Excellency would strongly urge the use of it at Jackatalla, until its effects shall be determined.

The Commander-in-Chief has directed all Officer's temporary Quarters on the Hospital Hill, as well as all other buildings, the property of private individuals to be pulled down, and the Hill for the future to be kept quite clear of all, but the public Buildings belonging to the Hospital.

In explanation of the case of the Officers' temporary Quarters, His Excellency observes, that these Buildings were originally permitted to be erected by the Officers of the Detachment of Her Majesty's 84th Regiment first stationed here, on the condition that they would be liable to removal without remuneration at the expiration of one year, this period was subsequently extended, and as, on the arrival of the Wing of Her Majesty's 74 Highlanders to relieve Detachment of Her Majesty's 84th, very few houses had been erected on the compounds that been marked out; The Officers of the 74th purchased the temporary Quarters at 100 R each Quarter, on the same terms of liability of having them pulled down.

The time is now come, when their removal from the Barrack Hill is a matter of expediency, and His Excellency does not consider that by so doing any loss is sustained by the proprietors, who had their full value in occupancy.

The Commander-in-Chief again recommends to the favorable consideration of Government, the subject of Public Quarters for Officers at this station.

His Excellency is aware, that the Honorable Court did not approve of the measure, but the great distances at which Officers would have to live from the men in a necessarily irregular Cantonment, as this mountain one is, coupled with the fact that recent circumstances in India have rendered it more than ever expedient that Officers of European Regiments should be located as near as possible to their Regimental Barracks, it may be, that reviewing the matter in this light, sanction to the erection of Officers' Quarters may not be now withheld. The Quarters, His Excellency would suggest, for a Regiment, should consist of Rooms as follows. For all Officers of one of Her Majesty's Regiments of Foot.

For each Field Officer.

2 Sitting Rooms.

1 Bed Room.

1 Dressing Room.

1 Bath Room.

For each Captain.

1 Sitting Room.

1 Bed Room.

1 Dressing Room.

1 Bath Room.

For each Subaltern.

1 Bed Room.

1 Dressing Room.

1 Bath Room.

Public Out Offices, and stabling to the extent of one horse for every Officer attached to the Regiment, 2 for Field Officers, and 2 for the Adjutant with 4 roomy Coach Houses should be built, His Excellency would recommend the Building by Government, of a suitable Mess House to be erected, in the immediate vicinity of the Quarters, and if this should remain in the possession of Government, the usual monthly allowance granted by the latter would be of course withheld.

There is yet a point of great moment which Sir Patrick Grant mentions in his Minute, that is, the Establishment of a Sanatorium in the vicinity of, but perfectly distinct from, the present Barracks.

His Excellency recommends that Upstairs Quarters for 400 Convalescent Soldiers with a proportion of Quarters for married men should be erected, with all contingent Buildings for such an Establishment.

The Commander-in-Chief decided on a site which appeared to him unobjectionable in every way, save the fact of its being at present outside the boundary of the Cantonment, and in possession of the Burghers. His Excellency however desired Captain Francis to put himself in communication with the Collector of Coimbatore, and he has little doubt but that for a comparatively small sum, (tho' to the Burghers a most liberal one) this very desirable spot of ground might be obtained, should Government sanction the measure.

Public Quarters for Officers would be required here too, for 1 Field Officer, 4 Captains and 4 Subalterns.

7
764
Sick or Convalescent men from the following stations would be sent to this Sanatorium, viz.

Bangalore 2 Regiments, besides Artillery.

Trichinopoly 1 Regiment.....do.

Cannanore.....1.....Do.....do.

Madras.....1.....Do.....do.

Mount.....do.

on 5 Regiments of European Soldiers, and from 8 or 9 Troops and Companies of European Artillery, say at the least from 5,000 men, the Convalescent sick of whom, amounting to 400, the Depot would be prepared to receive.

In conclusion it is most desirable that measures at once be taken towards the erection of a Church. The subject, His Excellency is aware, is not one which is now for the first time mooted, but he cannot but express his hope that no further time be lost, in discussing the propriety of a measure, the desirability of which is admitted at all hands.

Minute by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Ootacamund, 27th March 1858.

In continuation of my Minute of the 11th instant, I now beg to submit the following observations on the Public Buildings at Jackatallah.

The Barracks at Jackatallah, calculated for the accommodation of a complete Regiment of British Infantry, are of the best description and they are now being rapidly proceeded with by Captain Campbell, the Executive Engineer, under the active superintendence of Captain Francis, District Engineer.

A few Buildings in addition to those already sanctioned are required.

1st. Solitary Cells, with Quarters under the same roof for the Provost Sergeant, together with a small Guard Room.

2nd. A boarded Shed for Shot Drill and other minor punishments.

3rd. A School room.

4th. A Canteen.

5th. A Church with sittings for one thousand persons is quite indispensable. None has yet been sanctioned, but I cannot suppose that a suitable place of Worship will not be provided at a Station where a full Regiment of our countrymen is to be quartered. I am informed that a Missionary Society has offered to contribute Rupees 5,000 towards the erection of a Church at Jackatallah, but it appears to me that it would not consist with the position of Government to accept this aid.

I fixed upon the sites on which these five Buildings should be, I think, erected, and pointed them out to Captains Francis and Campbell.

The Quarters of the married Staff Sergeants should each be provided with a Water Closet. It is an outrage on decency to compel respectable females to resort to a Privy under the same roof as that used by the men. There are 12 of these married Quarters, and Captain Campbell, on a rough guess, estimated the cost of each Water Closet at from £s. 10 to £s. 15.

The Verandahs of the several blocks of Barracks should be raised sufficiently to cover the window at the top of the wall of the Barrack room. In the two most advanced blocks this window is above the Verandah instead of being under its shelter, and in consequence when rain falls either the window must be closed and ventilation impeded or the wet beats into the interior of the apartment.

The two blocks on the same line should be so united as to admit of free and ready communication by the upper Verandahs throughout the Buildings this will give increased facility for defence and be likewise a great convenience in other respects.

I would suggest that Barracks and a Mess room for the Officers of the Regiment at Jackatallah should be built by Government, house rent being withheld from the occupants as a fair return for providing them with Quarters. If this measure is adopted, the facilities for rendering the Station thoroughly defensible and secure will be vastly improved.

To complete the defences, Captain Francis proposes to build a Terrace of earth with the outer slope turfed, a parapet to fire over, and round bastions at the Angles to give a flanking fire, on the north side of the Barrack square. Captain Francis has also prepared a plan of a Tower or Cavalier, of which I entirely approve—as I likewise do of the suggested Terrace.

The Tower should be erected on the height on which Captain Campbell's house stands. A Tower placed on the spot I selected as a site for it, and armed with two 9 Pdr. Guns and two 24 Pdr. Howitzers, would completely command and defend the Barracks, the Officer's Quarters if they are sanctioned and built where I would suggest, the Commissariat Godowns and Mills, and every one of the numerous roads by which the Station can be approached by an Enemy in any numbers.

The Magazine and all Ordnance Stores should be placed in the lower part of the Tower. The present Magazine is so damp as to be destructive to the ammunition lodged in it. It should be pulled down.

If the Reservoir about to be formed on the slope behind the Staff Serjeants range of Barracks, is not found to be equal to containing a sufficient quantity of water effectually to carry off all sewerage and impurities to such a distance as must prevent the filth of Jackatallah from being deposited, where it would prove an unbearable nuisance to the inhabitants of the lower Bazar at Coonor, (about a mile distant in a straight line) I apprehend that it will be necessary to authorise the construction of a large "Culvert" on the plan suggested by Captain Campbell.

Captain Francis is however very sanguine that the far less expensive Reservoir will fully answer every requirement.

I quite approve of the site Captain Francis has selected for a General Military Prison for Europeans. It is on a high table land $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant from the Barracks.

In 1847 (I think it was) a searching investigation in the Bengal Presidency, by a mixed Committee of highly experienced Medical and Military Officers, established the fact that the ratio of mortality amongst European Soldiers was full 50 per cent less in the Hills than it had proved in the plains, and I have shewn in my Minute dated the 11th instant, that the recoveries amongst the Patients sent to the Hill Sanatorium at Ramandroog, amounted to 72-10 per cent throughout the period from 1848 to 1857 inclusive.

On these grounds, therefore, I feel that it is my duty most earnestly to recommend that a Convalescent Depot for European Soldiers may be established at Jackatallah, calculated to accommodate at least 400 men, and a due proportion of families.

The Depot should be built on the site of a Burgher Village South of Captain Francis' house. I am told that the Villagers may be prevailed upon to part with the land willingly on reasonable terms, and it is essential to properly completing the Station that the ground should be purchased, independently of the spot being the best suited for the Depot.

Quarters for the Officers who must be attached to the Depot (1 Field Officer, 4 Captains, 4 Subalterns and a Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon would be a suitable proportion) should be erected on the South Spur of the Hill on which Captain Francis' house stands—and overlooking and within a few hundred feet of the site on which the Depot Barracks should be built.

Extract from a letter from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, to the Chief Engineer, dated 23rd March 1858, No. 80.

7. With regard to Reservoir B. in my letter No. 59, I by no means proposed to abandon it, but having shewn that the balance remaining after the distribution of the sanctioned amounts to the new Water courses, bridge, &c., was insufficient to build it, I had advocated its postponement until it was proved necessary, whilst recognizing the more perfect system proposed by Captain Campbell in his letter as per margin, it had seemed to me to be excluded by its vast expense, as I reported at the time in forwarding it, and under the then circumstances of the country rendering a cheaper expedient necessary. I considered that it could not effect the health of the Cantonment to pipe the sewerage into the main stream which runs very far below the level of the buildings, and at a considerable horizontal distance, which plan was rendered

8
764

feasible by the removal of the Coonoor Bazaar, being supplied by a stream brought from the Aravangode Valley; the Commander-in-Chief agreed with these views, but he desired me to lay the subject again before you, that the Government might consider the whole question with reference to the cost, and now that circumstances are changed, and practicable schemes of improvement for Sanitary purposes are invited by the Government of India, in Extract of Minutes of Consultation No. 351, dated 2nd March 1858, an opening appears to be made for bringing the project to a successful issue, I shall therefore now call upon Captain Campbell to send in a revised plan for a conduit of moderate dimensions, from the upper pipe of the Hospital sewerage, to beyond the Coonoor bridge, it would receive in its way all the pipes from the Hospitals and Barrack privies, as well as those of the married Quarters, and might be flushed by raising a low stone dam across the main stream just above the first pipe, the Culvert starting from the dam, and being provided with a sluice door, the pipe service item of the Barrack Estimate does not provide for pipes from the Barrack privies, neither of course does it from the new pattern privies attached to the Barrack rooms, to be used only at night, nor for the married or Staff Quarters privies, but these might be provided as shewn in the skeleton plan attached, and the disposable balance 10,430 Rupees remaining in hand as shewn above might be appropriated to their purposes, for which I request your sanction. When Captain Campbell submits his drawings and Estimate for carrying the sewerage clear of Coonoor, that project must stand on its own merits and its cost, whatever that might be, must be sanctioned separately.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. FRANCIS,
District Engineer.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 15th April 1858, No. 13; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 32 of 29th ultimo, enclosing a Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the Cantonment of Jackatalla, I have now the honor, by order of His Excellency to enclose copies of correspondence with Mr. Thomas, Collector of Coimbatore regarding the addition the Commander-in-Chief has thought it desirable to make to the Cantonment, for the purpose of building thereon a Sanatorium for European Troops.

Sir Patrick Grant observes that the valuation of the old Coonoor land, is vastly in excess of what His Excellency had hoped it would be, but nevertheless he considers that it is well worth the while of Government to pay even this high price rather than forego its possession.

In short, the Commander-in-Chief is of opinion, that it is quite invaluable to Government.

The compensation to be given to the Burghers, can, His Excellency observes, be best settled by the Government, and the Civil Authorities, but he has no hesitation in saying that the ground is very urgently required for Military purposes, and His Excellency very strongly recommends that it may be appropriated accordingly.

From the Quarter Master General of the Army, Head Quarters Ootacamund, 30th March 1858, No. 39; to the Collector of Coimbatore.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief having seen your reply to Captain Francis' note on the subject of enlarging the Cantonment of Jackatalla, has desired me to address you officially on the subject, as the best mode of commencing on the subject which he has in view, viz., the Establishment of a Sanatorium for European Soldiers, in the vicinity of, but quite distinct from, the Regimental Barracks now in course of erection at Jackatalla—The project has been submitted to Government, and from the great benefit, which is likely to ensue from its Establishment, and taking into consideration, the increased (and still increasing) strength of our European Force, His Excellency anticipates no objection to the measure.

On 20th instant the Commander-in-Chief visited Jackatalla, and was much struck with the piece of ground running from the knoll near Captain Francis' house through old Coonoor on to the knoll beyond it, as a most eligible site for the Sanatorium. The ground not being within the limits of the Jackatalla Cantonment, is of course an obstacle, but His Excellency trusts not an insurmountable one, and it is to ask your valuable assistance in overcoming it, I have now the honor to address you.

Reverting to your note to Captain Francis, I am desired to inform you, that the piece of ground sought, of which I believe you have a sketch, is required strictly for public purposes and so highly does His Excellency think of its eligibility for the Sanatorium, that he would advocate the most liberal offer being eventually made to the proprietors.

The Commander-in-Chief would therefore feel obliged, by your entering into negotiations with them on the subject, pending the sanction of Government to the arrangement.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, 10th April 1858, No. 19; to the Quarter Master General of the Army, Ootacamund.

1. In reply to your letter of the 30th ultimo, No. 39, I beg to say, that I have lost no time in making the enquiry desired by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, though I have been unable to meet the Burghers personally, and being about to leave the District, I fear it will be impossible for me to conclude any arrangement with them before I go.

2. The additional land wished by His Excellency, comprizes, about 120 Cawnies, including the whole Burgher village of old Coonoor, with all its Cattle-kraals, Houses..... 20 Houses, and their best lands; the Burghers have known to have settled on the Hills, about 200 years ago, and Coonoor is believed to be one of their early locations, at all events the lands have been cultivated, Cattle shed..... 16 of their early locations, at all events the lands have been cultivated, Buffalo kraals..... 5 of their early locations, at all events the lands have been cultivated, manured, and held, and the village inhabited for 100 years and more: and the owners naturally cling to it with the same tenacity which will be probably found, under similar circumstances, every where; it was with considerable difficulty the Burghers were originally persuaded to give up the 600 Cawnies for Jackatalla; and they were assured "that no further demands upon them would be likely," if necessary for public purposes, of course, they must again give away—though I fear it will not be willingly, even for a liberal compensation; and I am not aware of any equally favorable spot to which they could move—to thrust them off to some barren rocky Hill side, whereon to build, cultivate and settle, would be manifestly unjust.

3. The value of all land on the Hills is rising fast, and has risen greatly, since Jackatalla was taken up—the Burghers know this—they have often asked, and had, from 50 to 70 Rupees per Cawny for worse land than that wished at Coonoor,—I do not think they would willingly take, nor would it be fair to offer them, less than 70 Rupees for the cultivated, and half* that sum for the uncultivated portion, (of the area now pointed out,) per Cawny; with a fair bonafide valuation, of all their kraals and buildings—with 6 months† to vacate; (they could not possibly house them- selves, families and Cattle, and break up new land, in a shorter time; they also lose a stream of water, (not easily found elsewhere,) with which they have been used to water and preserve their Garlic, Onions, Opium, Peas, and others of their best crops in dry seasons, and I am persuaded, that the compensation may seem ample, to those who don't know the Burghers, they would much rather (if the alternative be allowed them) forego the money than their lands or houses.

4. To the Government the above amount will be of little moment, compared with the value of the locality for public purposes; and if His Excellency sees no objection, I would beg to suggest that Government should be applied to, by your Department, to sanction the amount, and my successor will no doubt do his best to complete the ulterior arrangements.

5. I think that many are not at all aware of the tenacity with which these Hill tribes cling to their old Hereditary Homesteads, there may be some mixture of superstition, and local attachments in it, but it is a feeling recognized and felt even in more civilized European countries; and excusable, if it needs excuse in the Burghers. The Todars have the same feelings, though without agricultural claims, or reasons; and have on several occasions declined a bag of 500 Rupees (placed before them) for small building sites, of a few acres each: in Lord Elphinstone's time, when land was far less valuable than now.

6. I have stated the facts fully and fairly as I am sure His Excellency and Government could wish: being personally cognizant of the cases alluded to, and of the Burghers, and their feelings for many years.

The Governor in Council observes with much satisfaction the completeness and excellence of the buildings already erected, and the forwardness generally of the Barracks at Jackatalla as noticed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The Governor in Council concurs with the Commander-in-Chief in considering the arrangement of the ventilators in blocks Nos. 1-2 as very defective, and approves of the orders issued by His Excellency for the ventilation of the other blocks. He wishes the Commander-in-Chief's suggestion that the blocks on the same side should be united in such a manner as to admit of ready communication by the upper verandahs to be carried out.

3. Plans and Estimates will be called for in the Department Public Works for the following buildings, the sites for which have been chosen by the Commander-in-Chief.

- 1st. Solitary Cells sufficient for an European Regiment with Quarters under the same roof for the Provost Serjeant and a small Guard Room.
- 2nd. A covered shed for Shot Drill and for other minor punishments.
- 3rd. A School room.
- 4th. A Canteen.
- 5th. A Church—It is apparent to the Governor in Council that at a Station occupied by an European Regiment, and more especially if a Sanatorium Depot be sanctioned, a Church is urgently required, capable of containing 1,000 men—The sanction of the Government of India to the above buildings will be applied for on the Plans and Estimates being forwarded and approved of by the Commander-in-Chief and Government.

4. A water closet to each of the Staff Serjeant's Quarters is authorized.

5. The orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief for the destruction of the temporary quarters on the Hospital Hill meet with the full approval of the Governor in Council.

6. Reference will be made in the Department Public Works to the Supreme Government, to ascertain whether the subject of providing Quarters and Mess house contiguous to the men's Barracks for the Officers of European Regiments has been considered in regard to the Hill Stations in the Bengal Presidency.

7. The Governor in Council approves of the suggestions of the Commander-in-Chief for the defences of the Cantonment of 5 battals, Plans (and Estimates) on the scale proposed by Captain Francis, and approved of by His Excellency will be called for in the Department Public Works.

8. A report will be called for through the Department Public Works on Captain Francis' suggestion on the subject of Sewerage of these Barracks.

9. The Governor in Council will adopt the Commander-in-Chief's recommendation with respect to giving a trial to charred peat, but refers the subject to the Director General for report, and for suggestions as to the mode in which such trial should be carried out.

10. A Sanatorium Depot for 400 Convalescent Soldiers with a due proportion of Families and Officers as suggested by the Commander-in-Chief is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, much to be desired.

11. The project will be referred to the ^{Revenue} Department in respect to the purchase of the ground required and to the Department Public Works, with the view of Plans and Estimates being prepared (in conformity with the scale laid down by the Commander-in-Chief) for submission to, and for the sanction of, the Government of India.

12. The Plan by Captain Francis for a Military Prison is referred to the Department Public Works for an Estimate of its probable expense.

(True Extract and Copies.)

W. H. Phipps
Adj. Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Quarter Master General.
" Department Public Works, with Plan.
" Director General, Medical Department.
" ~~Revenue~~ Department.
Exd. J. E. Cashart.

With 3 copies
Recd. 22nd

James D. Apple
 Dr. J. D. Apple (Dr. J. D. Apple)

No 8440

James D. Apple
 Dr. J. D. Apple (Dr. J. D. Apple)

No 8440

No 8440

No 8440

James D. Apple
 Dr. J. D. Apple (Dr. J. D. Apple)

No 8440

No 8440

James D. Apple
 Dr. J. D. Apple (Dr. J. D. Apple)

No 8440

James D. Apple
 Dr. J. D. Apple (Dr. J. D. Apple)