

Educational (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 635

DATED 9-10-96

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the P. W. D. that
the sanction of the Govt is necessary
for the grant towards the construction
of the Victoria Students' Hostel.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government of Madras. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM.

Macan...
Dated Madras, 12 July 1896.

Proceedings Judicial Department, No. 75, dated 6th June 1896.

Office Note from the Examiner, P.W. Accounts, No. 2150 D/A, dated 24th July 1896.

With reference to para 4 of G.O. No. 75 Judicial dated 6th June 1896, the undersigned has the honour to state that there is no objection to the construction of the proposed Students' Hostel being undertaken by the P.W. Department with the sanction of Government under the rules contained in paras 78, 80 and 82, Chapter IX Volume I P.W. Code. As however the allotment of public funds towards the cost of the buildings is opposed to para 3 Chapter VI, Volume II P.W. Code, it is suggested that the sanction of the Government of India to the proposed Government grant in aid be obtained in the Financial Department, before the work is ordered to be undertaken by this Department.

G. R. E.
Col. R. E.,
Joint Secretary.

The Judicial Department.

975 8669658.

Educational Dept

Current Regs

Enrollment

Transferred to the educational dept

W. Stone

after Secretary

W. Stone
1-8-96

From

The P. W. D.

No. 945 D

1 July

Suggesting that the sanction of the Govt of India to the proposed grant towards the Victoria Students' Hostel be obtained before the P.W.D. is ordered to construct the building

FROM

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES,

STUDENTS' HOSTELS COMMITTEE,

Madras,

TO

THE HON. CHIEF SECRETARY

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Colacumund.

SIR,

In approaching Government on the subject of the Victoria Students' Hostel, we cannot but express our regret that it has not been found possible to make more progress with the scheme in the two years that have elapsed since the order of Government specifying the site allotted for the building. It was hoped, when in March 1895 His Excellency Lord Wenlock was invited to lay the foundation stone of the Hostel, that we should be able to begin building at an early date. During the vacation, however, Mr. Stone, who had just been appointed Joint Honorary Secretary, devoted considerable attention to the plans that had been drawn up from the points of view of the suitability of the proposed building to the purpose in view, and of the economical spending of the money entrusted to the committee, and as the result of his investigations presented to the committee a memorandum embodying the following main suggestions:—

- (1) That the hostel should be built for not less than 200 students, because taking a reasonable estimate of the rates of board and lodging that students might be expected to pay, a hostel for fewer students could only be worked with considerable probability of the funds available for up-keep (servants, porter, office, taxes and repairs) proving insufficient.
- (2) That the plans should be remodelled with a view both to efficiency and economy.

2. The committee in the main adopted Mr. Stone's memorandum as a basis for its further action and Mr. Irwin, at its request, undertook to prepare new plans. He retired from the service of Government without having done so and Colonel Rawson took the work in hand, and prepared three pencil sketches in accordance with Mr. Stone's suggestions and with the assistance of plans of the students' residential portion of the Fergusson College, Poona, which was built very cheaply and has proved very well adapted to its purpose. These plans were sent to His Excellency Lord Wenlock at his Lordship's request, and after some correspondence with the Chief Engineer, were referred to the Hon'ble Mr. Grose who at Mr. Stone's request placed them at the disposal of the committee.* At a meeting of the committee held on the 13th April 1896, they were exhaustively discussed and a various minor alterations with a view to economy were suggested. Of these the committee

* See papers returned marked "urgent."

This again is exclusive of Public Works establishment charges which, it is hoped that Government will be pleased to waive here also.

11. The committee, convinced as it is, of the utility of building the portion of the hostel detailed above, would deplore the long postponement of the completion of the design. Useful as the hostels will be in providing cheap and good board and lodging for students, the committee hopes very much more from them than this. They may be expected to take a leading part in that development of our educational system on European Public School and College lines which has already been initiated by the establishment of hostels in connection with certain missionary institutions. The building for which the committee is now submitting plans has been designed with careful reference to the social and disciplinary aspects of college life, and as long as it is incomplete, the committee's aims can only be incompletely realised. It has consequently anxiously considered the question of how to raise this large sum of Rs. 62,000.

12. Mr. Stone, in his memorandum already referred to, has suggested that borrowing should be resorted to. The obvious difficulty in the way of this course, is the provision of security, since the committee's sole property will consist in buildings erected on land vested by Government in trustees for a particular purpose. Even if this difficulty could be overcome however, there are strong reasons against resorting to this expedient. If the hostel realised surplus revenues, these could be much better employed in enlarging and improving it (by, for instance providing for additional supervision), than in paying interest and contributing to a sinking fund. It is also probable that the public would more willingly contribute funds for the completion of the building than for the repayment of a loan. It has been suggested that the University should be asked to contribute to the hostels either by way of loan or gift. The objections to borrowing would be as strong in the case of the University as in that of any other creditor, as it is clear that in the present state of University finances that body would not be justified in risking any of its capital. The Act of Incorporation so explicitly limits the function of the University to the encouragement of learning by the grant of degrees on examination, that it is extremely doubtful whether the University could legally make any gift to the hostels, and it is practically certain, that in the present state of its finances, and bearing in mind that the hostels are, by the Memorandum of Association,* primarily for non-fossil students, it would in any case be unwilling to make any grant.

13. In these circumstances the committee is of opinion that it must rely on the generosity of the public and of Government for the gradual completion of the buildings, and begs to suggest, that in order to encourage subscribers to come forward, Government should offer to supplement the subscriptions of the public by an equal amount. In support of this suggestion it will be remembered that Government has given half grants for educational buildings in several special cases, and that the hostels are educational institutions in every way deserving of similar assistance.

* Vide Memorandum of Association as revised in accordance with the orders of Government Section 3 (a).

A future

The committee has in view other means of stimulating subscriptions, among which may be mentioned naming rooms, or blocks of rooms, after donors of large sums, and assigning prior right to hostel rooms to students from Native States, and districts of the Presidency, in numbers proportionate to the contribution from each.

14. Although we have, with a view to clearness, treated the immediate carrying out of a portion of the building, and its final completion, as two separate objects in view, we have no intention of earmarking any portion of our funds for one or the other purpose, and we think it very desirable that should Government adopt our suggestion of a half grant-in-aid of subscriptions, that it should come into force at once. In this case there is reasonable probability of our being able to complete an even larger portion of the building, without a suspension of work, than we have above laid down as the essential minimum.

15. It is doubtless unnecessary to reiterate the importance of commencing work with as little delay as may be, and the committee has therefore the honour to request that Government will be pleased, as a step towards giving effect to its order of 26th June 1894, No. 471, Educational, to pass speedy orders on the revised memorandum and articles of association of the Madras Students' Hostels already submitted, and to empower the consulting Architect to Government to prepare full plans and estimates based on the pencil sketches Nos. 1 and 3 and the estimate No. 3 revised.

** Vide our letter of 21st April '90.*

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

C. No. 943

FOR ORDERS.

The hostel is not to be constructed from public funds. It is to be built from public subscriptions to which Govt. has made a grant in aid in the Educl. Budget.

Para 3 of Chap VI of Vol. II of P.W.D. Code does not therefore, if submitted, apply to the case, which seems to be governed by para 79 (B) Chapter Vol I. of the Code.

Govt. can therefore apparently call on the P.W. to execute the work. The Examiner P.W. accounts cannot interfere with a grant in the Educl. Budget. That grant is within His Govt's powers of sanction and

This makes the case perfectly clear, and there is nothing inconsistent in Para 3 of Chap VI of Vol II. No reference to India is necessary.

Act 3.10.96.

affly to the Govt. of India
submitted that the D.P.W. may
be informed accordingly.

It has been asked in
Go. ^{21. 80.} 20. 8. 96 to draw up
estimate for the Victoria Hotel

W. 10. 96

CS
from order

Order No 63589th October 1896

The hotel in question is not to
be constructed from public funds
but is to be erected from public
subscriptions to which Govt. has
made a grant in aid in the Budget.
Para. 3. Chap. IX. Vol II
of the P.W. Code does not therefore
appear to apply to the case which
seems to be governed by para 79 (b)
Chap IX Vol I. of the Code.

2. No reference to the G.
of India is thus, appears in the opinion
of Govt. called for

W. 10. 96

(f.o.)

W. 10. 96

28
5/10/96

BN
7/10/96

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E.

When given for copying 12/10
When copied 12/10
When examined 12/10
When signed 1896

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

PATRI.

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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