

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 6077

Press
~~His.~~

70-71

Dated 8.7.1882 19

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

8th July 1862.

No. 70. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails ; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 28th June 1862, No. 304.

I have the honor to acknowledge the Proceedings of the Madras Government with Order of the 21st instant, sanctioning the erection of Warders' houses, of brick in clay, at a cost of Rupees 13,750. Colonel Ouchterlony having recommended this style of building in preference to building with brick in chunam throughout as being more economical.

2. When the Government take into consideration that a brick in chunam building of good material requires no plaster outside and only a very thin coat inside, that the brick in chunam building is good for ever, while the brick in clay building will in nine cases in ten be found to have the plaster bulged and separate from the walls, I must say I doubt the economy of building in clay at all.

3. Since Colonel Ouchterlony was on the Hills, the practice of building in brick in clay in the best houses, has I think been very much discontinued.

4. In the house now occupied by His Excellency the Governor, I was some years ago called on to direct some repairs : I found, and I had a similar instance in another building, that the outer face of the wall had become saturated by driving rain and the result was a bulging of the wall, which to avoid expense, I ordered to be patched up by screwing up battens on either side by bolts running through the walls while they were wet.

5. Brick in mud will no doubt answer for Warders' Cottages as well as for private dwellings and had I run up Cottages when I had no good bricks, as I proposed in my letter to Government of the 7th June last, at an average cost of Rupees 1,200 each, I should have used nothing else, but in this case I should have used inferior, because ill-shaped, slop moulded brick also.

6. Brick in mud buildings on the Hills are generally more than 1½ bricks thick, and I think 2½ bricks will be found usual, but of good brick in chunam, a 1½ brick wall is ample unless the walls are very lofty or very much exposed.

7. Another advantage of brick in chunam is that the wetter the weather the better the work, while building in mud, in wet weather, is a work of difficulty, this however is the look out of the executive officers.

8. I hope Government have not sanctioned the building of Cottages with a basement of only one foot as I understand Colonel Ouchterlony's letter, if I passed plans with a basement of one foot only it was an oversight and opposed to the rules laid down for all prison buildings to be used as dormitories wherein two feet is laid down as the least basement allowable in such cases. I am convinced that half the sickness in Ootacamund is owing to want of sufficient basement to the houses and a stagnation of air below the floors.

9. I must beg the Government further to direct the immediate erection of these buildings; the want of them causes very great inconvenience.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1862, No. 1,077.

Referred to the Public Works Department for consideration.

2. The Governor in Council concurs in the opinion of Mr. Rohde that the basement of the Cottages in question, should be at least two feet high.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Ex.l. F. Cartledge.

N^o: 1047- 8 July 1862

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The Pub, Wks. Dept. }
" Inspector Genl. }
of Soils. }

Respt

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