

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1290	Press
105-106	~~Alia~~
Dated 12.8.1862	19

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th August 1862.*

No. 105. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department,
dated 6th August 1862, No. 1,863.

*Communicating with reference to Judicial Pro-
ceedings of Government, No. 1,077, dated 8th
July 1862, letter from the Deputy Chief
Engineer Southern Circle, setting forth his
views on the subject of the material with
which the brick work of the Warders, cottages
at Ootacamund is to be set.*

(Vide Proceedings Public Works Department,
dated 6th August 1862, Nos. 67 and 68.)

No. 106.

ORDER THEREON, 12th August 1862, No. 1,290.
Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. OUCHTERLONY, R. E., Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 26th July 1862, No. 79:—

SIR,

1. With reference to Government Order, No. 1,712, dated 17th July 1862, on the subject of the material with which the brick work of the Warders' Cottages at Ootacamund is to be set, I beg leave to observe that it appears to me the whole question between Mr. Rohde and myself hinges upon one consideration; and that is, whether the Government in carrying on the works necessary for the public service, aim at a superlative degree of excellence in their buildings, or whether they are content with the attainment of efficiency, and sufficiency, in a comparative degree only.

2. All experience of the Public Works system shows that the latter principle unmistakably obtains in general practise; and where deviations (and they are doubtless manifold) are to be traced, they will be found warranted by sound and sufficient reasons, fiscal as well as financial.

3. The point therefore for consideration is, not whether at Ootacamund brick in chunam walls are the best, but whether brick in clay walls are sufficiently good for tenements destined for human habitation: sufficient in fact for the purpose which Government have in view in causing them to be erected; and that this is the case, I maintain that the experience of the locality proves.

4. That the evils described by Mr. Rohde in his 2nd paragraph are witnessed, and possibly often witnessed, I am not at all disposed to contest; but I aver that where brought to light they should be taken more as proofs of bad and defective workmanship and materials, than as evidences of the inefficiency of the system of which they are not by any means a necessary consequence.

5. If the lime and sand are good, and the mortar well tempered; and if the face joints of a brick in clay wall are thoroughly raked and cleaned before the plastering is applied, and well and properly applied, there can be no reason why perfect coherence should not be established; and why the plaster should, to quote Mr. Rohde, "in nine cases out of ten be found to have bulged and separated from the walls."

6. As an illustration I may remark that I built a large house at Ootacamund 13 years ago, a portion of which was upper storied, and the walls exposed to the full beat of the south-west monsoon; yet no damp ever penetrated them, nor did the plaster peel off, although their composition was precisely the same as that I suggested for the walls of the Warders' Cottages, viz., brick in clay for all portions except at angles, round windows and doors, and for a foot depth under wall plate and the same at basement.

7. And here I beg to remark, as regards the basements of the Cottage walls, that my meaning was that of the 2 feet fixed for their height, 1 foot was to be of brick in chunam to prevent damp from rising in case of a wet foundation. The absolute dimensions* of the basements as entered on the plan approved of by Mr. Rohde, it was not competent to me to alter without reference to that gentleman.

8. Mr. Rohde remarks in his 3rd paragraph that "since Colonel Ouchterlony was on the Hills the "practise of building in brick and clay in the best houses has been very much discontinued." This however does not prove much; for on my recent visit to Ootacamund it appeared to me that not a dozen houses of any size, had been added to the settlement since I last resided in it.

9. I am unable also to share Mr. Rohde's opinion that an unplastered brick in chunam wall is a better protection than a (well built) brick in clay wall (well) plastered. The hill, and indeed almost all bricks absorb much moisture under the influence, of a driving monsoon rain, which as it is a lasting influence, gives them no time to dry; whereas a smooth hardened coat of good plaster turns the rain, at least four-fold, and will only yield to absorption under long enduring trial.

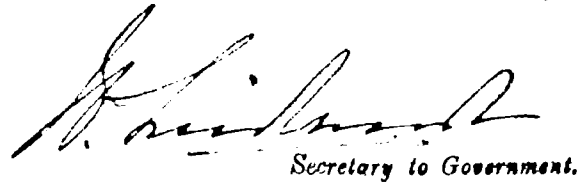
10. I therefore still adhere to my original recommendation, especially as I feel sure it will receive ample justice in execution under Captain Farewell's practised supervision.

ORDER THEREON, 6th August 1862, No. 1,863.

1. Communicated to the Judicial Department, with reference to the Orders in that Department, No. 1,077, dated 8th July 1862.

2. The Government concur in the views expressed by the Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.

„ Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle.

Over 30 July 1862 Sept 1871

dist. of M. L. S.

John A. S. 1862

Wm: A. S. 1863

Wm: A. S. 1864

Wm: A. S. 1865

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1054 1866

Edith and Orinda

No. 1290 - 12 Aug 1862

Communicated to the Inspector Genl. of

Wm: A. S.

The Inspector Genl. of