M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 800 Press ~~Mis.~~

124-125

Dated 17.5.1862 ~~19~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 124. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Salem, 29th April 1862, No. 910.

General Department.

With reference to the Order of Government, 25th January 1862, No. 110, I have the honor to inform you that I have personally examined the question of hutting men and its cost in a variety of districts; and I have obtained information from most of those which I have been unable to inspect, since the receipt of that order.

2. The matter before us is to hut as many men and as quickly as possible; and, as their pay is still very low, to do so as cheaply as possible, since they are to pay rent for their houses.

3. The description of hut sanctioned by Government will make a comfortable and good residence; but the cost is so great, that it will be impossible to hut the force within a reasonable period. In the meantime the men's health is suffering, the respectability of the force is diminished, and the people are harassed by the incontinent habits which absence from their families naturally lead the men into.

4. The plan of hut—that is the Native Army standard—is good; and should, as a rule, be maintained; but the *puckah* roof adds so enormously to the cost that I must beg the Government to permit, with reference to locality, the use of the ordinary thatched roof of the country. For instance, in Salem, the hut of a private is completed all but the roof at a *cost* of 4½ Rupees. A tiled roof is put on at a cost of 36 Rupees or nearly *nine times* the value of the walls. And the charge to a man for the rent of such a hut will be two or three times as much as people of his own class are paying in the bazar.

5. In Salem and other Head Quarter places tiled roofs may be desirable; but in many parts of every district these are not only unprocurable, but wholly unnecessary. I beg therefore that the Government will permit me, to substitute the cheaper description of roof: and allow to myself, the District Officers of Police and of the Department of Public Works, the discretion of electing what description of roof should be used at the different places. The Magistrate will of course be always consulted, and the Government may rest assured that their money will be well spent, and their Police rapidly and comfortably housed.

6. In some districts, for instance Ganjam and Vizagapatam, the Native hut of the country would be much preferred by the men themselves; and be cheaper and more easily constructed than the standard plan. I recommend that I be permitted to make such special exceptions as the requirements of the country call for, in communication with the Magistracy and local Officers. I may add that in those Zemindary countries, the construction of tiled roofs would only give unnecessary unpopularity to the movement. In those Zemindary tracts, the Zemindar and a few of the privileged classes, alone live in tiled dwellings. An *Ooriyak* of the lower classes would not be permitted by the feeling of the country, to construct a tiled hut. I do not attach undue importance to these prejudices; in certain circumstances it may be desirable to not recognize them; but I do not think it advisable to run counter to them, for the construction of a hut four times more expensive than the comfort of the force requires.

7. It is obvious that though the roof may be called temporary it will last for years; and that a permanent one may be substituted at any time.

8. I therefore request that the sanction of Government may be granted on the following points:—

1st. That with reference to locality and at the discretion of the local Officers and of myself thatched roofs may be substituted for tiled.

2ndly. That when it would be obviously expedient, both financially and with reference to the feelings of the men and the customs of the country, the ordinary country hut be substituted for that of the standard plan.

9. I venture to solicit the early instructions of Government on these points. The Officers of Police and Department of Public Works are equally ready to enter heartily and actively into the all important matter of the hutting of the force. The enormous expense of the undertaking

dings, a tiled roof should be

has alone hampered us. If the permission solicited be conceded, I have every hope that in most districts, the hutting of the entire force will have made great advances before the end of the next official year.

10. I propose as a rule postponing the construction of station houses to the more pressing consideration of hutting the men.

No. 125.

ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1862, No. 800.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Government authorize the Inspector General of Police to exercise his discretion in regard to the description of roof to be put on the huts of the Police force in different localities.

2. It appears to the Government that as a general rule when the huts have to be erected in a crowded town and in the immediate vicinity of other buildings, a tiled roof should be adopted in preference to thatch, on account of the greater risk of fire in such localities.

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

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police.

(Here enter 29th April 1862 No. 910)

Order thereon 17th May 1862 No. 800.

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W. R.

To The Inspector General of Police

3 Sept 15th

Board of Revy

Judicial 1867. Department

No. 800

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Dated 17th May 1867.

Authorizing the Inspector Genl. of Police to exercise his discretion in regard to the description of roof to be put on the huts of the Police force in different localities.

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