

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

163-164	G.O. No.	1123	Press
			~~Mis~~
	Dated	16-7-19	1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
16th July 1867.*

No. 163. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 11th July 1867, No. 2078.

Passing orders on the condition of the } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 11th July 1867, Nos. 280
Police huts at Sooramungalum in the } —282).
Salem District.

No. 164. ORDER THEREON, 16th July 1867, No. 1123.
To be recorded.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1867.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 280. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kotagherry, 30th May 1867, No. 911.

1. I have the honour to forward an extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Salem, on the already unserviceable condition of the huts, &c., at Sooramungalum in Salem.

2. I trust that Government will take notice of the matter.

From the Superintendent of Police, Salem, to the Assistant Engineer, Salem Range, dated Salem, 22nd May 1867.

* To be returned.

1. I have the honour to forward, for your perusal, a Diary* of Inspector Dias, and to inform

you that I have this morning inspected the Police huts at Sooramungalum, and find them very much in the condition described by him; so far as I can judge they are at present unsafe, and as likely as not to come down with a run when next there is a heavy fall of rain.

2. These huts were handed over to us by the Public Works Department only some eight months ago, having been built at a total cost of Rupees 546.

3. I shall feel obliged by your kindly having them inspected, and by your informing me at your earliest convenience whether you can undertake to repair them, and if so, at what cost.

4. I would take this opportunity of mentioning that some of the plaster has been washed off the back wall of the new lock-up at Sooramungalum, and that there are already several small holes in the wall, which appears to have been constructed, partially at least, of sun-burnt brick.

Extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Police, Salem.

After seeing the Inspector General at the Railway Station in the morning, went to look at the Police huts at Sooramungalum, which were reported to be in a dangerous state. On inspection I found that in all of them a great part of the earth had fallen off on the side exposed to the rain, and that the walls were cracked in a dozen places. One of the yard walls has already fallen down, and as far as I can judge the whole batch of huts are quite as likely as not to come down with a run when next there is a heavy fall of rain, they are in so dangerous a state that the men are moving their families out of them, and I doubt whether it is any use attempting to patch them up. I have to-day written a letter to Edgcome, copy of which I enclose, it is really perfectly disgraceful that Government money should be thrown away like this. Here we have paid Rupees 540 for six huts which have not lasted eight months.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspector General of Police.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

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

Fort Saint George,
15th June 1867.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, for early and full report.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

18th June 1867.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
11th July 1867.

No. 281. From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 27th June 1867, No. 58.

- 1 Letter from Inspector General of Police, with two enclosures.
1 Letter from Assistant Engineer, Salem Range.

1. With reference to your endorsement dated 18th of June, on a letter from the Inspector General of Police, I have the honour to report that I inspected the Police huts at Sooramungalum on the 22nd. I found that they had been utterly neglected by the Police Department, and they were consequently in need of some repairs. Some of the huts were unoccupied (possibly because the Constables find it convenient to live elsewhere), but not one hut was in such a state that it could not be occupied.

2. It is notorious that bungalows in this country, that let for 40 or 50 Rupees a month, if left unoccupied and neglected for a few months present a most dilapidated appearance. How then can it be expected, that mud huts should last if no repairs are made to them, and if, as in this case, no one is left to take care of them.

3. I forward a letter from the Assistant Engineer of the Range, from which it will be seen that it is thirteen months (not eight months as stated by the Superintendent of Police) since the huts were completed, and also that the huts were left unoccupied for at least a month after they were given over to the Police.

4. It would be well if huts of this kind, requiring no professional skill to design or construct, were, for the future, built by the Police Department. They would then be more carefully looked after, and would consequently last longer.

From the Assistant Engineer, Salem Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 25th June 1867, No. 52.

1. In reply to your Memorandum No. 183, dated 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I inspected the Police huts at Sooramungalum on the following day, and found them in the condition noted below :—

Enclosures 3.

2. Beginning from the south end, and naming the huts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

- No. 1. In good order, a portion of the compound wall fallen down, the hut unoccupied.
No. 2. A few tiles blown off the roof of the hut compound wall in good order, the hut unoccupied.
No. 3. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut occupied.
No. 4. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut occupied.
No. 5. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut occupied.
No. 6. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut unoccupied.

3. From the above statement you will observe that the huts are not in such an alarming condition as reported by the Superintendent of Police. I would, however, emphatically put on record the fact, that huts in such an exposed situation, constructed of such frail materials, need constant supervision on the part of the Police Department, and on the part of those who occupy them, and without such constant supervision it is not reasonable to expect them to stand the effects of rain and wind.

4. You will note that three out of the six huts were unoccupied at the time I inspected them. This of itself is, in my opinion, a serious omission on the part of the Police Department. Dwellings of this description to be kept in anything like decent order must be continually occupied.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1867.

5. I would point out that Captain Warlow is in error when he states that the huts have not lasted for eight months.

The extract from his diary is dated 22nd May. The date on which I finally inspected the huts, and reported that they were fit for occupation was 30th April 1866.

6. I may remark that although I reported on the 30th April that the huts were fit for occupation, they were not occupied up to the 4th June following. I consider this a matter of importance.

7. In conclusion, I would observe that I utterly object to the following remark made by Captain Warlow, "it is really perfectly disgraceful that Government money should be thrown away like this." I take this opportunity of asserting most emphatically that Government money has not been thrown away.

8. It would be well if this department were relieved of such petty works, as the construction of Police huts. Perhaps if the huts were constructed by the Police Department there would be more care taken of them after construction, than appears to be at present the case.

No. 282. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1867, No. 2,078.

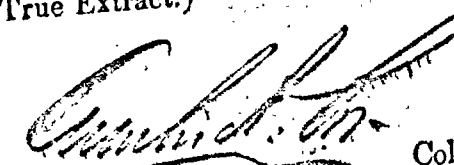
CIVIL WORKS, No. 38.

1. These reports of the Superintending Engineer and the Officer in charge of Salem Range furnish a very different account of the condition of the Police huts at Sooramungalum from that given by the Superintendent of Police at Salem. The Government observe that not one of the huts is considered unfit for occupation, and the appearance of dilapidation which those structures present is sufficiently accounted for by their having been utterly neglected since their completion and transfer to the Police Department nearly thirteen months ago, though, to ensure the preservation of buildings constructed of the ordinary and perishable materials which are generally employed on these huts, special care should have been taken of them, and petty repairs, when necessary, executed in good time.

2. In November 1864 the Government expressed the opinion that the erection of Police huts could not require the employment of skilled labour of any kind, nor demand the supervision of the professional Department; and the Government of India having since ruled* that only large Police stations are to be considered as coming within the category of Police works which are to be executed by the agency of Public Works Officers, His Lordship in Council wishes it to be distinctly understood that the duty of providing hutting accommodation for the Police force belongs to that Department.

* 6th December 1865, No. 3,697.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.
" Inspector General of Police.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Prin: 1838-89 - 1855

list of 30 July

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Prin 16 July

Prin 10 July 1867

No 20782

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11/13 July 1867

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