

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1863	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	19-4-1867	

219-220

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th November 1867.*

No. 219. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 12th November 1867, No. 3482.

Passing orders on the Police Hospital } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 12th November 1867, Nos. 199—202.)
built at Cocanada on a faulty plan and
of bad materials.

No. 220. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1867, No. 1863.
To be recorded.

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

2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 190. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 18th September 1867, No. 1,736.

1. I have the honor to submit, for such orders as the Government may see fit, the accompanying letter from the Superintendent of Police of Rajahmundry.
2. It appears that the new temporary Hospital at Cocanada is useless.
3. The work was sanctioned by G. O. No. 837, dated 15th March 1866, at a cost of Rupees 650.

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From the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, to the Inspector General of Police, dated Rajahmundry, 5th September 1867, No. 142.

1. With reference to the remarks of the Inspector General on Captain Guthrie's Diary, calling for a full report on the Hospital shed recently erected at Cocanada by the Department Public Works, I have the honor to state that, owing to the want of Hospital accommodation for sick Police officers at Cocanada, sanction was obtained from

Fide G. O. No. 837, of 15th March 1866.

Government in 1866 for the erection of a Hos-

pital shed. The rough plan for this building was, at the request of the Executive Engineer of the Range, furnished by Mr. Jones, Acting Superintendent, and the fair plan and estimates made out therefrom by that Officer.

2. Owing to a delay in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, the order to proceed with the work was not received till late in the year, and in consequence a portion of the building only was executed in the official year 1866-67, and the remainder was completed in June 1867-68. Captain Guthrie personally inspected the building soon after it was completed, and found the plaster flaking off the walls, and at the same time was dissatisfied with the state of the roof, verandah pillars, and other parts of the building. This was reported in his Diary, and he spoke personally to the Executive Engineer, Mr. Sage, who some time after wrote that the defects had been remedied, that they were trifling, and that he had inspected the building and was satisfied, at the same time requesting us again to take it over as he had no one to put in charge.

3. As, from the reports of the Medical Officer at Cocanada and others, I was still disinclined to take over the building, and the Executive Engineer stated he could do no more. I went down for the purpose of inspecting it, and found that although the walls had been apparently repaired, the roof was made of such light materials that already one rafter was snapped in two, another split half way through, and the whole roof likely to break down on being exposed to any severe gale of wind. All the rafters appear weak, bent, and too weak to support even the slight thatch of palmirah leaves now on them. It has suffered little or no damage of any other kind, but appears breaking down from weakness of the roofing. I consider it at present not safe for patients, and in this opinion the Medical Officer concurs. The wood of the rafters seems inferior, and too small for the building. It is, I think, quite useless to us. I have written to the Superintending Engineer on the subject, and though I have directed the Inspector to place a man in charge to see that it does not suffer from white-ants, &c., I have declined to take it over.

4. The Executive Engineer appears to think that because the Acting Superintendent of Police furnished the rough plan of the building required, and specified the materials of which it was to be constructed, that the Police department must take the responsibility of the defects complained of. I cannot agree to this, for, although the Acting Superintendent named the materials (which directions have not been adhered to in executing the work) the Executive Engineer framed the estimates. A copy of the Executive Engineer's letter stating his inability to do anything more for the building is annexed. I understand the work was done by contract.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

From the Officer in charge of No. 1 or Eastern Delta Range, Godavery District, to the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, Rajahmundry, dated Dowlaishweram, 26th August 1867, No. 523.

1. In reply to your No. 133 of 24th instant, I have the honor to inform you that a few slight defects mentioned to me by Captain Guthrie were put to rights, and that I afterwards inspected the building and found it all right.

2. I beg to remind you that this building is made on your own plan and estimates, and of very bad materials, viz., salt-mud, which will never stand as you seem to expect, and that if anything has gone wrong again with it, I am unable to make it good, as work was completed on 26th June last, and should have been taken charge of by your people *immediately*. I have no funds for repairs, but after you have taken charge, you can have any repairs you like done on estimate.

3. I have also the honor to point out, that I have no person to put in charge of the building, and it is liable at any time to be damaged. I therefore request you will at once give orders to your people to take charge of it.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division for early and full report.

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
1st October 1867.
Under Secretary to Government.

No. 200. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Dowlaishweram, 16th October 1867, No. 153.

- 1 Report.
- 1 Copy of plan of Hospital, Cocanada.
- 1 Do. of a letter from Mr. Jones to the address of Mr. Sage, No. 201, dated 19th August 1865.
- 3 Original letters, being the correspondence between the Inspector General of Police and Government.

With reference to your endorsement dated 1st October 1867, on a letter from the Inspector General of Police, dated 28th September 1867, No. 1,736, I have the honor to submit a report upon the present condition of the temporary Hospital lately built at Cocanada.

Report upon temporary Police Hospital at Cocanada.

1. Mr. P. W. Jones, Acting Superintendent of Police, on 19th August 1865, sent to Mr. Sage, Executive Engineer, a plan of a Hospital he wished to put up at Cocanada, and asked for an estimate, which Mr. Sage in accordance with orders received from the Superintending Engineer, made; it amounted to Rupees 650, instead of Rupees 491. Stated by Mr. Jones to be available although, for economy sake, palmirah leaves were allowed for instead of grass, but as when the estimate was sent back it was intended that the Police should construct the shed, they were quite at liberty as far as the Department Public Works were concerned to use what material for the roof they considered most suitable; the scantling of the timber allowed in estimate was larger than contemplated by Mr. Jones, although the roof was lighter.

2. As far as I can ascertain the Police Department were unable to get the shed erected, and eventually passed it over to the hands of the Department Public Works.

3. It was completed on June 26th, Rupees 600, or Rupees 50 under the estimate, and naturally enough nobody was pleased with such a structure, so the Police Officer and Medical Officer agreed not to take it over on the following grounds:—

1st.—That the roof was dangerous and likely to come down, in consequence of the wood being inferior and small in scantling.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

2nd.—That the white-wash was flaking off the walls.

3rd.—That the walls were cracking and bulging outwards.

4. I have inspected the building yesterday, or more than three months after it was completed, and find that the mud walls have not bulged at all, and are perfectly safe; they have slightly cracked in a few places, as all mud walls will, unless built in the native fashion, very thick and very slowly; the white-wash is flaking off the walls, strange if it did not: not for long will white-wash near the sea adhere to masonry work, how can it be expected to adhere to brackish mud. The great defect in the structure is the roof, most of the rafters had slightly sagged, and two had broken at knots; they have been all strengthened by side pieces; the best wood procurable was used, but it was green, and country wood never is trustworthy; the roof might be still further strengthened by poles down the centre, a ridge-pole and struts, and if it is to be used as a Hospital, which I would not advocate, perhaps this had best be done, and would not cost more than the original saving on the estimate of Rupees 50, though I should not myself hesitate to live in the shed as it now stands as far as safety goes, though of course so situated as to be entirely exposed to the full force of the heaviest gales of wind that blow at Cocanada, it cannot be expected to last long, but to melt gradually away.

5. I am inclined to recommend that the shed be pulled down as badly situated, badly planned, and in every respect different in appearance from what one would wish and expect to see in a Government building.

(Signed) T. BECKLEY, Captain, R. E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

CAMP, DOWLAISHWERAM,
16th October 1867.

From the Acting Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, to the Executive Engineer, No. 1 Range, dated Rajahmundry, 19th August 1865, No. 201.

1. With reference to your letter, No. 202, dated the 5th August 1865, I have the honor to forward a rough sketch of the Hospital shed proposed to be built at Cocanada. The materials to be used are mud walls and grass roof.

2. I have further the honor to inform you that a sum of Rupees 491 is available for building the shed. The cook and privy rooms may be built of any dimensions.

No. 201. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Kotagerry, 28th October 1867, No. 1,943.

1. In continuation of my letter of 28th September last, No. 1,736, I have the honor to forward a letter, in original, with its five enclosures, from the Deputy Inspector General, Northern Range, regarding the Police Hospital at Cocanada, Godavery District.

2. It would almost appear that the Executive Engineer (Mr. Sage) knowingly constructed, or rather allowed an inefficient contractor to construct a building while he was well aware that it would not do, and permitted the use of materials which he knew to be unserviceable. The Police Officer sent in a rough plan of what was wanted, but for the estimates and execution of the work he cannot of course be held responsible. Surely it is the duty of the Engineer Officers to see to this both as respects suitability and adequacy.

3. It is to be regretted that Captain Beckley only looked at it from a distance.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

From the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Northern Range, to the Inspector General of Police,
dated Waltair, 14th October 1867.

1. I have delayed forwarding the accompanying correspondence connected with the Police Hospital at Cocanada, until I had personally inspected the building and examined the work.

No. 154, dated 28th September 1867.
 " 506, " 6th " "
 " 144, " 7th " "
 " 523, " 26th August "
 " 346, " 19th September "

2. I found a building consisting of two rooms surrounded by a verandah, the walls built of mud, and a roof covered with palmirah leaves. The work had been intrusted by Mr. Sage, the Executive Engineer, to a Talook Overseer, who had given it on contract to a fisherman. The cost of the building is, I understand, Rupees 650.

3. The contractor has used a common description of unseasoned jungle-wood. The couples and rafters not being of sufficient scantling, several are broken in two, and are scarfed with pieces of wood nailed on to the sides. Wall plates have not been used, and as the roof is a span of twenty-one feet, and the slope not so much as one-third of the span, the walls have bulged, and are thrust out with the weight of the superstructure. The verandah is propped up with posts sunk from three to four inches in the sand; some of the posts rest on brick-bats or stones.

4. The work was completed by the contractor at the end of June last, but the Medical Officer considered the building so unsafe that he would not place patients in it, fearing the roof would give way. The Superintendent of Police then inspected the building, and hesitated to take over charge until the Engineer Officer had inspected the work. Some of the defects pointed out were then set to rights, but the apprehension as to its standing appears to be shared by Mr. Sage, the Executive Officer, in his letter No. 506, dated 6th September 1867.

5. I addressed the Acting Superintending Engineer, requesting his professional opinion, and enclose his reply No. 154, dated 28th September 1867. I was anxious that Captain Beckley should see the building, as the estimate had been prepared by the Engineer department, and I felt doubtful as to the contractor having used the description of materials as entered in the estimate.

6. As there appears to be some difference of opinion as to the execution of the work, I will give a short history of the building. It was originally intended to build a wing on to the Civil Hospital at Cocanada, at an estimated cost of Rupees 2,000 to 3,000. Funds were, however, not available, and in 1865 Mr. Jones, the Acting Superintendent of Police, proposed to erect a shed near the Hospital at Juggernathpuram, constructed of mud walls and thatch, to be built departmentally.

7. The Acting Superintendent possessed little knowledge of building, and no steps were taken to execute the work. It was therefore determined to request the assistance of the Department of Public Works. Some correspondence then passed between the Police and Engineer Officers, which resulted in the Executive Engineer Officer preparing an estimate from a rough sketch furnished him by Mr. Jones, but the proposed amount was raised from Rupees 491 to Rupees 650, as the Executive Engineer stated "that a substantial building could not be erected for less than Rupees 650."

8. The plan and estimate were submitted by the Superintending Engineer to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, on the 5th February 1865, and received the sanction of Government on the 15th March 1866, No. 857. As the work was not completed within the official year 1865-66, provision was made for the work from the Department Public Works Budget for 1866-67, in the manner proposed by the Superintending Engineer in his letter No. 18, dated 15th May 1866, and approved of by you as shown in Captain Carr's letter to the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, No. 843, dated 29th May 1866.

9. The building, in its present state, is useless to the Police department, and I venture to suggest that the Superintending Engineer be requested to inspect it, and report what additional sum and alterations will be required to make it habitable for an Hospital for the sick Police.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

From the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, to the Inspector General of Police, Madras,
dated Rajahmundry, 7th September 1867, No. 144.

1. In continuance of my letter of 5th September, No. 142, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter received this day from the Executive Engineer. It is in reply to one from Reporting on the Hospital shed at Cocanada. me informing him of the state of the roof, and remarking on the materials being different from what was specified by the Acting Superintendent.

2. I cannot think that the Acting Superintendent, Mr. Jones, who forwarded the original rough plan for the building, was aware that the proposed building was likely to break down at once. I cannot find in the correspondence regarding it, any hint that such was likely to be the result, and no such opinion was expressed to me when, in November 1866, I requested the Executive Engineer to begin the work sanctioned months previous. Neither the rough plan forwarded at the request of the Executive Engineer, nor materials were objected to, and I am not aware of any limit being put on the sum to be expended. Buildings constructed of the same materials have been in use for some years in various parts of the district, erected both by Department Public Works and Departmental Officers. Had I been made aware that the building, the estimates for which were prepared by Mr. Sage and passed by the Superintending Engineer and the Inspector General, was, in the opinion of Mr. Sage, unsuited for Hospital purposes, and likely to break down at once, I should have requested that operations might be stopped, and the money devoted to other purposes.

3. In conclusion, I may state that the objection of the Medical Officer, as stated to me, was to the apparent weakness of the building and to the risk incurred by patients if the roof should give way.

From the Superintendent of Police, Madura, to the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District,
Rajahmundry, dated Madura, 19th September 1867, No. 346.

1. With reference to your letter No. 145 of 7th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, to the best of my recollection, Mr. Sage never told me that he considered the Hospital shed at Cocanada unsuited for patients, by letter or otherwise.

2. I would call your attention to a letter from Mr. Jones, Acting Superintendent in 1865, to the Assistant Inspector General (copy of which I had occasion to forward to Chief Office some months since), in which, if I remember correctly, mention is made of a consultation with the Executive Engineer, whose opinion is that a "substantial building" cannot be erected for less than Rupees 650.

3. If the Executive Engineer consulted was Mr. Sage, the Hospital shed is certainly not the "substantial building" promised for the money.

4. Having had but a few hours to spare in Cocanada when leaving the district, I regret that I was unable to re-inspect the building I report. You, however, saw the remarks made on it in one of my diaries, which gave all the details of defects.

From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, dated Camp at Dowlaishweram, 28th September 1867, No. 154.

1. With reference to the Police Hospital at Cocanada, I have the honor to inform you that the plan was made by Mr. Percy Jones, at whose request we made the estimate, but had nothing to do with the style of the building which, for a Government building, is peculiar to the Police. A plan for a Hospital at Cocanada was made by Mr. Sage, and sent to the Superintendent of Police, but has not been sanctioned.

2. I have only seen the Hospital from a distance, but understand from Mr. Sage that the building is worth the money expended upon it, but from the nature of the materials used it will require constant repairs.

3. Mud walls are always liable to cracks, and roofs made of palmirah leaves require constant attention and petty repairs.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

4. When the estimate was sanctioned, it was entered in the Police Budget, and was to have been built by the Police, but they finding some difficulty in doing the work it was handed over to us.

5. In future, it will be much more satisfactory if the execution of a work is left to the department that designs it.

From the Officer in charge of No. 1 or Eastern Delta Range, Godavery District, to the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, Rajahmundry, dated Dowlaishweram, 6th September 1867, No. 566.

1. With reference to your letter No. 140 of the 4th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, in my opinion, the kind of building built for a Hospital shed is not suited for a Hospital at all, and I am not surprised at the Medical Officer refusing to put patients into it.

2. Regarding rafters being broken, I am not surprised at that either, the materials being only country wood, which is very uncertain as to its durability.

3. Regarding the grass thatch mentioned in letter No. 201 of 19th August 1865, it could not be obtained in Cocanada, and estimate was made for palmirah leaf; I am not surprised leaves have become damaged (by which I suppose you mean removed by wind) as we have had very strong winds lately.

No. 202.

ORDER THEREON, 12th November 1867, No. 3,482.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 23.

1. These papers have reference to the Hospital shed erected for the Police at Cocanada upon an estimate of Rupees 650 which was sanctioned in G. O. of the 15th March 1866, No. 857. The building was completed in June last, and the Police department object to take possession of it as they consider it unsafe and unsuited to the purpose for which it is required.

2. It appears from the Superintending Engineer's report that the plan of the Hospital was furnished by the Superintendent of Police to the Range Officer with an intimation that the walls were to be of mud and the roof of grass, and that a sum of Rupees 491 was available for the building. An estimate of Rupees 650, which was believed to be the lowest amount for which the description of shed proposed to be built could be erected, was accordingly prepared and furnished by the Range Officer to the Police authorities by whom it was thought the work would have been carried out; but Captain Beckley states that as the Police were unable to get the work done, they transferred its execution to the Public Works Department, by which department it was undertaken and completed at a cost of Rupees 600.

3. The Superintending Engineer reports, after inspection, that he does not consider the Hospital unsafe for occupation; but as inferior materials were necessarily used, and the plan which has been adopted is unsuited for buildings erected in the exposed situation selected for that under notice, he recommends that the shed be pulled down and re-built on a more favorable site.

4. The Government consider the Public Works Department much to blame for having undertaken the erection of the shed while fully aware that if constructed upon the plan and of the ordinary and perishable materials proposed by the Superintendent of Police, the work must inevitably result in a failure, and they cannot acquit the Range Officer of the charge of serious neglect in constructing the building in a position greatly exposed to the action of the weather.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1867.*

5. His Excellency in Council has more than once pointed out that buildings of the character of that under notice are not such as can properly be called Public Works to be constructed under the supervision of the professional department, and the Government have expressed their opinion that the erection of such rough and perishable structures should be left to the department requiring them and by which they are to be occupied.

6. The Inspector General of Police will report of what materials the Police Hospital sheds are generally built, what is their usual cost, and whether he has funds available for constructing at Cocanada a simple substantial building of brick and mud with a tiled roof.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
 .. Judicial Department.
 .. Inspector General of Police.
 .. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Pro Genl P. B. Dyer
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