1. Number of ...
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M.R.O. 1—82,400—23-11-50

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 12.5.57

G.O. No.	879	Press Mis.
16-17		
Dated	7. 5.	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

14-34(15)

No. 16. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer ; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 21st April 1857, No. 11936.

SIR,

Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 670 dated 9th Instant, having imputed to me blame for the delay that has taken place in submitting an estimate for the new Lunatic Asylum proposed to be built at Lucock's garden. I have the honor to solicit attention to the following summary of the correspondence which has passed through the Central office.

2. A letter No. 2029, dated 28th March 1856, was forwarded to Government, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 560, dated 29th February 1856, containing a Plan prepared by the Civil Architect for the new Lunatic Asylum proposed to be built at Lucock's garden pending sanction and approval of, or orders upon, which agreeably to my express application in the last para. the Civil Architect did not prepare a detailed estimate, but only roughly computed the cost at (4) four lacs of Rupees.

3. In Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1342, dated 4th August 1856 was communicated a report on the Asylum at Bhowanipore.

4. The above order was forwarded to the Civil Architect, with Extract Proceedings No. 5713, dated 13th August 1856.

5. On the 13th August 1856, in a letter No. 29 the Collector of Madras reported that he was prepared to make over the premises of Lucock's garden.

6. With Extract Proceedings No. 5875, dated 14th August a copy of the above letter was forwarded to the Civil Architect with directions to take charge of the premises.

7. In Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1592, dated 6th September 1856 was communicated a report on the Asylum of Colaba (with reference to para. 2, Extract Minutes Consultation No. 603, dated 29th April 1856.)

8. The above order was forwarded to the Civil Architect with Extract Proceedings No. 6486, dated 12th September 1856.

9. In Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1977, dated 27th October 1856, was communicated a report on the Establishment for the Lunatic Asylum at Delhi, all these being sent only for information, but not necessarily for guidance.

10. In Extract Minutes Consultation No. 389, dated 28th February 1857, Government stated, that replies from the Government's of Bengal, Bombay and N. W. Provinces had been communicated to the Chief Engineer and Medical Board, with the orders of 4th August, 6th September and 27th October last, Nos. 1342, 1592, and 1977, and requested to know what measures had since been adopted in communication with the Medical Board towards maturing a Plan for the Lunatic Asylum proposed to be built at Lucock's Garden.

11. The above order was forwarded to the Civil Architect, together with copy of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1977, of the 27th October 1856, with Extract Proceedings No. 10702, dated 5th March 1857.

12. In a letter No. 173, dated 12th March 1857, the Civil Architect reported, that since the despatch of his design and letter No. 179, dated 8th March 1856, (submitted to Government with my report on the 28th Idem) the premises of Lucock's and adjoining garden purchased by the Collector of Madras on behalf of Government had been taken charge of by him as ordered beyond which nothing had been done as he had received no reply or further orders relative to the Plan &c., for the new buildings, which the Medical Board had already fully approved of.

13. With Extract Proceedings No. 11068, dated 19th March 1857, a copy of the above letter was forwarded to Governmet, with reference to para. 71, of the Honorable Courts despatch communicated in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 389, dated 28th February 1857.

14. With reference to the foregoing summary I have now the honor to request that the Plan forwarded to Government on the 28th March 1856 may now be returned to the Central

office in order that it may be forwarded to the Civil Architect for that Officer in re-communication with the Medical Board to determine whether any, and what modifications are to be made in the design before the final preparation of the estimates is entered upon.

15. I greatly regret the delay that has taken place in disposing of so important a matter and still more that such delay has been attributed in any manner of degree to myself, on reviewing the circumstances, I cannot but believe that the Government will admit how very natural a conclusion it has been on my own part, that after a most extensive and intricate design has been elaborated in detail by the Civil Architect and approved by the Medical Board it would be for the Government to honor its Chief Engineer who has reported on the building and recommended its approval with some expression of its views, on a structure representing so large an amount of time and trouble of a very busy Public Office.

16. There has been no oversight nor forgetfulness nor any defective internal economy obstructive of the despatch of business, but I have been misguided by the belief; that the Government would not ignore my despatch No. 2029, of the 29th March 1856 and that a plan prepared with so much care in detail, would at the convenience of higher authority be returned with instructions for my guidance. In further extenuation of the remissness attributed to me, I beg to add that it is quite inconformity with precedent hitherto to expect that when a design matured in communication with all the subordinate authorities concerned has been reported on by the Chief Engineer and the approval of Government solicited, some final disposal of his application should be received and it presented itself to my mind at the time as it still does that provided the Civil Architects design for a Lunatic Asylum met the Local requirements and received the approval of the authorities at Madras, it practically was of very little moment in what kind of buildings they accommodated the insane in other parts of India.

17. Finally I have respectfully to submit that if even my despatch were to be passed subsilentio the return of the elaborate drawings would have sufficed to shew that the Madras Government still considered the construction of the Asylum an open question. Hence I beg to report, that if there has been a misapprehension it is not an unnatural one and that consequently there has been no negleet whatever and I beg therefore to express a hope that the Government will be pleased to rescind its imputation of Official mismanagement in the particular case now under remark.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, No. 879; dated 7th May 1857.

Referring to Extract Minutes of Consultation 9th April last, No. 670, noticing the unnecessary transmission to Government of a letter from the Civil Architect, which contained no information whatever on the subject noticed in Extract Minutes of Consultation of 28th February 1857, viz., the maturing of a plan for the erection of a new Lunatic Asylum at Lucock's gardens and suggesting a remedy for the prevention of similar oversights, the Chief Engineer submits certain observations, which he considers pleas sufficient to exonerate himself and his establishment, from the imputation of official negligence. He sets out by enumerating the several letters and orders which have been written on the subject of the Asylum, the object of such an enumeration being however not apparent; and he takes his stand on the fact that no specific orders were passed on his letter of the 28th March 1856, No. 2029, submitting a plan of the proposed building, unaccompanied by any estimate of expense, beyond the rough guess that the building would cost about four lacs of Rupees.

2. In the absence of such orders, and from the circumstance that the plan itself was not returned to him, the Chief Engineer would appear to argue that he was justified in remaining passive, notwithstanding that the reports received from other Presidencies as to the character of the buildings there existing, were at different times communicated to him, and notwithstanding that, at a later date (28th February 1857), he was called upon, in express terms, to report what measures he had concerted with the Medical Board, towards maturing a plan for the erection of the contemplated building.

3. The Government cannot suppose that the Chief Engineer, on receiving the communications from the Governments of Bengal, Bombay, and North West Provinces, forwarded with

the Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 4th August, 6th September and 27th October last, Nos. 1342, 1592 and 1977, believed that they had been obtained by this Government, and were transmitted to his office, for no practical purpose and as that purpose could only have been the view of aiding the Chief Engineer and the Medical Board, in maturing a plan for an Asylum at Madras, the Government are forced to the conclusion that the omission to act on these reports, by consulting with the Medical Board, and reporting the result of that consultation to Government, was an oversight in the Central office.

4. The Government direct that the plan received with the Chief Engineer's letter of the 28th March 1856, be now returned to that officer, but they must observe at the same time, that the document in question, the non receipt of which has been made one of the grounds of delay in this case, might have been obtained at once from the Government office by an office Memo. as is always done whenever papers are required by the Chief Engineer.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

№ 879

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 7th May 1857

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer
(Here enter 21st April /57
№ 11930)

Referring to Genl Mins
Cons. of 21st April last & No 670
noticing the unnecessary
transmission to Government of a letter from
the Civil Architect,
which contained no in-
formation whatever on
the subject noticed in
Genl Mins Cons of 28th
February 1857, viz. on
the maturing of a
plan for the erection
of a new lunatic asylum
at Sircocks' Gardens,
and

Think the Ch. Engr
has some reason for
his appeal. His letter
of 21st March /57 was read
answd. & must be submitted
a plan approved of himself
the Govt has asked the
Govt to suspend the
been returned or at least an
answer sent telling him to
reconsider it with reference to the
plans from the other Presidencies

and suggesting a remedy for the prevention of similar oversights, the Chief Engineer submits certain observations, which he considers pleas sufficient to exonerate himself and his Establishment from the imputation of official negligence. He sets out by enumerating the several letters and orders which have been written on the subject of the Repairs, the object of such an enumeration being however not apparent, and he bases his stand on the fact that no specific orders were passed on his letter of the 28th March /56, & 20th Sep. submitting a plan & Estimate of the proposed building, unaccompanied by any Estimate of expence, beyond the rough guess that the building

building would cost about Four Lacs of Rupees.

2 In the absence of such orders, and from the circumstance that the plan itself was not returned to him, the Chief Engineer would appear to argue that he was justified in remaining passive, notwithstanding that the reports received from other Presidencies as to the character of the buildings there existing, were at different times communicated to him, and notwithstanding that, at a later date (28th Febr. /57) he was called

called upon, in reference to
terms, to report what
measures be had concerted
with the Medical Board,
towards maturing a
plan for the erection of
the contemplated building.

3 The Govt cannot
suppose that the Chief
Engineer, on receiving the
communications from
the Govts of Bengal, Bom-
bay, and North West
Provinces, forwarded
with the Govt Min: Conc: of
the 4th August, 6th September
and 27th Oct: last Nos 1342, 1592 & 1977,
believed that they had been
obtained by this Govt, and
were transmitted to his
Office,

for the
Office, ~~with the~~ practical
tical purpose, and as
that purpose could only
have been the view of
aiding the Chief Engineer
and the Medical Board,
in maturing a plan for
an Asylum at Madras,
the Govt are forced to the
conclusion that the omis-
sion to act on these re-
ports, by consulting with
the Medical Board, and
reporting the result of
that consultation to Govt,
was an oversight in the
Central Office. The con-
viction is confirmed by the
continued inaction of the
Chief

Chief Engineer even on
receipt of the order of
the 28th of Febry, which
pointedly informed Coll.
Faber that the Govt were
waiting for a report from
him.

4. The Govt are
never reluctant to heed all
any expressions of disap-
probation they may have
recorded, which on fur-
ther consideration, may
appear to them to have
been undeserved; but in
the instance now before
them, they are not of opi-
nion that the Chf Engr
has succeeded in shewing
that

that his office is unde-
serving of the remarks
made by Govt. It is not
unworthy of notice that
in the very Paragraph (16)
of his letter in which the
oversight and carelessness
are prejudicated, the date
of his own letter of the 28th
of March 1856, is misquot-
ed the 29th; whereby much
needless trouble was
caused in the Govt Office.

5. The Govt direct
that the plan received
with the Chief Engineer's
letter of the 28th March
1856 be now returned to
that officer, but they
must

The whole of this paragraph is to stand.

must observe at the same time, that the document in question, the non-receipt of which has been made one of the grounds of delay in this case, might have been obtained at once from the Govt Office by an Office Memo, as it always done ~~in other cases~~ whenever papers are required by the Chief Engineer.

I Copies to the Chief Engr with sigd Plan Encl 8

Mr Com. 21 April 57 No 32433.
Do 25 = Do = 32433

Public Works 1857 Dep.tt
2d to Com.s 12 th May.

№ 879.

Extract Mins of Com.s
Dated 7th May 57.

Rec.d from Chief Eng.r 2d May 57
C № 901 inclo: 19

From the Chief Eng.r Of 29th July 1857
C № 1523 in Com.s 10 Aug.t 57

Passing orders on a letter from the Chief Engineer exonerating himself and his establishment from the imputation of official negligence in the maturing of a plan for the erection of a new Lunatic Asylum at Lucock's gardens

№ 16-417.

Ch. Eng.r 24 Aug.t 57