NADRAS RECORD ORDER

No. 92. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 30th July 1858, No. 2350.

SIR,

It having been brought to my notice that the Executive Engineer at Jackatalla has personally represented before the Right Honorable the Governor and His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that the progress of the Married Quarters of those Barracks is delayed for want of orders from the Central Office on the subject of the scantling for the flooring timber, I trust you will do me the favor to lay before Government the real facts of the case.

2. The use of Asphalte in the flooring of the Staff Quarters had been applied for* and sanctioned† after reference for information as an experiment, but no report of the result has ever been received, and in May last it appeared that this material could not be procured in sufficient quantity.

* 8th September 1857.
† 31st October 1857.

3. On the 11th June last an application was received from Mr. Fraser, Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore, for permission to use Asphalte in the floors of the Married Quarters but without giving any particulars, and on the same date an order was returned calling for further information, without which the Chief Engineer could not give instructions, but no reply has been yet received, and hearing from Colonel Faber of the representation made to the high authorities alluded to, I despatched on the 21th Instant a second order, copy of which is submitted herewith.

4. A Telegraphic application had been also received direct from Captain Campbell, but as of course it was without any particulars, no orders could be given.

5. If any delay has taken place, I beg to point out that the onus rests entirely with the local Officers, and considering that the District Engineer had been for several months this year at Jackatalla, I think the subject should have been brought to his notice at a time when the necessity must have been equally apparent. Sudden changes in the construction of buildings cannot be authorized without full information, and there have been so many demands for alterations in the Jackatalla Barracks and so much increase of expense that I felt bound to make full enquiry in this case, and I trust that on this explanation I shall be exonerated from blame, having done every thing in my power to expedite the progress of the works in question.

Letter from Captain P. M. FRANCIS, District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Coimbatore, 8th September 1857, No. 20.

SIR,

I have the honor to request your sanction to a change in the detail of construction, in regard to the *Staff Quarters* at Jackatalla only (because there is not so much traffic) as proposed by Captain Campbell, viz. to terrace over the joists and cover the brick terrace with Asphalte, it would be cleaner, cheaper, and more easily washed, and will save the expense of ceiling below, it appears that the cost of ceiling and upper flooring has exceeded the estimate in the Barrack already executed, and thus, in like manner, the lower floor might be floored with brick and covered with Asphalte; strictly speaking Captain Campbell proposes to cover the upper Joists with Jungle wood, prepared and for lightness sake, brick laid flat, but I do not quite like that proposition, though I approve of the other and beg to forward it for your consideration.

Instead of flooring.

No. 3734.

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter No. 20, dated 8th September 1857, to request the District Engineer of Coimbatore, to procure from Captain Campbell, and submit to this Office, data of the two kinds of flooring alluded to, shewing the difference in cost and to state at the same time, whether Asphalte has been yet tried in any public or private buildings on the Hills, and whence it is to be procured.

Central Office of P. W.
Fort Saint George,
16th September 1857.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD, Major,
Superintending Engineer Southern Circle.

Letter from Captain J. CAMPBELL, Executive Engineer; to Captain P. M. FRANCIS, District Engineer, Coimbatore, dated Jackatalla, 16th October 1857, No. 147.

SIR,

In reply to Extract Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, No. 3731, dated 16th September, I have the honor to submit cost of two kinds of upper story flooring, proposed for Staff and Married Quarters.

Teak floor tongued and ploughed as in present Barracks, ceiled below joists 14 7/12 cubic feet, Boarding 1½″ at 2/ per cubic foot.....	29	2	8
30 Carpenters	15	0	0
144 Screws	5	15	0
Tonguing	2	10	0
Rupees....	52	11	8
	50	0	0
Rupees.....	102	11	8

Asphalte floor over terrace resting on Teak planks. No ceiling required below joists 8½ cubic feet, Boarding ¾″ planks at 1/2.....	9	6	0
1 Square Asphalte over flat laid bricks	35	11	3
7 Carpenters	3	8	0
500 Dowell nails.....	1	0	0
Rupees....	49	9	3
Ceiling saved.....	53	2	5
Rupees.....	102	11	8

The expense of Carpenters work has risen enormously here, owing to Railway competition, hence it is desirable to economise, as much as possible; but in this instance had expense been increased, the increased cleanliness and comfort of the Asphalte floor, would have demanded its use for Married families. Asphalte can be obtained from Madras of average quality at 60/ to 65 ₹ ton at present.

I have laid down a Bath Room floor in the Hospital, where I think it will answer very well being less cold than stone or chunam, for sick people's feet.

The cost I have given above, viz. Rupees 35 11 3 ₹ square including bricks below.

According to the above cost and data, the weight would be about half a ton to the square.

No. 1849.

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter, No. 147, dated 16th October 1857, to authorize the use of Asphalte flooring, for the upper story of the Staff Quarters provided that the experiment already under trial proves successful.

Central Office of P. W., Fort Saint George, 31st October 1857.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD, Major,

Superintending Engineer Southern Circle.

Letter from Captain P. M. FRANCIS, District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Jackatalla, 6th May 1858, No. 138.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 2, dated 1st May, I have the honor to state that the Staff Quarters have been delayed for want of Asphalte which Captain Campbell has failed to be able to procure in sufficient quantities at a time.

The partitions also not being of so much importance as other works, the Carpenters were taken off for a time.

No. 334.

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter No. 138, dated 6th May 1858, to observe that the District Engineer should not have held out prospects, not to say promises of completing the Staff Quarters at Jackatalla without better grounds for judging of their probable realization than he now would seem at any time to have possessed.

Central Office of P. W. Fort Saint George, 15th May 1858.

(Signed E. LAWFORD, Major,

Superintending Engineer Southern Circle.

3/

Letter from W. FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Ootacamund, 5th June 1858, No. 155.

SIR,

As there is a difficulty in getting Timber sawn, and Carpenters work done at the Barracks at Jackatalla, and as Timber is very dear, I have the honor to request you will sanction our putting in terraced floor covered with Asphalte (instead of Timber floors) in the whole of the Married Quarters, and for the ground floors of the Barracks, yet to be built; it is not proposed, to terrace the upper Barrack floors.

This change if sanctioned, will save a considerable sum in the cost of the work, and the Asphalte floors will probably be more healthy than that of Timber.

This alteration is approved of by both Captain Francis and Captain Campbell.

No. 1084.

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter No. 155, dated 5th June 1858, to inform the Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore, that without more definite information, the Officer in charge of Central Office of P. W. cannot authorize any departure from the sanctioned estimates for the Barracks.

Central Office of P. W. Fort Saint George, 11th June 1858.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD, Major,

Superintending Engineer Southern Circle.

Letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to Captain P. M. FRANCIS, District Engineer, Coimbatore, dated 24th July 1858, No. 2211.

SIR,

Referring to Extract Proceedings of Chief Engineer No. 1084, dated 11th June 1858, I have the honor to request you will, without any delay, furnish information on the following points.

1st. Has any Asphalte been used in the Jackatallah Barracks, and if so at what cost and with what effect?

2nd. Can abundance of Asphalte be obtained quickly?

3rd. What amount of saving will be effected by its use to the extent now proposed?

4th. What difference of scantling will there be by its use?

2. It is impossible for the Chief Engineer to give orders for alteration of sanctioned works without possessing full information, and this you were called on to furnish more than a month ago without any result.

3. Copy of this letter will be forwarded direct to Captain Campbell, in order that there may be no more avoidable delay in passing orders on your application.

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, No. 1572; dated 10th August 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Department, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

5/1

No 20

From

Captain P. M. Francis

District Engineer of

Coimbatore

To

Colonel L. E. Baker

Chief Engineer D. F. F.

Fort Saint George

Sir

I have the honor to request your sanction to a change in the detail of construction in regard to the Staff Quarters at Jackatallah only / because there is not so much traffic / as proposed by Captain Campbell Vizt. To terrace over the Joists and cover the brick terrace with asphalte, it would be cleaner, cheaper, and more easily washed, and will save the Expense of ceiling below, it appears that the cost of ceiling and upper flooring has exceeded the Estimate in the Barracks already Executed, and thus, in like manner, the lower floor might be floored with brick and Covered with asphalte; Strictly Speaking Captain Campbell proposes to cover the upper Joists with Jungle wood prepared and

Instead of flooring.

for

for lightness sake, brick laid flat, but I do not quite like that proposition tho' I approve of the other and beg to forward it for your consideration.

Distt Engrs Office
Coimbatore
7th September 1857

I have &c
/signed/ P. M. Francis
District Engineer
of Coimbatore

№ 3734

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter № 20, dated 8th September 1857, to request the District Engineer of Coimbatore to procure from Captain Campbell and submit to this office data of the two kinds of flooring alluded to, shewing the difference in cost and to state, at the same time, whether asphalte has been yet tried in any public or private buildings on the Hills, and whence it is to be procured.

Central office of P. W.
Fort Saint George
16th September 1857

/signed/ C. Lawford
Superintending Engr
Southern Circle

№

№ 147

1/

From
Captain J. Campbell
Executive Engineer

To
Captain P. M. Francis
District Engineer
Coimbatore

Sir

In reply to Extract Proceedings of the Chief Engineer № 3734, dated 16th September, I have the honor to submit Cost of two kinds of upper Story flooring proposed for Staff and Married Quarters.

Teak floor tongued and ploughed as in present Barracks ceiled below Joists

14½ C feet Boarding 1½"	
@ 2/ per Cubic foot	29-2-8
30 Carpenters	15-0-0
144 Screws	5-15-0
Tonguing	2-10-0
Rs	52-11-8
50-0-0 Ceiling Laced	
Rupees	102-11-8

Asphaltic floor over terrace resting on teak planks – no ceiling required below Joists

8½ C feet Boarding ¾"	
Planks C 1/2	9-6-0
1 Square Asphalte over flat laid Bricks	35-11-3
7 Carpenters	3-8-0
500 Dunell nails	1-0-0
Rs	49-9-3
Ceiling Laced	53-2-5
Rupees	102-11-8

The Expense of Carpenters work has risen

risen enormously here owing to Railway competition. hence it is desirable to Economise, as much as possible, But in this instance had Expense been encreased &c. encreased cleanliness and comfort of the Asphalte floor, would have demanded its use for married families. Asphalte can be obtained from Madras of average quality @ 60/. to 65/ ₹ Ton at present.

I have laid down a Bath room floor in the Hospital where Sickness it will answer very well being less cold than Stone or Chunam for sick people's feet.

The cost I have given above viz^t Rupees 35 - 11 - 3 ₹ Square including duties below.

Jaulatalla
16th October 1857 } Have the
honor
/Signed/ J. Campbell Capt.
Executive Engineer

/Signed/ P.M. Frances
Distrct Engineer

According to the above cost and data the weight would be about half a ton to the Square.

No

No 4849

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter No 147, dated 16th October 1857, to authorize the use of Asphalte flooring for the Upper Story of the — Staff Quarters provided that the Experiment already under trial proves successful.

Central office of P.W.
Fort Saint George
31st October 1857.

/Signed/ C. Lawford
Superintending Engr
Southern Circle

No 138

From Captain P. M. Francis
District Engineer of Coimbatore

To

The Chief Engineer
Department Public Works
Fort Saint George

Sir

In reply to your letter No 2 dated 1st May, I have the honor to state that the Staff Quarters have been delayed for want of Asphalte which Captain Campbell has failed to be able to procure in sufficient quantities at a time.

The partitions also not being

being of so much importance as other works the carpenters were taken off for a time

Dist. Engrs Office
Camp Jaktatalla
6th May 1858.

I have &c
/Signed/ P. M. Francis
District Engineer

No 334

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter No 138, dated 6th May 1858, to observe that the District Engineer should not have held out prospects not to say promises of completing the Staff Quarters at Jaktatalla without better grounds for judging of their probable realization than he now would seem at any time to have professed.

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George
15th May 1858.

/Signed/ C. Lunford
Supg. Engineer
Southern Circle

No 155

From W. Fraser Esqr
Ag. Dt Engr of Coimbatore

To
The Chief Engineer D.P.W.
Fort Saint George

Sir

As there is a difficulty in

in getting Timber sawn, and Carpenters work done at the Barracks at Jaktatalla and as Timber is very dear, I have the honor to request you will sanction our putting in terraced floors covered with asphalte (instead of timber floors) in the whole of the married quarters and for the ground floors of the Barracks, yet to be built. It is not proposed to terrace the upper Barrack floors.

This change if sanctioned, will save a considerable sum in the cost of the works, and the asphalte floors will probably be more healthy than that of timber.

This alteration is approved of by both Captain Francis and Captain Campbell

Dist. Engrs Office
Ootacammund
5th June 1858.

I have &c
/Signed/ W. Fraser
Ag. Dist. Engineer

No 1084

Resolved, with reference to the foregoing letter No 155, dated 5th June 58 to

to inform the Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore that without more definite information the Officer in Charge of Central Office of P. W. cannot authorize any departure from the Sanctioned Estimates for the Barracks.

Central Office of P. W.
Fort St. George
11th June 1858.

/Signed/ C. Lawford
Supg. Engineer
Southern Circle

No. 2211

From

The Officiating Chief Engineer

To

The District Engineer
Coimbatore

Sir

Referring to Extract Proceedings of Chief Engineer No. 1084, dated 11th June 1858, I have the honor to request you will, without any delay, furnish information on the following points.

1st Has any asphalte been used in the Jackatalla Barracks and if so at what cost and with what effect?

2d Can abundance of asphalte be obtained quickly?

3d What amount of saving will be effected by its use to the extent now proposed?

4th What difference of seasoning will there be by its use?

2. It is impossible for the Chief Engineer to give orders for alteration of Sanctioned works without possessing full information and this you were called on to furnish more than a month ago — without any result

3. Copy of this letter will be forwarded direct to Captain Campbell in order that there may be no more avoidable delay in passing orders on your application.

I have &c.

Central Office of P. W.
Fort St. George
24th July 1858.

/Signed/ C. Lawford
Offg. Chief Engineer

/True Copies/

Officiating Chief Engineer

Comps

15

Central Office of Records
Fort St. George
30th July 1858.

No. 2350

From
The Offg Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government Mily Dept

Sir,

Military

I having been brought to my notice that the Executive Engineer at Trichinopoly has personally represented before the Right Honorable the Governor and His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that the progress of the Married Quarters of those Barracks is delayed for want of orders from the Central Office on the subject of the Scantling for the flooring timber, I trust you will do me the favor to lay before Government the real facts of the case.-

Encl 1
1 Copies of letters

2. The use of Asphalte in the flooring of the Staff Quarters had been

Secretary's Office
Received 30th July 1858

No. 2350

From
The Executive Engineer
Trichinopoly
Dated 28th July 1858
Received 30th July 1858

Subject
Scantling for flooring timber

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to lay before Government the accompanying letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Division, with its enclosures, on the subject of the Scantling for flooring timber.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Executive Engineer
Trichinopoly

been applied for* and sanctioned after reference for information as an experiment but no report of the result has ever been received, and in May last it appeared that the material could not be procured in sufficient quantity.-

* 8th September
& 31st October 57

3 On the 11th June last an application was received from Mr Fraser, Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore, for permission to use asphalte in the floors of the married Quarters but without giving any particulars, and on the same date an order was returned calling for further information, without which the Chief Engineer could not give instructions, but no reply has been yet received and hearing from Colonel Faber of the representation made to H.E. high authorities alluded to, I despatched on the 21st Instant a second order copy of which is

Submitted

Submitted herewith.-

3. A telegraphic application had been also received direct from Captain Campbell, but as of course it was without any particulars no orders could be given.-

4. If any delay has taken place, I beg to point out that the case rests entirely with the local Officers, and considering that the District Engineer had been for several months this year at Jackatalla, I think the subject should have been brought to his notice at a time when the necessity must have been equally apparent. Sudden changes in the Construction of buildings cannot be authorized without full information, and there have been so many demands for alterations in the Jackatalla Barracks and so much increase of expense that I felt bound to make full enquiry in this Case, and I trust that on this explanation I shall be exonerated from

from blame, having done every thing
in my power to expedite the progress
of the works in question.-

Fort St George
30th July 1858

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt

To
The Secretary to
Government F.W.D.

J Crawford Major
Offg Chief Engr

Comp'd

Comm 27th April 58 No 2793
—"— 2d Feby —"— 34 & 36.

P. Works 1858 Distrate
Cond: Offr No 1702.
Spoins
Sec Offy Chief Engr
Sec Sec of State for War

No 1572

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Department for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief

Orders 30th July 1858.
Read 31st "

Further Comm 21 Augt 58 Nos 1061/107
From Chief Engr No 2359
No 749 Ist Regt
Recd 30th March 61.

No 1572. 10th Augt 1858.

Submits Correspondence shewing that the progress of the Marine Quarters of the Lockhotella Barracks is not delayed from want of orders from the Central Office as represented by the Executive Engineer.

Fort St George
10th Augt 1858

Orders to be July Dept Dupd 11th

With my order

No 2793

Copied