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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.
2002/16/51

G.O. No. 117	Press Mis.
Dated 18.10.37	18.10.37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th April 1858.

No. 95. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Ecclesiastical Department, dated 24th March 1858, No. 92.

Read the following letter from the Venerable VINCENT SHORTLAND, Archdeacon of Madras; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th March 1858, No. 104.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose a letter to my address from the Reverend Chaplain of Coonoor and Jackatalla, under date the 9th Instant, showing clearly, as it appears to me, the utter insufficiency of the proposed School Room attached to the new Barracks at Jackatalla, for the purpose of Public Worship, which I request the favor of your submitting for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

I should perhaps say that I concur generally in the views expressed by the Reverend Chaplain, but I cannot think that so great a number of Seats as he anticipates is likely to be required, whatever building may ultimately be assigned for the celebration of Divine Service; but this is a question which can easily be decided by the Military authorities.

It appears to me also, that no Clergyman can possibly be required, or expected, to undertake three Services on the Lord's day, and that his doing so (even if his physical strength should endure for a time) would in some respects be highly inexpedient. Even in England, this has generally been discouraged, and even prohibited.

From the Reverend HENRY TAYLOR, B. C. L., Chaplain of Coonoor and Jackatalla; to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated 9th March 1858, No. 929.

VENERABLE AND DEAR SIR,

Referring to the Minutes of Consultation, No. 59, under date the 19th February 1858, which I had the honor to receive from you, I have the pleasure to state that I have had an opportunity of conferring personally with the District Engineer on the various points involved in the consideration of the subject of Church accommodation at Jackatalla, and I lose no time in laying the information thus derived before Government.

2. The District Engineer has favored me with the plans for the proposed Library and School Room at Jackatalla, and the latter would accommodate 240 men. This computation is made on the usual scale, and does not provide for kneeling room, so that when this very important provision is made, there would probably be room for no more than 200 men.

3. The District Engineer informs me that the proposed School Room could not be enlarged so as to accommodate the probable demand, without involving an expense considerably greater than would be required to build a Church.

4. My past experience of European Regiments leaves no doubt on my own mind that when the Barracks are full, the probable demand of accommodation for Protestants would exceed 700 men. It was so with the H. M. 63rd and 94th and 4th and 25th Regiment and the 2nd European Light Infantry.

5. The Government appear to me to suppose that the Roman Catholic and Protestant Services could be conducted in the same Room, but setting aside the strong objections which each party would urge to such an arrangement (and I must confess that had I to conduct Catholic Worship after a Roman Catholic Service, I could not but feel deeply that their "incense was an abomination" to me) there is no necessity for considering this question in relation to the Roman Catholics at all. It is the peculiarity of that body of Christians to make the erection of their house of prayer wherever they go, their chiefest and first thought. Accordingly the Roman Catholics of the first Regiment stationed here (H. M. 84th) built a convenient Chapel in the Cantonment which continues to this day.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th April 1858.

6. With regard to the different Sects which may form the Protestant portion of the Regiment stationed in the Barracks, unless it be a *bona fide* Presbyterian Regiment as the 74th was, the proportion of dissenters is by no means likely to lower my estimate of 700 very much. And even if a Presbyterian Regiment be stationed here, the experience of the last 2 years has shown how acceptable the services of Episcopalian Ministers prove, when the Presbyterian Minister is not available, indeed I was not a little flattered (though somewhat surprised of course) a short time ago at being assured, when I offered the services of a Presbyterian Minister, that my own were more acceptable.

7. I submit therefore most respectfully for the consideration of the Government the necessity for supplying Church accommodation for at least 700 persons, and 800 or 900 would be better still. And I would merely add that if the building is to be erected, the present is the most convenient season to commence the work, whilst workmen are on the spot. For be it remembered that when the Barracks are completed, the whole body of artisans now here will descend to their own homes in the plains, and unless our Industrial School shall have raised up a sufficient body of Carpenters and others to supply local demands for workmen, there may be considerable difficulty in getting laborers on the spot. I am happy to say that our Industrial School bids fair to realize our original expectations, and we have now 19 Burghers who have joined us and become excellent Bricklayers and Carpenters and Sawyers.

8. Referring to the last para: of the Minutes of Consultation, which orders the repair of the Barrack formerly used as a Church "if approved by the Chaplain," I must candidly confess that I cannot approve of that building ever being again appropriated to the service of Almighty God. I would rather preach under a tree, than enter a place so mean and inconvenient and unsuited to the purpose as the Barrack in question is. But there can be no necessity for reverting to the old Room, since even if the Barracks are full, there is one half of a wing of the Hospital, used hitherto as a Store Room only, which, (as a temporary measure,) could be used for Divine Service. The Stores might be placed elsewhere pending the erection of a Church.

9. There is one point which, in conclusion, I must again press upon the notice of Government, or I may suddenly find myself in an awkward predicament. There is no room at present available which could accommodate more than 200 persons, now if the Government send up Troops here shortly to any extent, so that the Protestant congregation should exceed 200, there must be a second Church parade on Sundays for the Troops, and the service at Coonoor must be given up by the Chaplain unless the Government will sanction the lighting up of the Church for an evening Service. I will do my best to meet the difficulty, but last year, I found 3 Services commencing so close upon each others as

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11 A. M. at Coonoor.

4 P. M. at Coonoor.

most fatiguing. If the last Service could have been held at 6 or 7 P. M., I should not have felt it probably, but we have no means of lighting up the Coonoor Church.

Referred to the Chief Engineer through the Department Public Works, in reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, 19th February 1858.

(True Extract and Copies.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, No. 717; dated 19th April 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation, 16th March, No. 473.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 24th March 1858.

Read the following letter from the Venerable VINCENT SHORTLAND, Archdeacon of Madras; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort. Saint George, dated 15th March 1858, No. 104.

SIR,

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From the Reverend HENRY TAYLOR, B. C. L., Chaplain of Coonoor and Jackatalla; to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated 9th March 1858, No. 229.

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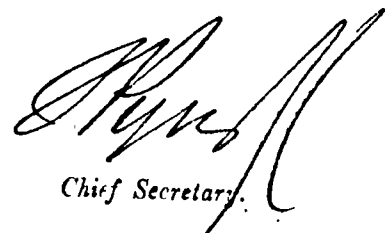
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Referred to the Chief Engineer through the Department Public Works, in reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, 19th February 1858.

(True Extract and Copies.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras.

To the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Box: 19th March / 58 12 38 839

10th March 1858
Box 19th 1858

Extract from the above
Box in the Box Room
Box 1858

Box 18 1858
Box 18 1858

Box 18 1858

Box 1858

Referring to the
Chief Engineer's letter
from the 18th March 1858
concerning the construction
of a new Hospital
of 1000 beds & the
showing the full
scheme of the proposed
building of the new
to the new Hospital
at the rate of 100
pounds of public
money.

Box 18 1858
Box 18 1858

Box 18 1858
Box 18 1858

Box 18 1858
Box 18 1858

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