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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2296 Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, from 24th September to 4th October 1859.

No. 26. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 25th August 1859, No. 4225.

In obedience to the orders of Government, calling for a report on the subject of subordinates of department of Public Works paying rent for Government buildings in their occupation, I have now the honor, after communication with all the districts, to report as follows:—

No. 1239, dated 23rd May 1859.

2. In only one or two districts does it appear that any "Government buildings" (so called as distinct from "Overseer's sheds" specially erected for the purpose) are occupied by subordinates of department of Public Works, but the latter buildings in course of erection, as included in the budget of 1859 and 1860 will be very general, and it appears only correct that a rent sufficient to meet the expenses requisite to prevent deterioration, should be paid by all who occupy them.

3. The cost of these sheds varies from 100 to 200 Rupees according to the districts in which erected, and in order to maintain them in proper repair, an annual charge of 12 per cent. on the cost would be requisite. This on sheds which cost 100, 150 and 200 Rupees, would be 12, 18 and 24 Rupees, or a monthly rent of 1-1½ and 2 Rupees, to be paid by all subordinates of department Public Works who occupy them, without reference to the rank or salary of each individual.

4. In respect to any other Government buildings, which may at any time be occupied as places of residence by these classes, such as "travellers bungalows" on abandoned roads, or other buildings not now used for the purpose for which they were erected, a larger rent fixed on different principles is desirable.

5. It would, I conceive, be unfair to charge the rent as a per centage on the value of the buildings which might be large and expensive ones, while a portion only is made use of, and such a course would, I apprehend, deter the men from occupying them at all.

6. Neither can I concur with the Board of Revenue that subordinates Public Works department receiving an allowance for house rent should forfeit the same while in public quarters, as the rule would not admit of general application in a department composed partly of military men and partly of civilians, while its application to the military branch only would be invidious in such cases, as that of a Sub-Conductor (drawing large house rent) being employed as an Overseer, compared with a Serjeant whose house rent is 7 Rupees only, holding the superior civil situation of an assistant Supervisor.

Proceedings No. 1315 dated 14th April 1859.

7. I would, therefore, recommend that the house rent to be paid by all grades for Government buildings of a superior nature, such as travellers bungalows out of use, &c., should be fixed rateably to their total salaries as in the tabular statement annexed. The meaning of the terms occupying or "residing" in Government buildings should be clearly defined; it might be declared to be making the building the man's usual head quarters or place of abode as distinguished from the temporary occupation of a house or shed for a few days when on the march in the district.

8. In cases where the sheds called "Overseer's sheds" are half used as a store room, and half only as a dwelling place, the Overseer or other subordinate should be charged only half the rent calculated in paragraph 3. The only other point that requires report is the mode in which the rent should be collected monthly, and as the simplest and most convenient for all departments, I would suggest for the consideration of Government its deduction from the civil pay abstracts each month. Captain Rundall, District Engineer of the Godavery division, in connection with this subject suggests that comfortable and substantial cottages should be built for the occupation of subordinates who have not the opportunity of living in towns. He esti-

mates the cost at from 320 to 550 Rupees each, and for such buildings he would charge a monthly rent of Rupees 7 to Supervisor and assistant Supervisors.
" 5 to Overseers.
" 4 to Assistant Overseers,
such a plan would no doubt add greatly to the comfort of the men, and to their efficiency in securing them better shelter than in many cases they provide for themselves, and the rent as such as (setting a part 5 per cent. for repairs) would repay the outlay in 10 years, but I am not at present prepared to recommend for the consideration of Government, a course which would involve so large an outlay.

Statement of rent that might be charged to subordinates in Department Public Works, occupying Government, buildings as place of residence, other than the sheds called Overseer sheds.

Civil and Military.

		Rs.	
Sub-Engineer	1st class...	30	per month.
Do.	2nd class	25	"
Do.	3rd class...	20	"
Supervisor	... ...	15	"
Assistant Supervisor	... ...	10	"
Overseer	... ...	7	"
Assistant Overseer	... ...	5	"

(Signed) J. H. BELL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1859, No. 2296.

In this letter the Chief Engineer reports his opinion as to the rent proper to be charged to subordinates of the Public Works Department residing in public buildings.

2. He states that the Overseers sheds in course of construction will cost from 100 to 200 Rupees each and he suggests that a rent sufficient to maintain them in repair should be charged. This he estimates at 12 per cent. per annum, which would give a rent of from one to two Rupees a month according to the cost of the building. This he proposes to charge to the occupant without reference to his rank or salary; but where only half of the building is so occupied, the remainder being used as a store shed, he proposes that only a moiety of the rent shall be charged. With regard to the mode of collecting the rent, Colonel Bell suggests that it should be deducted from the civil pay abstracts.

Paragraphs 2 and 3.

3. In respect of other Government buildings Colonel Bell suggests that a larger rent should be fixed on different principles. It would be unfair, he thinks, to charge a per centage on the value of the building, which might fall heavy; and he objects to the proposition of the Board of Revenue that subordinates receiving a house rent allowance should forfeit it while occupying public quarters. He therefore proposes that the "rent to be paid by all grades for Government buildings of a superior nature, such as Travellers bungalows out of use &c., should be fixed rateably to "their total salaries" as shewn in the margin.

Paragraphs 4 @ 6.

Paragraph 7.

	Rs.
Sub-Engineers 1st class..	30
Do. 2nd class	25
Do. 3rd class...	20
Supervisor	15
Assistant do	10
Overseer..	7
Assistant do	5

4. In paragraph 8 of his letter Colonel Bell notices a remark of the District Engineer of the Godavery Division, as to the advantage of having cottages built for subordinates who have not the opportunity of living in towns. Captain Rundall estimates that such buildings would cost from 320 to 550 Rupees each; and for their occupation he would charge a rent varying according to rank from four to seven Rupees a month. Colonel Bell approves the recommendation in general; but he properly abstains from recommending any outlay on such an account in the present state of the finances.

5. The Honorable the Governor in Council has given his consideration to Colonel Bell's proposals above enumerated and he approves of them all, with the exception of that contained in paragraph 7 to charge house rent for Government buildings of a superior description, rateably according to the salaries of the occupants. The Governor in Council cannot assent to a scheme under which a Sub-Engineer of the 1st class would pay 30 Rupees for the very same accommodation for which an Assistant Overseer would pay only five Rupees. The correct principle, in his opinion, is to proportion the charge to the value of the building. But the present value should be taken, not the original cost; and if the building is large, only so much of it as is really wanted should be occupied and should be charged for. With these remarks the Government resolve to refer this part of the subject back to the Chief Engineer for reconsideration.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Central Office P.W.D.

No. 4225 Fort Saint George

25th August 1859

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government

D. P. W.

Sir.

P.W.D.
Revenue
General
No. 1239 d/23rd May
1859.

En: 18 Letters
18 corrf letters

In obedience to the orders of Government calling for a report on the subject of subordinates of Department of Public Works paying rent for Government buildings in their occupation, I have now the honor after communication with all the Districts to report as follows

2 In only one or two Districts does it appear that any "Government buildings" (so called as distinct from "Overseers sheds" specially erected for the purpose) are occupied by

by Subordinates of Department of Public Works, but the latter buildings in course of erection, as included in the Budget of 1859 and 1860 will be very general, and it appears only correct that a rent sufficient to meet the expenses requisite to prevent deterioration, should be paid by all who occupy them

3 The cost of these sheds varies from 100 to 200 Rupees according to the Districts in which erected, and in order to maintain them in proper repair, an annual charge of 12 per cent on the cost would be requisite. This on sheds which cost 100, 150 and 200 Rupees, would be 12, 18 and 24 Rupees, or a monthly rent of 1 1/2 and 2 Rupees to be paid by all Subordinates of P.W.D. who occupy them, without reference to the Rank or Salary of

of each individual -

4 In respect to any other Government Buildings, which may at any time be occupied as places of residence by these classes, such as "Travellers Bungalows" or abandoned Roads or other Buildings not now used for the purpose for which they were erected, a larger rent fixed on different principles is desirable

5 It would I conceive be unfair to charge the rent as a per centage on the value of the Buildings which might be large and expensive ones, while a portion only is made use of, and such a course would, I apprehend deter the men from occupying them at all -

Proceedings No 1315 dated 14th April 1859 -

6 Neither can I concur with the Board of Revenue that Subordinates P.W.D. receiving an allowance for House rent should

should forfeit the same while in Public Quarters, as the rule would not admit of general application in a Department composed partly of Military men and partly of Civilians, while its application to the Military branch only would be invidious in such cases as that of a Sub Conductor (drawing large House rent) being employed as an Overseer - Compared with a Serjeant whose house rent is 7 Rupees only, holding the superior Civil situation of an Assistant Supervisor.

7 I would therefore recommend that the House rent to be paid by all grades for Government buildings of a superior nature, such as Travellers Bungalows out of use fee, should be fixed rateably to their total salaries as in the Tabular Statement annexed. The meaning of

of the terms occupying or residing in Government Buildings should be clearly defined; it might be declared to be making the building the main usual Peach Quarters or place of abode as distinguished from the temporary occupation of a House or shed for a few days when on the march in the District.

8 In cases where the sheds called "Overseers sheds" are half used as a store room, and half only as a dwelling place, the Overseer or other subordinate should be charged only half the rent calculated in para 3. The only other point that requires report is the mode in which the Rent should be collected monthly, and as the simplest and most convenient for all Departments, I would suggest for the consideration of Government its deduction from the Civil Pay abstracts

Abstracts each month - Captain Rundall, District Engineer of the Godavery Division, in connection with this subject suggests that comfortable and substantial Cottages should be built for the occupation of Subordinates who have not the opportunity of living in towns. He estimates the cost at from 320 to 550 Rupees each, and for such buildings he would charge a monthly rent of
5 Rupees 7 to Supervisor & Ass^{t} Sup^{rs}
" 5 to Overseers
" 4 to Assistant Overseers
Such a plan would no doubt add greatly to the comfort of the men, and to their efficiency in securing them better shelter than in many cases they provide for themselves, and the rent as such as (setting) apart 8 per cent for repairs) would repay the outlay in 10 years, but I am not

not at present prepared to recommend for the consideration of Government a course which would involve so large an outlay -

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed^{t} Serv^{t}

Fort Saint George
25th August 1859

J. Kell Lieut^{t} Colonel
Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government
&c &c

Statement of Rent that might be charged to Subordinates in D.P.W. occupying Government Buildings as places of Residence, other than the sheds called Overseer Sheds.

	Civil and Military	Rs	
Sub Engineer 1st Class		30	per month.
Do Do 2nd Class		25	"
Do Do 3rd Class		20	"
Supervisor		15	"
1st Supervisor		10	"
Overseer		7	"
Assistant Overseer		5	"

Central Office PWD
Fort St. George
25th August 1859

J. H. Nell Lieut. Colonel
Chief Engineer

No. 2296. 15

P.W.D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 26th September 1859.

Read the following
Letter from the Chief
Engineer—

Remark on the amount
of rent which should be
charged to subordinate
for the occupation of
Govt. buildings.

(Hereunder 25th August/59
No 1225.

In this letter
the Chief Engineer re-
ports his opinion as
to the rent proper to
be charged to subor-
dinates of the Public
Works Department re-
siding in public
buildings.

Pp nos 2&3

2. He states that
the quarters about in
course of construc-
tion will cost from
100 to 200 Rupees each

B Proc. 24th Sept. 1859 No. 2296

Read Letter from Chief Engineer dated 25th August 1859 No. 1225.

Submitting
Opinion
as to the proper rent to be charged to subordinates occupying Government buildings.

Dated 25th August 1859
Received 29th Do. No. 1225
Encls=18 Returned 14-11-59
Acknowledged

Government Order thereon
Letter Reply to ditto dated
Copy thereof to be circulated to the Subordinates in the Executive Engineers' Department
Public Buildings
Public Instruction.

Read the opinion of the Chief Engineer that the rent to be charged to subordinates occupying public buildings should be

No 26.

Cy. Ltr to Bd 23rd

and he suggests that a rent sufficient to maintain them in repair should be charged. He thinks estimates at 12 per cent per annum, which would give a rent of from one to two Rs. a month according to the cost of the building. He thinks the occupant without reference to his rank or salary; but makes only half of the building is so occupied, the remainder being used as a store shed, he proposes that only a moiety of the rent shall be charged. With regard to the mode of collecting the

17

rent, Colonel Bell suggests that it should be deducted from the civil pay abstracts.

Sr. No. &c.

3. In respect of other Govt. buildings Col. Bell suggests that a larger rent should be fixed on different principles. It would be unfair, he thinks, to charge a per centage on the value of the building which might fall heavy; and he objects to the proposition of the Board of Revenue that subordinates occupying a house rent allowance should forfeit it while occupying Govt. quarters. He therefore proposes that the

No. 7.

"rent to be paid by all
"Grades for Sanitary build-
"ings of a superior
"nature, such as Ma-
"nellers Bungalows
"out of use &c., should
"be fixed rateably to
"their Total Salaries"
as shewn in the two
margin.

4. In para 8 of
this letter Capt. Bell
notices the remarks
of the District Engineer
of the Godavery divi-
sion, as to the advan-
tage of having Cot-
tages built for Sub-
ordinates who have
not the opportunity
of living in towns.
Captain Rundall
estimates that such
buildings would cost
from 320 to 550 Rupees
each;

Sub. Engrs 1st Class — 30
2d — a — 25
3d — a — 20

Superviser — 15
Appl. — Do — 10
Overseer — 7
Appl. — Do — 5.

and for this amount-
ation he would charge
a rent varying accord-
ing to the funds from
5 to 8 per month. Capt.
Bell appears to the
recommendation ge-
nerally, but he pro-
bably obtains from
recommending any out-
lay such as necessi-
ties the present state
of the finances.

5. The Board of
Revenue in their
letter has given no
consideration to the
Public Works charges
mentioned and have
framed their Opin-
ion on the exception
of that contained in
Para 7 of the Chief
Engineer's Report for Sani-
tary buildings of a superior

accommodation, gradually
according to the va-
-lances of the accounts
The Governor in Council
cannot agree to the as
-sessment under which
an Sub Engineer of this
Office would pay
3£ 10s for the neces-
-sary accommoda-
-tion for which an
Assistant Assessor
would pay only 30s
The correct principle
is for him to apportion
the charge to the
value of the building.
But the present sum
does not appear to be ex-
-cessive, not the original
cost; and if the new
building is larger, and
accommodates more
persons

nearly rented should
be carried and shall
be charged per Mth
shown in each of the
four months re-
-ferred to in this part of the
subject be referred to
the Chief Engineer
for reconsideration

To The Chief Engineer Dept

Cons: 27th May 1859 etc. 77-78.

Public Works 1859 — Sept.
Pro: of Govt 4th October.

No 2296.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dated 4th Feby 1859.

From the Chief Engineer D/ 24th Jan. 60
No 227 in Cons: 31st Mar. 1860 C
172

From the Accountant Genl 31 July
1861 C. No 1706 in

On rent to be charged
to Subordinates of P. W. D.
for occupation of Government
buildings.

No 26 & 27.

19 Sep. 1823