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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 76 Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

18

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th January 1862.

No. 149. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 23rd January 1862, No. 276 :—

Sanctioning for immediate execution estimate for Trap and Drain to abate Nuisance complained of by the Principal Inspector General Medical Department. } (Vide Military Proceedings, 23rd January 1862, Nos. 441 @ 443.)

No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1862, No. 76.

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, for early attention, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Orders in the Military Department.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Chief Engr. and Secy. to Govt., D.P.W.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters :—

From the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, 18th December 1861, No. 195; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor to request you will do me the favor to submit to His Excellency the Governor in Council, the following particulars regarding the building assigned as the Office of my Department in the Fort, which is inadequate as to space, and highly insalubrious for occupation during so long a period of the day, by so many individuals as form the Establishment, especially in the hot season, when the sea breeze is almost entirely excluded by intervening buildings.

2. The apartments on the upper floor are limited and confined, and afford accommodation to myself, the Secretary, the Manager, and three or four Clerks at most who may be employed on any special work requiring the immediate supervision of the Secretary or Manager. The rest of the Establishment, (except three Clerks and six Conicopolies employed in the Mortuary Returns who sit in an open verandah), comprising about sixteen Clerks and all the Records, are crowded into a small, low, ill-ventilated room on the ground floor, unfit for human occupation, even if unobjectionable on other grounds, but the windows and doors on two sides open into small Courts, surrounded by other buildings, and resorted to as *Urinaries* by the Clerks of my Office and others. Notwithstanding every possible attention to frequent flushing with water and the use of deodorising agents, the effluvia from these yards are offensive in the extreme. These odours rise to the upper floor, and I am quite unable to sit in the apartment assigned as my own Office, from the sickening effect produced on me.

3. Besides this insalubrious state of things, the want of surveillance over the Establishment by the separation of the greater number of the Clerks from the heads of the Office, prevents the due superintendence of the work, and the continual necessity of reference to Records on the ground floor impedes and retards business.

4. I beg most earnestly to appeal for more fitting accommodation for my Office Establishment, and I request that Government may be pleased to issue orders for immediate measures to be taken to obviate the intolerable nuisance of which I complain, which is not only highly offensive to those condemned to follow their daily occupation in my Office, but in a sanitary point of view, is injurious to the neighbourhood.

Referred to the Barrack Master for report as to the accommodation generally of the Inspector General's Office, and the measures to be taken to abate the nuisances complained of.

21st December 1861.

From the Barrack Master Presidency, Fort Saint George, 8th January 1862, *No.* 845; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor to submit the following observations on the accommodation in the Office of the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, agreeably to the orders conveyed in the enclosed letter on the subject.

Upper story.—2. The areas allotted to this Office amount to about 4,300 Square feet, differing but little, though in excess, of those in the former Office—now the Deputy Adjutant General's Her Majesty's British Forces; but it will be observed by the annexed Statement, that the room taken by the Head of the Department is 42′ × 16′ or 672 Square feet, and that adjoining, occupied by the Manager with Records and Book-cases, is 31′ × 16′.6 or 511 Square feet, while the Secretary's room to the north adjoining the Pay Office, has an area of only 252 Square feet.

Lower story.—3. The Clerks, with the exception of two or three, are entirely confined to the Lower story, in which are also Almirahs with voluminous Records, on which, inquiry might be made as to the necessity of their preservation.

4. These apartments appear quite sufficient for the number of Clerks now employed though the inner portions are indifferently lighted, especially during cloudy weather.

5. It is these apartments which the Inspector General considers "highly insalubrious for occupation," though they are by no means small or inconveniently crowded.

6. Judging from the areas actually occupied, I conclude that it is not so much the want of accommodation that should be complained of, but the manner in which it is distributed, and the impossibility of overlooking the Clerks at all times, situated as they are, in respect to the Secretary and Manager, who occupy apartments in the upper story.

7. In respect to the nuisances complained of, which I have frequently endeavoured to abate, they can only be entirely got rid of by preventing all access to the yards and out-offices to which the Clerks resort, and from which, they principally arise, in this, as well as in other Offices. A partial remedy by trap and drain has been suggested, an Estimate for which just received is appended.

8. There will doubtless be considerable inconvenience in carrying out such a measure, as the distances to which the Clerks will have to go are considerable, and much time will be lost, but this has already been foreseen and provision is now being made for a general place of resort for the Clerks and others occupied in the Fort, and which will doubtless, if properly attended to, and ample water supply afforded, prevent all future complaints of partial nuisances as represented in the letter under acknowledgment.

9. The want of accommodation in the Fort even for the Officers of the Garrison is such, that no other building can be assigned to the Inspector General without a sacrifice of other interests equally claiming consideration. I was desirous of submitting a Plan of the Office, but have not yet received it from the District Engineer to enable me to make a tracing.

ORDER, No. 276, *23rd January* 1862.

The Governor in Council learns from the foregoing Report of the Barrack Master, on the Quarter occupied as an Office by the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, first, "that it is not so much the want of accommodation that should be complained of, as the manner in which it is distributed," and secondly, "that the want of accommodation in the Fort is such that no other building can be assigned to the Inspector General, without a sacrifice of other interests equally claiming consideration."

2. Under the above circumstances, the Governor in Council sanctions, for immediate execution, the arrangements proposed by the Barrack Master for abating the nuisances complained of by Dr. Cole, and resolves to await a Report of their result, and of a re-distribution of the Office accommodation, before further considering the question raised in his letter above recorded.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Principal Inspr. Genl. Medl. Dept.
" Barrack Master, with an Estimate.
" Public Works Department. With 6 spare Copies

Fxd. T. Stubbs.

Public Works 1862 Departt
Pro: of Govt for January
No 200

Pro: of the Madras Govt
in the Military Departt

Dated 23d } January 1862
Recd 27th }
No 276.

Sanctioning for immediate execution estimate for Drain and Drain to abate nuisance complained of by the Principal Inspector General Medical Department.

With an order
No 76 - 29 Inst

No 276

Communicated to the Dy
Chief Engineer C. Circle for early attention with reference to para 2 of the Orders in the Military Departt

Fort St George
29th Jany 1862

11 Copies.

To The Dy Ch Engr
C. Circle Despd 30

No 87