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(1) Number of pages 2

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 961 Press ~~Misc~~

604-10-5

Dated 3-5- 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 3rd May 1862.

No. 104. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. CARPENDALE, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 25th April 1862, No. 12,947—

SIR,

I have the honor to submit a letter of the 15th instant, from the District Engineer of the Presidency on the subject of the constant reference made to him for the repair of Punkahs in the numerous Military and Civil buildings at Madras. The circumstances under which the construction and the repair of the Punkahs generally was entrusted to the Department Public Works will be found detailed in Order of Government No. 860 of the 12th April 1859. I do not wish ro raise any objection to the system therein ordered as regards the Provinces. At up country stations it will no doubt be always desirable that professional aid should be given in designing, constructing, and hanging Punkahs, but it does appear to me most objectionable that the time of Engineer Officers in responsible situations at the Presidency, with important works to engage them, should be even in a small degree occupied with such trifles ; and when it is remembered that ordinary wear and tear of the numerous Punkahs at the Presidency must be a source of perpetual references to the District Engineer, I think it will be admitted that the Department Public Works should be entirely relieved of such duty at the Presidency. There is a Barrack Master to superintend the work, and there are numbers of Cabinet makers and Carpenters competent to do it ; and I strongly recommend, that like all other fixtures in public buildings at the Presidency, the charge of the Punkahs may be made over to the Barrack Master. I think the reference instanced in the last paragraph of the District Engineer's letter is a sufficient argument of itself for the proposed change.

1 Letter from the District Engineer Presidency, No. 2,966, dated 15th April 1862.

From Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. HITCHINS, District Engineer, Presidency, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, dated Madras, 15th April 1862, No. 2,966.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to bring to your notice that the time of my Department is given up to a greater extent than I consider advisable to the repair of Punkahs in the numerous public buildings at the Presidency, and I would beg to suggest that as there are hundreds of Shopkeepers at Madras that would be happy to contract for such work, the Barrack Master should make his own arrangements, not only for repairing, but making up new Punkahs.

2. I can understand that in the Provinces where it would be difficult to find competent contractors to perform such work, that the Department Public Works should be called upon to give their assistance ; but it really appears unnecessary that any such assistance should be rendered by my Department at the Presidency where there are so many Cabinet makers, whose work people are more accustomed to that description of work than my Subordinates could possibly be.

3. The buildings supplied with Punkahs are about a hundred or I might say a thousand to one compared with any station in the Provinces, and it consequently occupies the time and attention of my Subordinates to a greater extent than could be imagined by any one not personally cognizant of the matter.

4. The accounts are also complicated by executing such work ; for all disbursements have to be kept under the head of advances and only recovered after some time when Bills have been submitted to the Barrack Master, who obtains the order for payment direct from Government.

5. I may mention the other day that the Brigade Major actually sent a Punkah Puller's Billet to my Office to be painted and numbered, and I think you will agree with me that such trifling work should not occupy the time and attention of an Engineer's Department, where there are much more important matters always commanding my attention.

No. 105. ORDER THEREON, 3rd May 1862, No. 941.

Referred to the Barrack Master for report.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government

Deputy Chief Engineer's Office
Central Circle
Chepauk
25 April 1862

(2)

N° 1294

From
Lieutenant Colonel J Carpendale
Aff° Deputy Chief Engineer
Central Circle

To
Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Horsley
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a letter of the 15th Instant from the District Engineer of the Presidency on the subject of the constant reference made to him for the repair of Punkahs in the numerous Military and Civil buildings at Madras. The circumstances under which the construction and the repair of Punkahs generally was entrusted to the Department Public Works, will be found detailed in order of Government N° 860 of the 12th April 1859. I do not wish to raise any objection to the system therein ordered as regards the Provinces. At up Country Stations

Enclosure 1
Letter from the Dist. Engineer Presidency N° 2966 dated 15th April 1862

stations it will no doubt be always desirable that Professional Aid should be given in designing & Constructing, and hanging Punkahs, but it does appear to me most objectionable that the time of Engineer Officers in responsible situations at the Presidency, with important works to engage them, should be even in a small degree occupied with such trifles; and when it is remembered that ordinary wear and tear of the numerous Punkahs at the Presidency must be a source of perpetual references to the District Engineer, I think it will be admitted that the D. P. W. should be entirely relieved of such duty at the Presidency. There is a Barrack Master to Superintend the work, and there are numbers of Cabinet makers and Carpenters Compitent to do it; and I strongly recommend, that like all other fixtures in Public buildings at the Presidency, the charge of the Punkahs may be made over to the Barrack Master: I think the reference instanced in the last paragh of the District Engineer's letter is a sufficient argument of itself for the proposed change.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant

Dy Chief Engr Office
Central Circle
Chepauk
25 April 1862

Lieut Col
Dy Chief Engineer C.C.

X? A. d'Cruz

Public Works 1862 Departt.
Pro: of Govt for May
No. 3222

From
The Actg Dy. Chief Engr.
To C.C.
The Secretary to
Government B. W. D.

Dated 25
Recd 28 April 1862
Encl.

From Barrack Master Dy. Secretary C.C.
May 62. Cost. 1349 in Pro:

Recommends that the charge of the Punkahs in the Public Buildings at the Presidency may be made over to the Barrack Master who has charge of all other fixtures belonging to them

With our Order
No. 3141 - 30 May.

No. 104 - 105.

Lil

No 941

Referred to the Barrack Master for Report.

Cheapauk
Tuesday 1862

To The Barrack Master with 1 Encl. 13 Copies. " Actg Dy Chf Engr C.C. Dispd 5

No. 87