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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1450	Press Mis.
146-147		
Dated	6-6-	1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled*signed*

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th June 1863.*

No. 146. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 27th May 1863, No. 605:—

Requesting to be informed whether there are any houses in the neighbourhood of the Museum, Madras, which could be rented for the Superintendent and at what rent. } (Vide Public Proceedings, 27th May 1863, Nos. 144-145.)

No. 147. ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1863, No. 1,450.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 4th Division for early report.

(Signed) W. L. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT:
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Captain H. L. PRENDERGAST, R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer 4th Division; to Colonel W. L. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Chepauk, dated Madras, 16th May 1863, No. 217.

Government having passed Orders, No. 944 of the 9th August 1862, for additions being made to the Museum; and it being considered by the Governor in Council, paragraph 10, "very desirable that the Superintendent should reside on the premises," I have the honor to report that the District Engineer prepared sketch plans for a house for the Superintendent; but found that the space available was very confined, in consequence of a large tank at the back of the Museum. It then occurred, that it would be preferable to purchase Mr. Johnson's Bungalow, which adjoins the Museum compound; but Captain Mitchell objected to that being made his residence, on account of the situation being bad; that having lived in the house already, his health broke down; and he was obliged to move to a better situation. Captain Mitchell, however, pointed out, at the same time, that the house might be improved, especially by the roof being raised; and that there would be advantages in adding the compound to the Museum premises. A report to the above effect was made to the Deputy Chief Engineer in December last, and Colonel Hitchens concluded by recommending that some Bungalow should be purchased in the vicinity of the Museum, in preference to building on the premises. An estimate was then called for, from the Central Office, for the valuation of Mr. Johnson's Bungalow, and of alterations and improvements to it; the Acting District Engineer reported in March, that the price asked for the Bungalow was Rupees 15,000, but that he had not estimated for improvements, as they would cost a good deal in addition to the sum for the purchase.

2. The above is a brief summary of the correspondence that has taken place. I think Captain Mitchell's objections, made to me personally, are reasonable, that there would be no strict privacy in his residence, if it adjoined the Library, and if a second story were added to the Library for a Herbarium, as contemplated in the Government Order, above quoted, the private house would be still more inconvenient. ~~Mr. Johnson's Bungalow for Rupees 15,000~~ would, I think, not be an economical measure, unless it were taken just as it stands now; for the raising of the roof and giving more accommodation, would add several thousand Rupees to the purchase sum, and a better house could be bought for the money. I would recommend for the consideration of Government, that some Bungalow in the neighbourhood of the Museum should be either bought or rented for the occupation of the Superintendent. No provision of funds, however, has been made in the Budget; and if expenditure is to be incurred by this Department in the current year, it must come from the Reserve Fund.

Referred to the Public Department with reference to the Orders in that Department, No. 944, dated 9th August 1862.

9th May 1863.

(Signed) W. L. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1863, No. 605.

The Governor in Council desires that inquiry be made as to whether there are any other houses in the neighbourhood of the Museum which could be rented for the Superintendent, and at what rent.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Superintending Engineer 4th Division,
(through Public Works Department.)

Exd. T. McMootry.

