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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1735

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16-17

Dated 1-7-1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st July 1863.*

No. 16. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 17th June 1863, No. 688:—

Requesting that orders may be issued for placing at the disposal of Colonel Angelo, Invalid Establishment, Rupees 1,653, for repairing the Bishopdown at Ootacamund in the Coimbatore District, and that the District Engineer may be directed to inspect the building from time to time on behalf of Government. } (Vide Public Proceedings, 17th June 1863, Nos. 97 @ 101.)

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, 1st July 1863, No. 1,735.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 7th Division, with a request that the amount now sanctioned may be met from the provision made in Part II of the Budget. A report of the source (sub-divisional heads) from which the payment has been made should be submitted for the information of Government.

2. Under recent orders from the Government of India, this Government is precluded from sanctioning Estimates for repairs from the Reserve Fund.

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

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PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 28th May 1863, No. 46.

In continuation of my letter of the 12th instant, No. 43, I have the honor to forward an estimate just received from Major Farewell, the Executive Engineer, Neilgherry Range, for the repairs required for the Bishopsdown at Ootacamund amounting to Rupees 1,853, and to request the sanction of Government for the same.

2. Major Farewell has been here to-day, and I learn from him, that as the monsoon is just coming on, he will be unable to carry out the estimate in strict accordance with its terms, as he will be unable to unroof, &c., the house where required, on account of the rain, but that so far as he is able he will adhere to the estimate. To this course of proceeding I presume there will be no objection.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 2nd June 1863, No. 43.

As directed in the Order of Government, dated 5th ultimo, No. 505, Colonel Angelo was called on to pay rent for Bishopsdown at 200 Rupees per mensem from the 16th April 1863, but he objects to do so for the reasons set forth in his letter of the 19th, which is herewith enclosed. Orders are requested as to whether rent should be paid from the 16th of April, or from 1st May as originally directed by Government.

2. With reference to that part of Colonel Angelo's letter wherein he states that "had you kindly complied with my request to come and see the state the house was in, I am sure you would not have proposed my paying rent till the repairs were completed," I beg to report that previous to Colonel Angelo's taking charge of the house I had twice visited and inspected it and was fully aware of the state in which it was, but I conceived that a portion of the repairs urged by that Officer were such as would not be performed by Government.

3. I take this opportunity of acknowledging the Government Order of the 22nd ultimo, No. 579, in which I find that a clerical error has apparently occurred in paragraph 2 wherein it is stated "provided the rent be reduced to Rupees 80 per mensem." It will appear from Mr. Williams' letter of 4th May 1863, No. 72, that Colonel Angelo proposed that if he was allowed 30 Rupees per month he would undertake to keep the building in repair always. Consequently I presume it was the intention of Government to say "provided the rent be reduced by 30 Rupees per mensem." I have written to the Executive Engineer, Major Farewell, for his opinion as to what the annual cost of the repairs will be if executed by the Public Works Department, exclusive of the repairs to be at once made, and for which I have forwarded an estimate for Rupees 1,853 with my letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 46. Major Farewell has also been requested in anticipation of the sanction of the above estimate, to carry out the most necessary repairs to the roof, &c., at once, as every day, is now of consequence, on account of the approach of the south-west monsoon.

From Major FREDERICK ANGELO, Invalid Establishment, Ootacamund; to P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 19th May 1863.

I have duly received your letter of the 16th instant, with enclosure, stating that I am expected to pay rent from the 16th April instead of the 1st May as previously agreed upon by Government. It is true that I came into the house on that date with a view of superintending the repairs which were absolutely requisite to make it habitable and which I have been obliged to do myself at my own expense, as up to this date the Executive Officer has not touched the inside of the house, though the walls and ceilings were black with dirt and the cloths of the ceilings in rags in many rooms, and the plastering tumbling off from neglect allowing the rain to get in. The floors were also broken up, so perfectly uninhabitable was the house that I was obliged to put off receiving guests for a month to my serious loss as they would have paid a share of the rent. I could only get one set of rooms ready by the 1st May, and I shall only tomorrow get

rid of workmen. Had you kindly complied with my request to come and see the state the house was in, I am sure you would not have proposed my paying rent till the repairs were completed, and in fairness I do not think I ought to be called upon for rent till from the 1st of June and I should be allowed to send in a Bill for what I have done and which are strictly landlord's repairs. When Mr. Williams the Sub-Engineer examined the house, he said one room he considered so unsafe that he would not sleep in it for a night, and yet nothing has been done to prevent such an accident. I am sure the room will fall in the rains if not secured before. If the Government would put the house in repair and then allow me Rupees 50 a month I will keep it in repair during my lease.

Should you not feel yourself authorized to act in this matter of rent, will you kindly forward this to the Secretary of Government for decision.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 9th June 1863, No. 45.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Order of Government, dated 22nd May 1863, No. 579, the Executive Engineer, Major Farewell, is of opinion, and I coincide in the same, that when the repairs to Bishopsdown, the estimate for which was transmitted to Government with my letter, dated 28th ultimo, No. 46, have been completed, no further repairs will be required for sometime, and that, therefore, it will be inexpedient to comply with Colonel Angelo's request for a reduction of rent for the purpose proposed by him.

From Major FREDERICK ANGELO, Invalid Establishment; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bishopsdown, 8th June 1863.

I beg you will excuse my troubling you on such trifles; but you will see by the enclosed that it requires the sanction of Government. I have been put to the greatest inconvenience from the dreadful leaking of the house, no sooner have I repaired and papered a room inside than it is destroyed for want of the roof being repaired. I am repairing the inside at my own expense although it is strictly speaking landlord's repairs, and considered so by all landlords here, such as papering, new carpeting, repainting the ceiling, walls and floor, &c., this I was obliged to do to make the house habitable, and to enable me to do this I asked Mr. Grant to allow me to come in on the 16th April (instead of the 1st May when my lease began) to personally superintend the internal repairs which he consented to, and now calls upon me to pay rent for that period as well as the cost of repairs which I do not consider can be the intention of Government, and would submit it for your consideration.

Mr. Grant tells me that the Executive Officer's estimate for repairing the outside is Rupees 1,800, and that he has sanctioned the commencement. I wrote to the Executive Officer pointing out that as he is absent at Wellington and cannot look after such trifles, he had better make over this sum to me and that I will undertake to make all the repairs and will in addition with that sum undertake to keep the house in repair for two years. I have been accustomed to build in the Hills and can do it properly.

They are now patching up the house and doing no good; they no sooner fill up a crack then it leaks again, the first shower the cracks are so wide and extensive that they require to be arched over and the water carried off in a different direction. I have represented this to Mr. Grant and also to the Executive Officer; but neither have time to attend to such trifles. If, therefore, you will sanction the sum estimated by the Executive Officer to be made over to me, I will see the work properly done and all parties will be saved trouble and the Government saved much expense. Trusting you will excuse this and favor me with an early reply.

WELLINGTON,
6th June 1863.

My dear Colonel ANGELO,

Mr. Sub-Engineer Williams has been directed to make such repairs as are absolutely necessary at once to Bishopsdown, and I have no doubt he will do his best to make you comfortable and keep the water out. I am much obliged to you for your kind offer to undertake to do the work yourself, which, however, cannot be permitted without the sanction of Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. FAREWELL.

ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1863, No. 688.

1. In the first letter above recorded the Collector of Coimbatore submits for sanction an estimate of Rupees 1,858, for repairs required for the house of Bishopsdown, Ootacamund, recently let on lease to Colonel Angelo.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction this estimate, but with reference to Colonel Angelo's last letter is willing that the money should be placed at that gentleman's disposal, with the understanding as proposed by him, that he executes the repairs required now, and any that may be necessary for two years, or until May 1865, without further charge to Government.

3. The District Engineer will inspect the house from time to time on behalf of Government, and Colonel Angelo will understand that he must satisfy that Officer, that the terms of his engagement are duly carried out.

4. On these conditions, the necessary orders for placing the amount of the estimate at Colonel Angelo's disposal will be issued through the Department of Public Works.

5. With reference to Mr. Grant's second letter, His Excellency in Council also consents to Colonel Angelo's liability for rent commencing on the 1st of May, instead of the 16th April. Considering that Colonel Angelo was in actual possession of the house from the former date, there seems to be no doubt that he might be fairly called upon to pay rent from that day; but under the circumstances stated in the letters now recorded, His Excellency will forego this claim, and allow the payment of rent to be calculated from the date originally fixed upon for the commencement of the lease.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.
To Colonel F. Angelo, Ootacamund.
To the Public Works Department.
Controller Public Works Accounts.
Accountant General.
Civil Paymaster.

Exd. T. McMootry.

