

(1) Number of pages 76

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2986	Press
300-301	Mis
Dated 17-10-	1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th October 1864.*

No. 300. Read the following letter from Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintendent Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 4th October 1864, No. 3,244 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit, for the orders of Government, the accompanying correspondence which has taken place between the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines and myself, on the subject of the execution of certain repairs to the Instruction Depot buildings at Saint Thomas' Mount.

2. In April 1862, Colonel Simpson forwarded to then Chief Engineer a letter from the Director of the Artillery Depot, bringing to notice several defects in the materials and workmanship of the new buildings which had been constructed on estimates sanctioned in the Orders noted in the margin. Upon which Deputy Chief Engineer of the Central Circle, inspected the works and reported the result in a letter addressed to the Chief Engineer under date 6th May 1862.

Accompaniments 18.
1 Letter from Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, No. 10,596, " 14th April 1863, with one enclosure.
1 Do. to do. No. 596, dated 12th June 1863.
1 Do. from do. " 1,743, dated 26th June 1863, with one enclosure.
1 Do. to do. No. 2,857, dated 8th October 1863.
1 Do. from do. " 5,210, " 24th " "
1 Do. to do. " 3,654, " 27th November " "
1 Do. from do. " 6,471, " 10th December " "
1 Do. to do. " 3,958, " 10th " "
1 Do. to do. " 4,492, " 11th January 1864.
1 Do. from do. " 7,855, " 16th " "
1 Do. to do. " 3,006, " 26th August " "
1 Do. to do. " 2,664, " 6th Sept. " "
1 Do. from do. " 4,662, " 19th " " with three enclosures,

No. 1,850, dated 1st August 1859.
" 1,113, " 15th June 1861.

Lieutenant-Colonel Carpendale, at that time Deputy Chief Engineer of the Central Circle,

No. 173.

3. From this report it appeared that in addition to other defects there was a general want of finish and stability in the batten doors and windows, owing to the use of slight *scantling* and unseasoned timber. How far this was to be attributed to insufficiency in the estimated cost, Lieutenant-Colonel Carpendale was not then able to say; but he nevertheless gave it as his opinion "that much superior doors and windows" should have been furnished for the amount "allowed on the estimate." He at the same time pointed out that the windows worked uneasily, in consequence of their being fitted with inferior ropes.

4. I am unable, from the papers before me, to say what action was taken by the Chief Engineer on the receipt of this information, but I find that in December following, the subject was again adverted to by the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines; and that Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkieson, then Acting as Deputy Chief Engineer of the Circle, was directed to inspect the buildings in question. His report thereon is much to the same effect as that furnished by Lieutenant-Colonel Carpendale.

Chief Engineer's letter No. 4,931, dated 6th January 1863.
No. 317, dated 22nd January 1863.

5. With reference, however, to the doors and windows, he remarked that their dimensions were mostly in accordance with the estimate, and that the use of green timber was unavoidable, the District Engineer having no supply of seasoned wood in store; and the urgency of the work rendering it necessary for him to obtain the best procurable in the market. Colonel Wilkieson, did not suggest the removal of the whole of the doors or windows, but recommended that such new ones should be provided as were required, and that their fastenings which were inferior should be replaced by others, and additional ones supplied.

6. He further proposed that such repairs as were necessary to the roof and other parts of the building should be executed.

7. Estimates were accordingly called for, and one for the required improvements was forwarded by the District Engineer to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines on the 27th March 1863.

Chief Engineer's letter No. 5,581, dated 16th February 1863.

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17th October 1864.*

8. This estimate Colonel Simpson returned to the District Engineer, in consequence of the Assistant Commissary in charge of the Depot having pointed out that it would be very desirable to have eleven doors in the range of buildings replaced instead of eight, and certain other works carried out not provided for in the estimate.

9. A revised estimate was thereupon prepared by the District Engineer, and subsequently transmitted by Captain Prendergast, then Officiating Superintending Engineer, to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines. To this estimate also exception was taken by Colonel Simpson. He observed, in returning it, that a reference on the subject had been made to the Assistant Commissary in charge of the Depot, who in reply gave it as his opinion that the eleven doors, which it was proposed to replace by others, must have been included in the original estimate sanctioned by Government; and that it was, therefore, necessary some explanation in connection therewith should be furnished before he, Colonel Simpson, could countersign the estimate. That I conceive was a matter quite out of the province of the Inspector General.

10. With reference to this, a communication on the subject was made to the Officer then in charge of the Madras District; and subsequently I personally inspected the Depot buildings with Mr. Warder. I told that gentleman that I considered new doors unnecessary, and I promised to provide iron cross bars to the doors in the Instruction Room, and strong hasps and staples with padlocks for the other doors; and the estimate was revised allowing for these and other ordinary repairs, and forwarded to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines for approval, who returned it to me for the purpose of some additional improvements, suggested by the Assistant Commissary at the Depot, being included therein.

11. A revised estimate was then drawn up and transmitted to Colonel Simpson, and in sending it on I intimated to that Officer that new doors had not been provided for, because I considered them to be unnecessary. In reply I was requested to state whether the doors of inferior "make" and "material" were "not," as previously arranged, to be renewed at the cost of the "original estimate sanctioned for the new Depot buildings." This could not be done, because not only had the estimate been exceeded, but the bills had been adjusted; however, as the source from which the cost of the new doors, if put up, was to be met, was not in my opinion a matter for Colonel Simpson to deal with, I merely stated in reply that I did not think it necessary to make new doors. Not receiving any reply to this communication, I called upon the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines to return the estimate with his approval or otherwise, order that the works might be carried out during the year, and it was then sent back to me with an intimation that in consequence of Colonel Carpendale's remarks, quoted at the comment of this letter, regarding the inferiority of the existing doors, he, the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, felt precluded from attaching his approval thereto. From this I thought it advisable that the matter should lie over as it was evident that the repairs were not then considered to be urgent, and I did not feel justified in estimating for a work which I knew to be required.

12. On the 26th August last, the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines forwarded to me a letter from the Officer in charge of the Depot relative to the repairs required, requested that their execution should be completed before the setting in of the monsoon.

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17th October 1864.*

"grave consequences were apprehended if they were not carried out in time," with reference thereto I returned to him the estimate last With letter No. 2,664, dated 6th September 1864. I then adverted to, and informed him that on receiving it back with his approval, instructions would be sent to the Range Officer for its immediate execution. At the same time I intimated to him that the repairs would have been ordered in January last, had his countersignature to the estimate not been withheld.

13. Colonel Simpson has, however, for the second time, returned this estimate to me, disapproved of on the grounds that no provision has been made therein for "new doors," and has requested that I would refer the matter to Government, which I now have the honor to do. As several months had elapsed since my examination of the doors, I went out two days ago again to inspect them. I have never contended that they were of good make or material, but having been fixed it would be a waste of money I think to renew them (except one which is a great deal worse than the rest) just yet. It is also to be borne in mind that the doors do not open into the road, but only into the quadrangle of the Depot. All that they require is the renewal of the bolts, and the means of barring them from behind.

14. To prevent the grave consequences anticipated by Colonel Simpson, I have ordered all really necessary repairs to be at once carried out.

No. 301. ORDER THEREON, 17th October 1864, No. 2,986.

1. With the foregoing letter the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, lays before Government a correspondence which has passed between himself and the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, upon the subject of certain repairs to the buildings of the Instruction Depot at Saint Thomas' Mount.

2. It seems that the estimate for these repairs has been twice returned by the Inspector General, who declined to countersign it, on the ground that no provision had been made in it for new doors to replace some which had been reported unfit in consequence of inferior make and material.

3. Colonel Boileau, on the other hand, was of opinion that new doors were unnecessary, and that the present ones, though confessedly of inferior material and workmanship, would answer for some time to come, if they were furnished with stronger fastenings, provision for which was made in the estimate submitted to the Inspector General.

4. All the circumstances connected with the subject are fully set forth in the correspondence which accompanied the letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings, and which has been laid before Government at the request of the Inspector General.

5. Upon a question so purely professional, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Superintending Engineer, must be held to be the fittest judge. As that Officer considers that the existing doors, when furnished with proper fastenings, will be sufficiently strong and secure, there is clearly no necessity for going to the expense of supplying new doors. The work provided for in the estimate submitted by Colonel Boileau, will therefore be carried out.

6. Colonel Boileau will be requested to furnish a Memorandum of the estimated and actual cost of the doors and windows, and will state what, in his opinion, the proper cost of such materials and workmanship as are in those doors and windows ought to have been.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division,
Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3244. Superintendent of Engrs Office 1st Div.
Madras 4th October 1864.

Yours
Strom.

Public.

Colonel A. J. M. Boileau R.E.
Superintending Engineer & ^{in Charge}

So,

Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.

Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Accompaniment 18

1 letter from Enghelb Siv,
to E. G. Gussakov

Sp. E. N. Hincagazine
e. 10596. 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4
sulla sua fine.

1. *Asplenium* L. 1743 + 26 June 1822

7-285, 8-8-40

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1. 1st from ... 3654 ... 27 Nov 45-

1st from 1847 to 1863

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Ad. C. G. L. 1000.

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August 1850

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.. 11/20 .. 13 June

1868-

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orders of Government the accompanying correspondence,
which has taken place between the Inspector Gene-
ral of Ordnance and Magazines and myself,
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to the Instruction Depot buildings at Saint
Thomas's Mount.--

2 In April 1862 Colonel Simpson forwarded to the then Chief Engineer a letter from the Director of the Artillery Depot, bringing to notice several defects in the materials and workmanship of the new buildings which had been constructed on Estimates sanctioned in the orders noted in the margin. Upon which
Vient.

N^o 1850 d/1st

August 1857

Lieutenant Colonel Carpendale, at that time
Deputy Chief Engineer of the Central Circle,
inspected the works and reported the result in
a letter addressed to the Chief Engineer under
date 6th May 1862. -

3 From this report it appeared
that in addition to other defects there was a general
want of finish and stability in the Battlements
and windows owing to the use of slight scantling
and unseasoned timber. How far this was to
be attributed to insufficiency in the estimated
cost, Lieutenant Colonel Carpendale was not
then able to say; but he nevertheless gave it as
his opinion "that much superior doors and windows
should have been furnished for the amount"
allowed on the Estimate". He at the same
time pointed out that the windows worked
uneasily in consequence of their being fitted
with inferior ropes. -

4 I am unable from the papers
before me to say what action was taken by
the Chief Engineer on the receipt of this information;
but I find that in December following the
subject

subject was again adverted to by the Inspector
General of Ordnance and Magazines, and that
Lieutenant Colonel Milneson then acting as
Chief Engineer's letter Deputy Chief Engineer of the Circle was directed
No. 4931 d/6th Jan'y/63. to inspect the buildings in question. His report
No. 317 d/22nd Jan'y/63. thereon is much to the same effect as that
furnished by Lieutenant Colonel Carpendale.

5 With reference, however, to the
Doors and Windows he remarked that their
dimensions were mostly in accordance with
the estimate and that the use of green timber
was unavoidable, the District Engineer having
no supply of seasoned wood in store; and
the urgency of the work rendering it necessary
for him to obtain the best procurable in the
market. Colonel Milneson did not suggest
the removal of the whole of the doors or windows,
but recommended that such new ones should
be provided as were required and that their
fastenings which were inferior should be replaced
by others, and additional ones supplied.

He

6

He further proposed that such repairs as were necessary to the roof and other parts of the building should be executed.

7

Estimates were accordingly called for, and one for the required improvements was forwarded by the District Engineer to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines on the 27th March 1863.

Chief Engineer's
letter No. 3581 of
16th Feb 7. 1863.

8

This Estimate Colonel Simpson returned to the District Engineer in consequence of the Assistant Commissary in charge of the Depot having pointed out that it would be very desirable to have 11 doors in the Range of buildings replaced instead of 8, and certain other works carried out not provided for in the Estimate.

From Inspector
General of Ordnance
and Magazines
10596 of 14th April 6.

9

A revised estimate was thereupon prepared by the District Engineer, and subsequently transmitted by Captain Prendergast, then Officer Superintending Engineer to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines. To this Estimate also exception was taken by Colonel Simpson.

Vide letter No. 59
of 12th June 1864.

He

Vide letter No. 1743
of 26th June 1863.

He observed, in returning it that a reference on the subject had been made to the Assistant Commissary in charge of the Depot, who in reply gave it as his opinion that the 11 doors which it was proposed to replace by others must have been included in the original estimate sanctioned by Government, and that it was therefore necessary some explanation in connection therewith should be furnished before he, Colonel Simpson, could countersign the estimate. That I conceive was a matter quite out of the province of the Ins^t General. With reference to this, a communication on the subject was made to the Officer then in charge of the Madras District, and subsequently, I personally inspected the Depot buildings with Mr. Mander. I told that gentleman that I considered new doors unnecessary, and I promised to provide iron cross bars to the doors in the Instruction Room, and strong hasps and staples with padlocks for the other doors, and the estimate was revised allowing for

for these and other ordinary repairs, and forwarded to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines for approval, who returned it ^{with Memo} 2857 of 8th Dec to me for the purpose of some additional improvements suggested by the Assistant Commissary ^{Vide Letter} of 24th Oct at the Depot being included therein.

" A revised Estimate was then drawn up and transmitted to Colonel ^{Letter No. 427 of 27th Nov} Simpson, and in sending it on I intimated to that Officer that new doors ~~that~~ had not been provided for, because I considered them to be unnecessary. In reply I was requested to state whether the doors of inferior "make" and "material" were ^{as} ~~not~~ previously arranged, to be renewed at the cost of the original estimate sanctioned for the new Depot Buildings. This could not be done because not only had the Estimate been exceeded, but the Bills had been adjusted, however as the source from which the cost of the new doors, if ~~put~~ up, was to be met, was not in my opinion a matter for Colonel Simpson to deal with

Vide letter No. 4492 of 11th July 1864

with letter No. 7855 of 16th Jan 1864

Vide letter No. 3906 of 26th August 1864

with, I merely stated in reply that I did not think it necessary to make new doors. Not receiving any reply to this communication, I called upon the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines to return the Estimate with his approval or otherwise, in order that the works might be carried out during the year; and it was then sent back to me with an intimation that in consequence of Colonel Carpendale's remarks quoted at the Commencement of this letter regarding the inferiority of the existing doors, he, the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, felt precluded from attaching his approval thereto. From this I thought it advisable that the matter should lie over as it was evident that the repairs were not then considered to be urgent, and I did not feel justified in estimating for a work which I knew to be not required.

On the 26th August last the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines forwarded to me a letter from the Officer in

in charge of the Depot relative to the repairs required, and requested that their execution should be completed before the setting in of the Monsoon, as "grave consequences were apprehended if they were not carried out in time"; and with reference thereto I returned to him the estimate last adverted to, and informed him that on receiving it back with his approval, instructions would be sent to the Range Officer for its immediate execution. At the same time I intimated to him that the repairs would have been ordered in January last had his countersignature to the estimate not been withheld.

13 Colonel Simpson has however for the second time returned this estimate to me, disapproved of on the grounds that no provision has been made therein for "new doors"; and has requested that I would refer the matter to Government which I now have the honor to do. As several months had elapsed since my examination of the doors, I went out 2 days ago

with letter No. 2664 of 6th Sept. 1864.

Vide letter No. 4662 of 19th Sept. 1864.

ago again to inspect them. I have never contented that they were of good make or material but having been fixed it would be a waste of money I think to renew them ~~just yet~~ (except one which is a great deal worse than the rest) just yet. It is also to be borne in mind that the doors do not open into the Road but only into the quadrangle of the Depot. All that they require is the renewal of the bolts, and the means of barring them from behind.

14 To prevent the grave consequences anticipated by Colonel Simpson I have ordered all really necessary repairs to be at once carried out.

Supy Engrs Office 10th Dec
Madras 4th October 1864 } I have the honor to be
Sir
Yours Most Obedient

W. A. Orr, Col. R.E.
Supy Engrs 10th Dec
To, Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government
P.W. Dept.

Colonel Boileau, on the other hand, was of opinion that new doors were unnecessary, and that the present ones, though composed of inferior material & workmanship, would answer for some time to come, if they were furnished with stronger fastenings, provision for which was made in the estimate submitted to the Inspector General.

All the circumstances connected with the subject are fully set forth in the correspondence which accompanied the letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings and which has been laid before Govt. at the request of the Inspector General.

Upon a question so purely professional, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Superintending Engineer must be held to be the fittest judge. As that Officer considers that the existing doors, when furnished with proper fastenings, will be sufficiently strong & secure there is clearly no necessity

for going to the expense of supplying new doors. The work provided for in the estimate submitted by Colonel Boileau will therefore be carried out.

5- Col. Boileau will be expected to furnish a memo. of the estimate and actual cost of the doors and windows, and will state what, in his opinion, the proper cost of such materials & workmanship as are in those doors & windows ought to have been.

To Superintg. 4th Dec 1860 ✓
Mily Sept ✓

18 October -

10/18/64 Departe
Pro. of Govt. for Oct.

No 2986

Pro. of the Milgovt.
Of 17 October/64

Oct. 5 of 1865

Submitting cases
providence passed
between himself & the
Independent of Congress
Hagazines regarding cer
tain reports to the
building of the instruction
kept at Saint Thomas
- Mount - the Transpall

No 000-001