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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2814 Press (Mis)

602-43

Dated 28-9- 1943.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 28th September 1864.

No. 602. Read the following Proceedings of the Governor General of India in Council, dated Public Works Department, Simla, 16th August 1864, Circular No. 56 :—

Read the following despatches :—

No. 17, dated 18th March 1864.

From—The Government of India,

To—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

1. Referring to your despatch in the Military Department, No. 297, dated 15th August 1863, in the 6th paragraph of which it is desired that, for some time at least, all plans, whether for the construction or extensive alteration of barracks, hospitals, and other military buildings, should be approved by the Local Sanitary Commission recently established, and then should, before being carried into execution, be sent to you for reference to the Sanitary Commission in England, we desire to bring to your notice that strict compliance with this requisition is likely in some cases to entail most serious inconvenience. In many instances, an immediate provision to meet pressing wants is urgently required, and it seems to us that to wait till a reference can be made to England, and a reply received would not unfrequently not only cause great practical inconvenience, but actually tend to aggravate those very evils which it has been the intention of Her Majesty's Government to guard against, or remove, by the orders to which we have referred.

2. We have consequently thought it necessary to decide, pending further instructions from you, that we must exercise a discretion in determining what buildings are so urgent as to demand immediate sanction without reference to England. In all such cases, however, the designs will be previously submitted to the Sanitary Commission in this country for criticism, and will be sent to you at the time sanction is given by the Government of India, so that any suggestions thought desirable may at once be made in regard to them by the Commission in England, on receipt of which from you, any needful modifications will be carried out in the construction, if the buildings are not too far advanced.

3. All standard designs will be sent to England for criticism ; also all designs for building *not* considered to be urgently required.

4. A design having once been distinctly approved in England, it will be considered applicable to all future cases of a similar description, without any further reference to you.

5. We have informed the Governments of Madras and Bombay, that should any such emergent cases as those to which we have alluded arise in those Presidencies, a reference should be made to this Government for orders before commencing work.

6. We would further remark in connexion with this subject, that it now seems necessary to lay down some rule as to the nature of the control that the Government of India shall exercise over the designs or barrack buildings in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. Under present arrangements, all projects estimated to cost more than two lakhs, come before the Government of India for sanction. Now all general designs for the provision of the barrack accommodation of any element of force would practically be included within this category of cost, and consequently every such project would, if taken up as a whole, require to be submitted to the Government of India.

7 It appears to us that so far as the requirements of discipline and health, and the general conditions of climate are concerned, there is no important practical difference between the requirements of one part of India and another. All hill climates are approximately alike. The dry provinces away from the influence of the sea, are also sensibly similar in character over large areas. The localities on or near the sea, where the conditions are essentially tropical, do not vary greatly in respect to the precautions to be taken to secure ventilation and avoid damp or malarious exhalations.

8. We therefore consider that the general regulation of the style, magnitude, and number of the various classes of buildings that may legitimately be provided for the Army in India should be in the hands of the Government of India subject to the action of the Sanitary Commissions in the usual way, and to any rules that you may from time to time lay down ; and that no Local Government should be at liberty to spend public money on military buildings, not

distinctly comprised in the general regimental or departmental sanctioned standard scheme of accommodation, without the authority of the Government of India, whatever be the sum at stake.

9. The Government of India should at all times receive and pay due attention to any suggestions made by the Local Governments as to modifications of any such general standard scheme of accommodation, design, or principle, having in view its improvement or adaptation to local circumstances; whilst within a fair and reasonable margin, the details of construction and arrangement would of course always be entirely left to the discretion of the local authorities.

10. Some such idea has indeed been more or less perfectly followed in matters of this sort up to the present time, but the practice has become somewhat lax, and it seems that the present is a suitable opportunity for reviewing the subject.

11. We may add that the experience of this department sufficiently proves the great importance of strict attention to a system of standard plans for military buildings and a standard regulation of what wants shall be met and in what manner, that shall be binding not only on the Local Governments, but on the Government of India itself. The embarrassment and expense arising from individual caprice or fancy having been allowed to operate on the sanction of such buildings, have been and are of frequent occurrence.

12. We await your instructions on this latter subject, before taking further action as regards the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

No. 27, dated 16th June 1864.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

1. In your despatch No. 17 of 18th March last, referring to my expressed desire that all plans for the construction or extensive alteration of barracks, hospitals, and other Military buildings should, after approval by the Local Sanitary Commission, be sent to me for reference to the Sanitary Commission in England, you explain that strict compliance with that requirement would sometimes be attended with serious inconvenience, and suggest that it should be left to your discretion to determine what buildings may be so urgent as to demand definitive sanction in India.

2. I assent to this proposal on the conditions attached to it, viz., that in all cases the designs shall be previously submitted to the Local Sanitary Commission, and shall also be sent home as soon as sanctioned, and that the original rule shall continue to apply to all standard designs, which latter must consequently be invariably sent here before being sanctioned.

3. I likewise assent to your suggestion, that a design having once been distinctly approved in England, shall be considered applicable to all future cases of a similar description without any further reference home.

4. With regard to the question raised in the same despatch, as to the nature of the control to be exercised by the Government of India over designs for Military buildings in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, I concur with your Excellency in Council in thinking it desirable that the style, magnitude, and number of the various classes of such buildings should, throughout India, be regulated as nearly as possible on the same principles. I have no doubt either of the utility of a system of standard plans in checking the indulgence of individual caprice or fancy, and I have no hesitation in committing to your Government, as the presiding authority in India, the selection of the standard plans to be submitted for the approval of the Sanitary Commission in this country.

5. I attach, however, much importance to your assurance that any suggestions made by the Local Governments, as to the adaptation of standard designs to local circumstances, shall receive your fullest consideration, and I may remark that the extent to which the details of construction and arrangement should be left to the discretion of the local authorities should, in my opinion, be the utmost consistent with adherence to the sanctioned standard plans. Moreover, I may add that there would seem to be no sufficient reason for modifying the sanctioning powers of the

Madras and Bombay Governments with respect to works of less estimated cost than two lakhs, further than by requiring that, in military buildings coming within that pecuniary limit, they shall not deviate from standard plans without previously obtaining your assent to the alteration.

6. Your Excellency's Government will communicate with those of Madras and Bombay in pursuance of the foregoing observations.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General of India in Council considers that, with reference to the orders of the Secretary of State conveyed in the above despatch, it is desirable that paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Budget Rules of 1861 should be revised, and that they should hereafter stand as follows:—

Paragraph 13.—Any project, the estimate of which exceeds these limits will require the sanction of the Government of India. So also will all projects, large or small, which affect the interests of more than one Local Administration; also all projects connected with the choice of permanent stations for troops,* or for providing permanent accommodation for a larger force than is at present quartered at a station, or for the provision of any military buildings which may not be according to standard plans approved of by the Government of India, or which may not be comprised in the general Regimental or departmental standard scheme of accommodation sanctioned by the Government of India;† also all projects for fortifications estimated to cost more than Rupees 50,000.

* Secretary of State's letter No. 8, dated 24th January 1861.

† Secretary of State's letter No. 27, dated 16th June 1864.

Paragraph. 14.—Projects which are essentially incomplete without extensions, and which together with the extensions would exceed the powers of the Local Governments, must not be sanctioned by the latter, but must be submitted for the sanction of the Government of India, whatever be the nature of the separate portions of work, or the elementary items of cost.

ORDER.—Ordered, that the above Resolution and Proceedings be forwarded to all Governments and Administrations for information and guidance.

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Captain, R. E.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department.

No. 603. ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1864, No. 2,814.

Communicated to the Military Department and to the Superintending Engineers, with reference to the Proceedings of Government No. 957, dated 5th April 1864.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.
„ Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Circular

5-4 47

No 2814.

Communicate to the Military Department & to the Subg: Engineers with reference to the Proceedings of Government No 957 dated 5th April 1864.

Chepauk
28th September 1865
To the Military Dept.
" Subg Engineers
No 82

Dated 29th September

1864 Dette
Prov. of Sovt for Septr
Pc. 4116

Account.

CIRCULAR No. 56.

To

FROM
SECY. TO GOVT. OF INDIA,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Dated SIMLA, 16*th August*, 1864.

Received 21 Septr.

Revision of paras. 13 *and* 14 *of Budget Rules of* 1864.

Pc. 602.603

evo. 2814 28th Septr 64
With an order -

Pc. 210 Septr 1864 Dr. 230