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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th September 1865.*

No. 727. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Ecclesiastical Department :—

Desiring that measures may be adopted for improving the ventilation of Saint Stephen's Church at Ootacamund, Coimbatore District, and that a revised plan and estimate for enlarging the building may be submitted. } (Here enter 25th September 1865, No. 242.)

No. 728. ORDER THEREON, 29th September 1865, No. 2,897.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 101.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, who will be requested to submit a revised plan and estimate for the proposed addition to the Church at Ootacamund.
2. The estimate for the work should be entered in the Budget for 1866-67.
3. Lieutenant-Colonel Walker will take measures for improving the ventilation of the building as directed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, with two Enclosures.

- „ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- „ Ecclesiastical Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Ecclesiastical Department.

25th September 1865.

No. 41. Read the following letter from the Right Reverend the Bishop of Madras, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 15th September 1865.

In forwarding the accompanying papers, being—

- (1.) A letter from the Venerable Archdeacon Dealtry,
- (2.) Design of Church by Major Farewell,
- (3.) Estimate of portion proposed to be built,

I have the honor once more to bring before your Excellency in Council the question of an increase of Church accommodation at Ootacamund.

2. In accordance with your Excellency's opinion and wish, conveyed in Government Order, 20th April 1864, No. 96, paragraph 6, I placed before the late Chaplain, Mr. Morris, the great desirableness of raising funds for the purpose of erecting a new Church; but he assured me he could not raise even so much as 15,000 Rupees. And now his successor, Archdeacon Dealtry, after ascertaining the feelings of those who are residing here on this subject, sees serious obstacles in the way of building a new Church.

3. I fear also that the Government would not be prepared to promise so large a sum as might, with the addition of some voluntary contributions, suffice for building a portion of a new Church, to be completed a few years hence.

4. As thus it appears that the proposal to build a new Church is not at present feasible, and as the need of additional accommodation is pressing, I venture to request that your Excellency in Council will favorably consider the application now submitted, and will sanction the outlay of 27,000 Rupees for carrying into effect Major Farewell's plan, with such modifications as the Archdeacon has suggested.

5. If I am correctly informed that the building of the Lawrence Asylum is postponed for a time, and that consequently there are unemployed workmen and materials at hand, it seems that there would be now a most suitable opportunity for the Government Engineer to proceed with the proposed enlargement of the Church.

(Signed) F. MADRAS.

From the Venerable T. DEALTRY, Archdeacon of Madras, to the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Madras; dated Ootacamund, 9th September 1865.

May I request you to bring before His Excellency the Governor in Council the very urgent need which exists of increased Church accommodation at this large and important station.

2. The subject is not new. For the last 10 years the want has been felt and acknowledged, and various efforts, hitherto however unsuccessful, have been made to meet it. Some persons have advocated the building of a new Church at the further end of the station; others have been in favor of enlarging the present one. The necessity, however, is now so pressing that I, in common with most other people conversant with the subject, am desirous of adopting the method most practicable and easy of accomplishment as regards economy and despatch.

3. That method is the enlargement of the present building. When the subject was brought before His Excellency the Governor in Council in the year 1863, an Order was passed (dated November 20th, 1863, No. 278) that a plan and estimate should be prepared and inserted in the Budget for 1864-65. So far as the preparation of the plan and estimate is concerned, the order was carried out, but no step has been taken towards the execution of the work. This plan and estimate which I believe have already been laid before His Excellency the Governor in Council, I now enclose. The cost of the enlargement as therein calculated is Rupees 27,000, and this I imagine is the very least sum for which it could be effected in the very plainest manner.

4. Major Farewell, Executive Engineer of the District, who framed the plan, has discussed it with me, and he concurs with me in thinking that it is capable of some modifications, which would at once improve the architectural effect and secure better ventilation. The number of pillars, for instance, would be a serious objection; and a greater elevation than that shown in the plan is required. Any alterations, however, would be submitted if necessary, for the approval of His Excellency the Governor in Council, and I will make myself personally responsible to collect any sum that may be required in excess of the sum of Rupees 27,000, without any further application to the Government.

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5. I ask your Lordship with more confidence to appeal to the liberality of Government to sanction this expenditure, inasmuch as the Honorable Court of Directors made a special grant of Rupees 20,000-0-0 which has never been drawn for this object, and also because the Pew rents of Ootacamund Church bring in to Government a sum which will soon equal the amount in excess of the Honorable Court's special grant. They have been levied for a year and a quarter, and I hold the Tahsildar's receipts for above Rupees 2000 paid into the Treasury on this account during that period.

6. Moreover a station like Ootacamund, the resort often of persons of high rank and authority, of numerous servants of the Government, and of many others from all parts of India in search of health or relaxation, may fairly be regarded as in many respects exceptional. And in so fluctuating a society, it would not be reasonable to expect temporary visitors to subscribe largely for additional church accommodation, by which they themselves would not be likely to profit.

7. Last year the Government, with the view of enabling all persons to attend Service at least once on the Sunday, passed an order that sittings should be let; but that they should be available for the same persons for only one Service. The expedient cannot be pronounced successful, but rather it has produced very general and great dissatisfaction. I do not see how this unhappy feeling is to be removed except by the enlargement of the Church.

8. I earnestly hope, my Lord, that you will kindly use your influence with the Government to obtain sanction for the immediate expenditure of the amount of the estimate. The urgency of the want is palpable to all who visit the station. It would be a source of deep regret to me if my tenure of the Chaplaincy should pass away, without any improvement being effected in this matter.

9. Should there be a difficulty about providing the funds from the resources at the disposal of the Department of Public Works, might not the savings of the Ecclesiastical Department for the current year be applied to this object, either wholly or in part?

10. I need scarcely add that Major General Dowker and Colonel Hadfield, the Lay Trustees of the station, fully concur with me in desiring to see the Church enlarged. They have already expressed their opinions to the Government on the subject, and each year only strengthens the opinions they hold, and the arguments they have adduced.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1865, No. 242.

The Governor in Council directs that provision be made in the next Budget Estimate for the projected addition to the Church at Ootacamund. Meanwhile Major Farewell will revise the plan, in communication with the Archdeacon, and will submit a revised plan and estimate, through the Superintending Engineer, for the orders of Government. The Government desire that inexpensive measures be at once adopted by the Superintending Engineer, in communication with the Venerable the Archdeacon, to improve the ventilation of the building as it stands, by piercing air holes, and making some portions of the windows to open at will.

(True Extract).

[Signature]

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Right Reverend the Bishop.
Public Works Department, with Plan and Estimate.

Ed. J. H. Burne.

List

Civil Works

no. 2897

1. Commenced to the S.E. of the
7th Dec, which will be requested
to submit a revised plan
and estimate for the proposed
addition to the Church
at Ootacamund.

2. The estimate for the
work should be entered
in the Budget for 1866/67.

3. Mr. D. Walker will
take measures for improving
the ventilation of
the building as directed.

25 Sept 7th Dec with plan and estimate
20 Oct 1865
20 Sept 29th Sept 1865
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J. H. George
22nd Oct 1865

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10th V 1865 Dep'to
Pro. of Gov't for September
No. 0728

Pro. of Gov't in the
Ecclesiastical Dep'to

Of 25th Sept/65
Rec'd 25th Sept/65

Q2 No 242

Desiring that
measures may be adopt-
ed for improving the
ventilation of St. Stephens
Church at Botocaimund
Cambridge St. and that
a revised plan and
estimate for enlarging
the building may
be submitted.

2897-29th Sept/65

With an Obed

No 727. 728