

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1725

729-731

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated 31 — 5 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 722. From the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 20th March 1866, No. 261 :—

1. The Committee of the Vizagapatam "Orphan Asylum" have requested me to submit, for the orders of Government, copies of certain correspondence between themselves and the Superintending Engineer. I beg accordingly to enclose the papers marginally noted, the sum and substance of which appear to be as follows.

From Committee to Superintending Engineer, dated 12th February 1866.
From Superintending Engineer to Committee, dated 6th March 1866.
Resolution of Committee, dated 10th March 1866.
From Committee to Collector, dated 10th March 1866.

2. The Asylum is largely endowed by Government, and the services of the Officers of the Department Public Works were declared available in carrying out sundry new buildings recently designed. Captain Beatty, the Officer employed, has lately handed over to the Committee, two dormitories; he pronounced them complete and finished, and the children were quartered in these buildings accordingly.

3. The following defects, however, almost immediately presented themselves :—

I. The foundation of the south wall of the eastern dormitory has sunk to such an extent that the wall has cracked in several places; the cracks extend to the roof, and are daily becoming larger.

II. A fall of rain on the 4th ultimo developed several leakages in the roofing; and as there is no surface drainage whatever, the dormitories are flooded in this way also.

III. The wood work of the doors and windows are of the roughest kind, while the full price for good labor and material was allowed for in the estimate.

4. The Committee, therefore, requested the Superintending Engineer to meet them on the premises, in order that they might point out these things; but Captain Ryves, it will be seen, has declined doing so, nor does he offer to inspect the defects brought to his notice, by himself. More than this, he says (paragraph 5) that he learns from Captain Beatty that the leakage was insignificant, and this he says is to him 'the best authority.' The Government, perhaps, will not consider this concise disposal of the matter a satisfactory one, inasmuch as it leaves Captain Beatty the judge of his own case. The Committee are all gentlemen of position, and their unanimous representation of the defects in Captain Beatty's work appears entitled to a less off-hand enquiry. It will be observed from the penultimate paragraph of their letter to me, that a *second* shower of rain on the 12th ultimo left the flooring of the eastern dormitory covered with water to the extent of some twelve feet square, and this in two places.

5. It should be remarked in conclusion, (as the matter is alluded to in the correspondence,) that on the first discovery of these defects, the Reverend Chaplain, the Secretary of the Committee, wrote in very hasty and indignant terms to Captain Beatty. It was a demi-official letter, and did not come before the Committee, and it has since been withdrawn.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
31st May 1866.

Referred to the Public Works Department, in order that the Superintending Engineer may be called upon for a full report on the subject adverted to in this letter.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
4th April 1866.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, for early and full report on all the circumstances of the case.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th April 1866.

No. 730. From the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Waltair, 27th April 1866, No. 3,317.

Enclosures 3.

1. I have the honor to furnish the report called for by your endorsement,

dated 7th instant, on a letter from the Collector of the Vizagapatam District to the Chief Secretary to Government.

2. The work was undertaken by Colonel Chambers, I believe at the request of the Trustees to the Asylum.

3. The estimate was framed by the same Officer, and is dated 27th July 1863, its amount was Rupees 7,940; subsequently the rates of the estimate were revised, and the amount passed by the Trustees for the work became Rupees 8,917.

4. The building was commenced by Colonel Molony in August 1863; and, on his leaving the Department, was carried on to completion by his successor Captain Beatty.

5. When I took charge of the 1st Division, the western dormitory was being roofed, and the walls of the eastern dormitory were raised four to eight feet above the ground. I inspected the building in company with Colonel Chambers, who gave me to understand that he was satisfied with the way the work had been carried on so far, and that the extra care required in building on such a bad site had been given to it.

6. During the subsequent progress of the work, Captain Beatty gave it a large share of his time and attention, and I frequently inspected it. It was carried on under proper supervision, and I can only repeat here my statement to the Trustees of the Asylum that the two dormitories are, in my opinion, well and substantially built.

7. The doors and windows are badly finished: Captain Beatty states that at the rate allowed he could not get better work done by the Vizagapatam carpenters. In that case he should have obtained the consent of the Trustees to an extra charge, to finish off the doors and windows more neatly. It appears, however, that he had been blamed by them when it was ascertained that the dormitories would cost considerably more than was originally estimated, and wished to avoid any application to the Trustees for additional funds.

8. The crack in the wall of the eastern dormitory, noticed in their complaint by the Trustees, is due to the settlement of the east end of the building, where the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st May 1866.

sand ridge falls away towards a deep nullah. This might perhaps have been guarded against by deeper foundations, but I should be sorry to have to decide how much deeper the foundations ought to have been.

9. The Trustees are misinformed as to the condition of the old building which they allude to. Its walls are rent with a dozen cracks, one or two of which are even still widening: besides a square building with numerous cross walls should be less liable to crack than a long terraced roof on two long parallel walls.

10. The cracks in the roofs [of which there are three in the eastern and one in the western dormitory—it should be understood that these cracks are only traceable by a slight break in the smooth surface of plaster outside the terrace, in each case about the width of a thread] will be easily made good in the same way as is done for the numerous cracks to be found in any terraced roof in Waltair, Madras, or other station, where the walls are not built on rock.

11. As regards the drainage of the compound, I am sorry that Captain Beatty did not have it done if the Trustees wished it; but it is work which might have been readily done under the supervision of their Sergeant by a few daily coolies, or by the orphan boys.

12. Except as regards the doors and windows, the complaint of the Trustees is based on exaggeration.

13. The Committee complain of my having declined to meet them at the building to have the defects they notice pointed out to me. I declined to meet them for that purpose, because I had reason to believe that advantage would be taken of the occasion to put the Executive Engineer into a false position; the meeting would have become a Court of enquiry on his work. You will observe that, before declining, I had explained to the Trustees that I was thoroughly acquainted with the state of the building, and in fact had admitted that as regards the windows they had reason to complain. Nothing therefore could have been gained by acceding to their request.

14. I have now, I think, reported fully on all the points brought forward in the Trustee's complaint, it remains to notice two points in the letter from the Collector of the Vizagapatam District, in which the Trustee's letter was forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government.

15. *First.*—The Collector thinks it was not satisfactory that I should have accepted the report made to me by Captain Beatty, of an inspection of the roofs by him immediately after a certain fall of rain, as "*the best authority*," for a statement made by me. I can only say that it was to me the best authority.

16. *Secondly.*—Mr. Carmichael remarks that a certain letter from the Secretary of the Committee to Captain Beatty was written in very hasty and indignant terms, the adjective indignant being evidently meant in the sense of just indignation; this, I think, indicates unconscious bias in favor of his brother Trustees on the part of Mr. Carmichael, the letter was one which otherwise I am certain he would not attempt to defend.

No. 731. ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1866, No. 1,725.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 101.

1. A copy of the above report will be forwarded to the Collector of Vizagapatam for information.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
31st May 1866.

2. The Government cannot consider that the report exonerates the Officers of the Department of Public Works, either formerly or recently employed, in reference to the construction of the new buildings at the Orphan Asylum. It is to be feared from the cracks in the walls that the foundation of the building may have been laid at an insufficient depth, and perhaps too close to the edge of the declivity where the soil probably affords a less secure foundation. The defects in the roof may no doubt be traced to the same original error. The floor of the dormitories should have been raised above the level of the surrounding ground, both with reference to the health of the inmates and to prevent the sudden influx of water in case of heavy rain and high wind. Some provision should also have been made to carry off the water immediately round the basement of the building. Even if the workmanship of the windows and doors be as good as could have been procured at the prices sanctioned, which is not proved to the satisfaction of the Government, it is observed that the doors and windows are stated to be "not of the estimated dimensions," and on this point Captain Ryves has offered no explanation.

3. While the Officers of the Department of Public Works are not entirely without reproach in regard to the construction of the buildings, the Government remark with regret that they cannot in all respects approve of the conduct of Captain Ryves in his communications on the subject with the Trustees of the Institution. The Government do not think that Captain Ryves was warranted in accepting a report from Captain Beatty concerning an alleged defect in his work as the "best authority" which could be offered to him. Without any disparagement to Captain Beatty, that Officer was in some degree an interested party in this discussion, and the "best authority" would have been an inspection on the part of Captain Ryves himself, nor was Captain Ryves justified in refusing to meet the Committee. The Secretary of the Committee was indeed highly blameworthy in addressing an intemperate letter to Captain Beatty, and in thus introducing a spirit of exasperation into the relations of the Officers of the Public Works Department and the Trustees, but Captain Ryves might have, nevertheless, consented to meet the Trustees in a spirit of conciliation and forbearance, and probably a personal conference would have been the means of removing misunderstandings which are always to be deprecated. It is obvious that on their part the members of the Committee might have taken spontaneous measures to level the adjacent ground in such a manner as to prevent the flow of water towards the building.

4. The Government observe with satisfaction that Captain Ryves has tendered his assistance to the Committee. They trust that by his exertions the farther deterioration in the building may be arrested, and that by the prevalence of better sentiments on both sides future controversies may be avoided.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Vizagapatam.

„ Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

„ Educational Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Referred to the Public Works
Department in order that the Superintending
Engineer may be called upon for a full
report on the subject adverted to in the
letter.

Fort St. George }
4 April 1866 }

G. J. Cunningham
Chief Secretary

To the Public Works Department

Recd. 4/4/66.

2. 18th May / 66

No 109
Submitting for consideration of Government, Correspondence on the Subject of the two Dormitories built by the D.P.W. for the Orphan Asylum

Referred
M.C. res. 1725-31 et, may 166

N^o 3317

From

Captain J. G. Ryves R.E.

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.

Secretary to Government, D.W.D.

Sir,

Madam.

I have the honor to furnish the report called for by your endorsement dated 7th instant on a letter from the Collector of the Vizagapatam District to the Chief Secretary to Government.

2. The work was undertaken by Colonel Chambers, I believe at the request of the Trustees to the Asylum.

3. The estimate was framed by the same officer and is dated 27th July 1863; its amount was Rs. 7,940; subsequently the rates of the estimate were revised & the amount passed by the Trustees for the work became Rs. 8,917.

4. The building was commenced by Colonel Molony in August 1863; and, on his leaving the Department, was carried on to completion by his successor Captain Beatty.

5. When I took charge of the 1st Division, the

Encls
3

the western Dormitory was being roofed & the walls of the eastern Dormitory were raised four to eight feet above the ground. I inspected the building in company with Colonel Chambers who gave me to understand that he was satisfied with the way the work had been carried on so far, and that the extra care required in building on such a bad site had been given to it.

6. During the subsequent progress of the work, Captain Beatty gave it a large share of his time and attention, and I frequently inspected it. It was carried on under proper supervision and I can only repeat here my statement to the Trustees of the Asylum that the two Dormitories are in my opinion well and substantially built.

7. The Doors and windows are badly finished. Captain Beatty states that at the rate allowed, he could not get better work done by the Viragapatam Carpenters. In that case he should have obtained the consent of the Trustees to an extra charge to finish off the doors & windows more neatly. It appears however that he had been blamed by them when it was ascertained that the Dormitories would cost

considerably more than was originally estimated and wished to avoid any application to the Trustees for additional funds.

8. The crack in the wall of the eastern Dormitory noticed in their complaint by the Trustees is due to the settlement of the east end of the building where the sand ridge falls away towards a deep Nullah. This might perhaps have been guarded against by deeper foundations, but I should be sorry to have to decide how much deeper the foundations ought to have been.

9. The Trustees are misinformed as to the condition of the old building which they allude to. Its walls are rent with a dozen cracks, one or two of which are even still widening. Besides a square building with numerous cross walls should be less liable to crack than a long terraced roof on two long parallel walls.

10. The cracks in the roofs [of which there are three in the eastern and one in the western Dormitory. It should be understood that these cracks are only traceable by a slight break in the smooth surface of plaster outside the terrace, in each case about the width of a thread] will be easily made good in the same way as is done for

for the numerous cracks to be found in any terraced roof in Wiltshire, Madras, or other station where the walls are not built on rock.

11. As regards the drainage of the compound, I am sorry that Captain Beatty did not have it done if the Trustees wished it; but it is work which might have been readily done under the supervision of their sergeant by a few daily coolies or by the Orphan Boys.

12. Except as regards the doors & windows the complaint of the Trustees is based on exaggeration.

13. The Committee complain of my having declined to meet them at the building to have the defects they notice pointed out to me. I declined to meet them for that purpose, because I had ^{believed} reason to think that advantage would be taken of the occasion to put the Executive Engineer into a false position; the meeting would have become a Court of enquiry on his work. You will observe that, before declining, I had explained to the Trustees that I was thoroughly acquainted with the state of the building & in fact had admitted that as regards the windows they had reason to complain. Nothing therefore could have been gained by acceding to their request.

request.

14. I have now, I think, reported fully on all the points brought forward in the Trustees' Complaint. it remains to notice two points in the letter from the Collector of the Viragaputnam District, in which the Trustees' letter was forwarded to the Chief Secretary to Government.

15. First. The Collector thinks it was not satisfactory that I should have accepted the report made to me by Captain Beatty of an inspection of the roofs by him immediately after a certain fall of rain as the best authority for a statement made by me. I can only say that it was to me the best authority.

16. Secondly. Mr. Carmichael remarks that a certain letter from the Secretary of the Committee to Captain Beatty was written in very hasty and indignant terms. the adjective indignant being evidently meant in the sense of just indignation. this, I think, indicates unconscious bias in favor of his brother Trustees on the part of Mr. Carmichael. the letter was one which otherwise I am certain

certain he would not attempt to defend.

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant.

W. R. S. Capt. R.E.

Superintendent of Prisoners & L.D.

Wm. W. W. W.

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT

under date the 31st January/86.
Read the following

From the Collector of Vizagapatnam
(Here enter No. 261 dated 20 March 1886)
From the Superintending Engineer. Here enter 337/27 April 1886.
A copy of the above report will be for-
warded to the Collector

I refer to Antichute
the following Draft.

2. The Government cannot con- sider the report so far
sider that the report excavates the
Officers of the Department of Public Works
reference to the construction of the New
buildings at the Orphan Asylum. It is to be
learned from the cracks in the walls that the
foundation of the building may have been
laid on an insufficient depth and perhaps too close
to the edge of the declivity where the defects
affords a less secure foundation. The defects
the roof may as well be raised with some original work.
The floor of the dormitories should have been
raised above the level of the surrounding ground
both with reference to the health of the inmates and
to prevent the sudden influx of water in case of
heavy rain and high wind. Some provision should
also have been made to carry off the water
immediately round the basement of the building
Even the workmanship of the windows and
doors has been found to be defective. The prices sanctioned
which is not proved to be
satisfactory.

The Government con-

sider the report so far

satisfactory that it entirely

exonerates the Officers

of the Department of
Public Works now in the
District from any want
of care and attention
in

11-1886 to 31-3-82

1886
1-1-1886
1-1-1886
1-1-1886

Transferred
to the Educational
Dept.

In Secretary's Office
of P.W.D.
Madras

Amudal. M.

Noted by Mr. C.
Sept. 29-1886

Thaniel. M.

Received 26-11-1886
Recd. 26-11-1886

Secretary of P.W.D.

No. 11-3317

Intercepted
per May 1886

Enclosure 3

Submitted a report on the
dormitories at Orphan
Asylum for by the
Asylum at April 1886
and returns the report
received thereon.

1886

1886
1886
1886

1886
1886
1886

in the construction of the building. The work of the doors and windows is admittedly rough, but, contrary to the assertions of the Committee Captain Ryres, whose opinion on a question of the kind the Government must accept, is that they to be as good work as could be provided at the rates allowed. The Committee wished it done, it is to be regretted that Captain Beatty did not make provision for carrying the surface drainage

of the Government. It is observed that the doors and windows are stated to be not of the estimated dimensions and on this point Captain Ryres has offered no explanation. The Department of Public Works while the officer of the building, the Government are not entirely without reproach in regard to the construction of the building, they cannot in all respects approve of the conduct of Captain Ryres in his correspondence on the subject with the trustees of the Institution. The Government do not think that Captain Ryres was warranted in accepting a report from Captain Beatty concerning an alleged defect in his work as the "best authority" which could be obtained. Captain Beatty, without any disapproval of the subject with the trustees of the Institution, would have been an interested party in this disapproval. Captain Ryres justified in refusing to meet the Committee. The Secretary of the Committee was indeed highly blameable in addressing an intemperate letter to Captain Beatty and in thus introducing a spirit of dissension into the relations of the officers of the Public Works Department. The officers of the Public Works Department are in a spirit of conciliation and forbearance, and probably a personal reference would have the means of removing all misunderstanding and are always to be

depreciated. It is obvious that on their part the members of the Committee have taken spontaneous measures to level the adjacent ground of water towards the building. It is the desire of the Government that to connect it with the Government channel with satisfaction that Captain Ryres has tendered his assistance to the Committee. They trust that by his exertions the further deterioration in the building may be arrested and that by the prevalence of other settlements on both sides, future contraventions may be avoided.

of the compound drainage from the building, but the work was not of a nature requiring skilled supervision. and, on his request, they might easily have had done by their own people. The only serious defect is the settlement of the Southern end of the East Dormitory for which Colonel Chambers, the late Superintending Engineer, is responsible, as it is not shown that he made any objection to the erection of the building on a site where the formation of the ground was such as to offer no security for the stability of the foundation. I do not think in any other particular the

Com = I am now any disposition
to starting, or to be
hand on R. E. E. J. P.

P. W. 186 . Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

The Govt regret
that Captain Pyres should
have thought it necessary
to decline meeting the members
of the Committee at the
building as ^{it is} considered
that there was nothing in
the circumstances to prevent
his acceding to the invitation
and ^{it is} believed that personal
communication is the best
means of settling differences
of opinion, and removing
those misunderstandings
which lead to reference
like the present being
made.

The Government
hope that with the as-
sistance which they observe
Captain Pyres has tendered.

It seems to me that
the Comtee might, with
difficulty, have rectified
the matter of outside
drawings - a catch
draw appears, as I un-
derstand the papers,
to have been all that
was immediately wanted,
and that the orphan
boys or a few cooking
under the direction of
the surgeon, instructed
and the members of
the Comtee might have
done.
The Lordship's draft-
ed, I think, be adopted,
but I do suggest that
the few words between
the two blue X X might
with advantage be omitted.

W.D.

the Committee will find
little difficulty in re-
medying the defects
which have appeared in
the Dormitories and in
checking all further
settlement of the founda-
tions.

W.D.

To
The College of Viceroy Palace
6. S. Engr 12. S. V.
11. Educational Dept.

Sept. 1st 1866

P. W. 186 Department.

Proc: of Govt. for May

No. 1725

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT. *of Madras.*

Dated *31st May 55*

29/5/56

*Putting orders on
certain correspondence relating
to the deterioration of Cyprian
Asylum at Vizagapatnam.*

A 729 @ 781

41866. D. 252