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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1428

Press
Mis.

Dated 20. 6. 18 1946

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Enclosure to Public Works Circular No. 41 of 1866.

No. 614, dated 17th March, 1866.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor General of India in Council, in the Military Department.

Read again:—

Office Memorandum from Public Works Department, No. 1009 M, dated 2nd September 1865, transferring, for consideration and orders, 3 estimates and 4 standard plans, with Office Notes, relative to the provision of quarters for Officers by the State.

Read again—

Letter to the Quarter Master General, No. 400, dated 13th December 1865, requesting the opinion of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief as to the scale necessary in the event of Officers' quarters being constructed at any Stations.

Read—

Letter from Quarter Master General, No. 194 C, dated 19th January 1866, forwarding Returns showing the state of the accommodation generally for Officers at the several Stations of the Army.

No. 195 C, dated 19th January, 1866.

From—COLONEL J. S. PATON, Quarter Master General,

To—Officiating Secretary to Government of India, Mily. Dept.

I am instructed, in returning the enclosures* of your letter No. 400 of the 13th December 1865, to append a Memorandum on the subject thereof, by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, affording the information relative to the provision of quarters by the State for Officers, as required by Supreme Government.

* No. 1325M, dated 2nd December 1865, from Government of India, Department of Public Works, to Government of India, Military Department, with 2 enclosures.

Plan of quarters for a Commanding Officer.

Ditto do. for 2 Field Officers.

Ditto do. for 4 Captains.

Ditto do. for 8 Subalterns.

the preference to that numbered 2 on account of its economical construction.

3. The Commander-in-Chief has already had the honour of addressing Government on the matter of Officers' quarters, namely, my letter No. 166C, dated 10th November 1865, covering His Excellency's Minute on Allahabad, and also my submission No. 194C of this date, showing the urgency of the matter under consideration.

Memorandum by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, on the question of providing Quarters by the State for Officers.

I have, at different times in my life, given a great deal of thought to the question of lodging Officers in India.

2. I am convinced of the necessity that Government should undertake the task, but I observe that execution generally fails, because of the larger accommodation assumed to be necessary in Government designs than is practically found to be so in the case of Officers lodging themselves.

3. The principle of lodging Officers should be rather that which obtains in a Club, for, with the exception of the married men, no Regimental Officer, whatever his rank, requires more than two fair rooms.

4. When I was a Regimental Field Officer, on going to a new station, I either built a house on such a principle, or, in conjunction with another Officer, built a larger house capable of holding us both on such terms.

5. Such was the principle invariably adopted throughout my Regiment, namely, whether the Officers built or not for themselves, their views and practice were moderate as above described. The married men did as well as they could, according to circumstances.

6. I submit, therefore, that it is unnecessary to build considerable mansions for Commanding Officers and Field Officers, and, excepting the case of married men, two rooms are ample for any Officer whatever his rank.

7. The best mode of accomplishing the object proposed by Government is as follows:—

8. Let the unit be the Subaltern's quarter, consisting of one large airy room, with bathroom and verandahs, one being partially enclosed. A Captain might have two such rooms, with the option of restricting himself to one if he liked. A married Lieutenant might also have a double quarter, on the understanding that he paid rent for the same. The enclosed verandah would give him the separate accommodation required by the circumstances of a married man of not very large means.

9. In like manner, the Field Officer might have a single, or double, or a treble quarter according to his wants, the principle being that whatever an Officer's rank, he should only pay for what he took up, that is to say, for the unit quarter, if that suited for him, or for the double or treble quarter, as the case might be.

10. By the adoption of such a principle, every Officer would be lodged wholesomely and properly, and in the most economical manner, as it would be found that the single men would all like the same rent as they do now, the vacant rooms being thus left available for the married men. The unit quarters with doors of inter-communication should be built in groups, so as to hold either 2 Field Officers, 3 or 4 Captains, or 6 or 8 Subalterns, or to be adapted according to the wants of married or single men as above sketched. There is no occasion to draw any distinction between Commanding or other Field Officers. The old rule of choice of quarters, according to seniority, does all that is required in that respect, but I would lay down that no Officer should have more than a treble quarter, whatever his rank.

11. I think that 10 units would suffice, there being 30 Officers in a British Regiment. This number of unit quarters, by making allowance for Officers on leave or absence, Staff employ, &c., would give a sufficient balance of rooms to make up for the double or treble quarters, as described in the early paragraphs.

12. Colonel Crommelin has been so good as to furnish me with sketch plans, by which execution might be given to the notions stated above.

13. It will be observed that the unit quarters can be built, including servants' houses, at an average of Rs. 4,000, the interest of which at 8 per cent. equals Rs. 320, or Rs. 26-8-0 per mensem.

14. It may be assumed that 5 servants are sufficient for a single unmarried Officer, accommodation therefore for that number may be held to be part of the unit.

15. I am reminded that there is a question about horses and carriages peculiar to this country, which does not affect Officers' quarters in England, a horse being a necessity for the performance of an Officer's duty in India, which is not the case at home. I would suggest that ranges of stabling, and coach and buggy houses should be built and placed in charge of the Barrack Master, and that Officers should be charged rent by him for every stable or coach-house occupied at the rate of 8 per cent. on outlay—

16. The 8 per cent. may be thus decomposed, namely:
5 per cent. Interest on principal.
1 Sinking Fund.
2 Repairs.

NOTE.—I have a painful recollection of the lamentable straits to which the Subaltern Officers were reduced in their attempts at building, owing to want of means. But in the days I am talking of, the onerous expenses of Officers went much further than they do now. That which was most difficult then has at present become almost an impossibility. Formerly, Officers used to be thrown into debt by the courses forced upon them, now, however, they actually could not borrow the sum required to build a decent single-roomed house.

OBSERVATIONS.—It appears to Government, in the Military Department, that, with the exception of fortified posts, in which it is admitted to be necessary as a rule, quarters for Officers of British Regiments should at first only be provided at a few Stations, and as an experimental measure.

2. As new barracks for British Troops are now being constructed, or are about to be constructed, at Allahabad, Morar, and Nowgong, quarters for the Officers might also be provided at these three Stations, on the plan proposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, of allowing a certain number of units for each Regiment or Battery. Forty units, as proposed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, might be considered the scale for an Infantry Regiment—36 for a Regiment of British Cavalry, and 8 and 12 for a Battery and Brigade Head Quarters of Royal Artillery respectively—these last being slightly added to if hereafter found necessary.

3. The plan of quarters numbered 2 in the sketch by Lieutenant-Colonel Crommelin, which accompanied the Quarter Master General's letter of the 19th January, is considered in the Military Department to be the most suitable, and should be adopted as a rule, subject to such minor alterations as may be found necessary in the Public Works Department. Provision should be made for accommodation for five servants and one horse with each unit, the rent for each unit, including these out-offices, being fixed at Rs. 20 per mensem.

It is to be understood that no Field Officer is to be considered entitled to more than three units, or any other Officer to more than two, unless there is a superfluity of quarters, when Officers may be allowed extra quarters, paying for the same according to the number of additional units that may be allotted to them.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the above be transmitted to the Public Works Department for consideration and further orders.

Regarding the provision of quarters for Officers by the State.

Received
Dated SIMLA, May 13, 1866.
By: *Secy. to Govt.*

CIRCULAR No. 41 PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
MILITARY WORKS.

of the enclosed solution of the Government of India, in the Military Department, No. 644, dated 17th March 1866, regarding the provision of quarters for Officers by the State, together with lithographed plans of quarters referred to therein.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Col., R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(Sd) *J. W. Kellner*
for Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Copy forwarded to the Govt. of Madras, P.W.D.
for information

J. W. Kellner
for Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

CIRCULAR No. 41. PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Military Works.

To

Local Governments and Administrations

SIMLA, MAY 14, 1866.

SIR,

I am directed to forward, for information and guidance, copy

(continued) to the following
Dept. & the daily Engineer's of
(Division).

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Start & George
20th June 1866



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