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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 294

Press
Mis.

294-95

Dated 12

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1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th September 1866.*

No. 294. Read the following letter from the First Judge of the Madras Court of Small Causes, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 23rd August 1866, No. 55 :—

1. I have the honor to request you will be pleased to submit to Government the accompanying two Memoranda by the Junior Judges of the Court, dated respectively the 20th and 22nd instant.

2. I have inspected the rooms now occupied by Mr. Maskell as a Court and Chambers, and consider them very uncomfortable. Besides, almost every corner of the Court and its precincts is in a disgusting state of chronic filthiness, urgently requiring cleansing and white-washing.

MEMORANDUM.

1. I request the First Judge will do me the favor to submit this my representation to Government, regarding the great inconvenience and discomfort I am subject to in the rooms assigned to me for a Court and Chambers as an Acting Judge of the Small Cause Court.

2. There are three Courts in this building. The Principal Court-room and Chambers adjoining are of course occupied by the First Judge. They are spacious, airy, and comfortable in every respect. I speak from experience, as I occupied those very rooms myself six years ago as a Magistrate of Police, when this part of the old Bonded Warehouse formed the Town Police Court.

3. The second Court was occupied by Mr. Cower, for whom I have been appointed to act. It is the second best hall, and the Chambers attached are similar in every respect to those occupied by the First Judge. Mr. Runganadum being a permanent Judge of the Court takes precedence of me, and has wisely exercised his privileges by selecting the rooms vacated by Mr. Cower.

4. There was no alternative, but to assign to me the worst Court-room and Chambers in the building.

5. This Court-room is insufferably hot. It is tiled, blocked up to the south, and has but two windows eastward, the light and air from which are all day long obstructed by the masses of human beings thronging the hall. It is, in my opinion, totally unfit for a Court-room.

6. But what shall I say of the Office room (or Chambers) attached to my new Court? I shall endeavour to describe it. It is simply then a small, enclosed, pent-roofed back verandah. This little room has but one door eastward, which opens into the Court, and must be closed if it is wished to screen the Judge from the view of the suitors in the Court. It is blocked up to the south by a dead wooden partition, so that the along shore and sea breezes are effectually shut out, and it has three small windows to the west, which, if opened after midday, admit the blazing afternoon sun, and if closed, there is risk of instant suffocation. On entering this room one is reminded of the peculiar feeling that creeps over him in a hot-house in England, intended for the preservation of exotic or tropical plants; and it is no exaggeration to say that it is the most wretched room I have been located in during the thirty years I have been in the public service.

7. I am aware that Runganadum Shastri occupied this very Court and room for the last three years. He informs me that, for reasons of his own, he would make no remonstrance; he says, however, that he never could use his Chambers, but performed all his extra Judicial work on the Bench in the Court-room, at great personal inconvenience to himself. I need hardly remark on the desirability of a Judge having the means of consulting Law Books, writing Judgments, and performing extra Judicial work in his own room.

8. I have conferred with the First Judge and the Clerk of the Court, but they cannot help me in any way. The Clerk went over the whole building with me, but could not find a single room available for me.

9. The only remedy then seems to me to be to build a new hall and room for Court and Chambers for the Junior Judge, and the best plan appears to be to construct an upper story over

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
12th September 1866.

the Court and Chambers now occupied by the First Judge, for a third Court and Chambers. I solicit that the Executive Officer of the Public Works Department may be instructed to inspect the building, and report upon the feasibility of the plan which I have taken the liberty to suggest.

10. But as it may take some time to carry out such a necessary improvement, something should, I think, be done at once to relieve me from my present discomforts. I would suggest that pillars and venetians be supplied to the east end of my Court-room, so that the whole of the venetians may be flung open in the afternoon to admit the sea breeze. Secondly, that a few venetians be also supplied to the south end of my Chambers; and, thirdly, that two new punkahs be supplied to the Court-room in lieu of the two unwieldy, old fashioned ones now suspended from the ceiling.

MADRAS,
20th August 1866.

(Signed) J. MASKELL.

MEMORANDUM.

I have read with attention the Memorandum by Mr. Maskell, touching the discomforts, &c., of his Court and room; and I perceive he has by no means overrated their unfitness for the important purposes for which they are intended. I occupied them from the day the Small Cause Court was removed to the present buildings and experienced all, and even more of the inconveniences pointed out by my brother Judge, and shall truly be sorry to go back into them in their present state.

MADRAS,
22nd August 1866.

(Signed) C. V. RUNGANADHA SHASTRY,
Judge.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

31st August 1866.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 295.

ORDER THEREON, 12th September 1866, No. 2,911.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 58.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, who will report upon the condition of the apartments occupied by the Junior Judge of the Small Cause Court, and submit an estimate for such improvements as may be considered absolutely necessary to remedy the inconvenience said to be at present experienced.

2. Adverting to the concluding remarks in paragraph 2 of Mr. Basteed's letter, Colonel Boileau will instruct the Executive Engineer to take early measures for cleansing and white-washing the Small Cause Court buildings.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
" Judicial Department.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Recd 22 Aug 1866

Chambers Court of Small Causes

22 August 1866

Memorandum

I have read with attention
the memo by Mr Maskell touching
the discomforts of his Court & room,
and I perceive he has by no means
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into them in their present state -

(Hiring one or two
@ Judge

Recd 22 Aug 1866

Memo.

I request the First Judge will do me the favour to submit this my representation to Government, regarding the great inconvenience and discomfort I am subject to in the rooms assigned to me for a Court and Chambers, as an Acting Judge of the Small Cause Court.

There are three Courts in this Building. The Principal Court Room and Chambers adjoining are of course occupied by the First Judge. They are spacious, airy, and comfortable in every respect. I speak from experience, as I occupied these very rooms myself, six years ago, as a Magistrate of Police, when this part of the old Rindel Warehouse formed the Town Police Court.

The second Court was occupied by Mr. Cower for whom I have been appointed to act. It is the second best Hall, and the Chambers attached are similar in every respect to those occupied by the First Judge. Mr. Ranganadom being a permanent Judge of the Court takes precedence of me, and has wisely exercised his privileges by selecting the rooms vacated by Mr. Cower.

There was no alternative but to assign to me the worst Court Room and Chambers in the Building.

This Court Room is insufferably hot. It is tiled, blocked up to the South, and has but two Windows Eastward, the light and air from which are all

day long obstructed by the masses of human beings thronging the Hall. It is in my opinion totally unfit for a Court Room.

But what shall I say of the Office Room (or Chambers) attached to my new Court? I shall endeavour to describe it. It is simply then a small enclosed pent roofed back verandah. This little room has but one door Eastward, which opens into the Court, and cannot be closed if it is wished to screen the Judge from the view of the Suits in the Court. It is blocked up to the side by a dead wooden partition, so that the strong shore and sea breezes are effectually shut out - and it has three small windows to the West, which if opened after midday admit the blazing afternoon sun, and if closed there is risk of instant suffocation. On entering this room one is reminded of the peculiar feeling that creeps over him in a hot house in England, intended for the preservation of exotics or tropical plants, and it is no exaggeration to say that it is the most unwholesome room I have been located in during the thirty years I have been in the Public Service.

I am aware that Rungtanaadum has lately occupied the very Court Room for the last three years. He informs me that for reasons of his own he would make no roomance - he says however that he never could use his Chambers, but performed all his extra judicial work on the Bench in the Court Room at great personal inconvenience to himself. I need hardly remark on the desirability

of a Judge having the means of consulting Law Books, writing judgments and performing extra judicial work in his own room.

I have conferred with the First Judge and the Clerk of the Court, but they cannot help me in any way. The Clerk went over the whole building with me, but could not find a single room available for me.

The only remedy then seems to me to be to build a new Hall and Room for Court and Chambers for the Junior Judges, and the best plan appears to be to construct an upper story over the Court and Chambers now occupied by the First Judge, and for a third Court and Chambers. I solicit that the Executive Officer of the Public Works Department may be instructed to inspect the Building, and report upon the feasibility of the plan which I have taken the liberty to suggest.

But as it may take some time to carry out such a necessary improvement, something should I think be done at once to relieve me from my present discomforts. I would suggest that Pillars and Venetians be supplied to the East End of my Court Room, so that the whole of the Venetians may be flung open in the afternoon to admit the sea breeze. - Secondly that a few venetians be also supplied to the South end of my Chambers - and thirdly that two new panthals be supplied to the Court Room in lieu of the two unwieldy old fashioned ones now suspended from the Ceiling.

Maxwell

Madras 20 August 1866.

N^o 55

Madras Court of Small Causes
23^d August 1866.

From Thomas M. Bustard Esq.
First Judge of the Madras
Court of Small Causes.

To, The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St George.

Sir, I have the honor to request you will
be pleased to submit to Government, the
accompanying two Memoranda by the Senior
Judges of the Court, dated respectively the
20th and 22^d instant.

I have inspected the rooms now
occupied by Mr. Mashell as a Court and
Chambers, and consider them very uncomfor-
table. Besides, almost every corner of the
Court and its precincts is in a disgusting
state of chronic filthiness requiring
cleaning and white-washing.

I have the honor to be,
Sir

Your most obed^t servant

Thomas M. Bustard
First Judge

From The First Judge of the
Madras Court of Small Causes (H.E. No 1860 of 23rd Aug^r 1866)

Communicated to the
 Sup^r & Engineer of the 4th Division,
 who will report upon the
 Condition of the apartments
 occupied by the Senior
 Judge of the Small Cause
 Court, and submit and
 estimate for such im-
 =provements as may be
 considered absolutely necessary
 to remedy the inconvenience
 which he at present ex-
 =periences -
 Advancing of the con-
 =ceding remarks in para-
 2 of Mr. Brouce's letter,
 Colonel Vaneau will
 - instruct.

Ward

[illegible]

Enclosed

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e. 5th & 1st 7886. Dr. 6th

Handkerchiefs
No. 2911-1248 of the 1886.

instruct the Executive
Engineers to take early
measures for cleansing
and white washing the
small canvas (oil) buildings.

W.H.

To the Sup. Eng. & Dir.
- - - - - Indian Dept.
- - - - - Protector of Indians
Sept. 13 - 1894

O H 10th Dept
Pro. of Govt for Sept

No 2911
Pro. of the Madras Govt

D 12 September 18.

The Superintendent
Maj. Engineer of the
4th Division instructe
ed to arrange for the white
washing &c, of Small
Cause Court Building,
and the improvement of
the apartments occupied
by the Junior Judge.

No 294-295

5th Sept/66 A. 6m