

(1) Number of pages 6
(2) Date of repair 2-4-43
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1267	Press ~~Mis.~~
539-40	
Dated 29. 4. 1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,

29th April 1867.

No. 539. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Military Works,) dated Fort William, 1st April 1867, No. 36 :—

Doors versus Windows for Barracks of European Troops.

Read again :—

Public Works Department Circular No. 7, dated 18th January 1866, forwarding, for the opinion of Local Governments and Administrations, and of the Principal Medical Officers under them, the following extracts, viz. :—

Extract from Conclusions of the Government of India on the principles of Barrack Construction (vide Public Works Department Circular No. 89 of 1864, Conclusion. V).

"The following rules should be strictly attended to in regard to the arrangement of beds in a ward," viz. :—

"There shall be only two rows of beds in a ward ; no bed shall be placed within 9 inches of a door, and not more than two beds shall be allowed in the wall space between two contiguous doors."

Extract from the Remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission in England on the above Conclusion.

"The word doors is used in the conclusion, but wherever local circumstances admit of windows being used instead of doors, it would be advisable. The disadvantage of having too many doors is, that it exposes men to hurtful draughts, a well-known cause of disease in India. We agree with the proposal not to place the beds nearer to the doors than 9 inches, but we question whether even this would afford sufficient shelter ; and we consider that it would be always advisable where there are doors, to shelter the beds by chicks or small screens."

Read also :—

The Opinions received from the several Local Governments and other Authorities, in reply to the above Circular.

OBSERVATIONS.—The replies now received show that there exists a considerable diversity of opinion among the several authorities who have been consulted on the two questions at issue ; but it appears to the Governor General in Council that the evidence of the most reliable authorities, is—first, in favour of doors as preferable to windows except in the hills, and at a few stations in the plains, at which the climate may happen to be peculiar ; and secondly, opposed to the introduction of screens into barracks.

2. It is considered by these authorities that too much stress has been laid upon the injurious effects of draughts ; that thorough perflation of air through Indian barracks is absolutely necessary, and that this can only be properly ensured by means of numerous doors or openings down to the floors. It is further considered by them that screens would obstruct ventilation, would be constantly liable to get out of order, and are quite unnecessary as a shelter against draughts ; and further that, if the outer sides of the beds are 9 inches clear of the door, the men will be sufficiently protected from draughts.

3. Some of the authorities recommend that the doors should be constructed in two parts, so that the lower portion may be kept open whilst the upper remains shut. But all such complex constructions in barracks are considered very objectionable, and it is almost certain that such contrivances would not be properly applied.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th April 1867.*

4. After a careful consideration of the opinions of the various Local authorities as set forth in the reports received from the Local Governments and Administrations, the Governor General in Council has arrived at the conclusion that the simple kind of doors* that are at present being adopted in all barrack buildings in India should be adhered to. It seems, however, to His Excellency in Council that this arrangement might be somewhat improved if the lower panels of the doors were to have holes cut in them for the constant admission of air when the doors are shut, or if these panels were made up of perforated metal plates or if some other arrangement could be adopted for admitting air without allowing of any injurious draught.

* Partly panelled and partly glazed, about 9' X 5' having over them separate tilting glazed frames, either rectangular or semi-circular in shape.

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ORDER.—Ordered that copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted for information and guidance, and to the Military Department, the Quarter Master General, the Adjutant General, and the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, for information.

Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North Western Provinces, Punjab.
Chief Commissioners, Oudh, Central Provinces, British Burmah.
Resident, Hyderabad.
Commissioner of Mysore.
Agents, Governor General for Rajpootana and Central India.

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

No. 540. ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1867, No. 1,267.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 32.

No. 569, dated 17th February 1866.
Nos. 1,830—1,831, dated 11th June 1866.

Communicated to the Military Department, and to the Superintending Engineers for information and guidance, with reference to the Orders noted in the margin.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department.
,, Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

CIRCULAR No. 36 PUBLIC WORKS.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
MILITARY WORKS.

FORT WILLIAM, APRIL 1, 1867.

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To the Secretary to Govt. of Madras
Public Works Department.

11/13/54
S. J. [unclear]
12/3/60

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
MILITARY WORKS.

To
Major General [unclear]

CIRCULAR NO. 36 PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated April 1, 1867.
Received 15/10/1867

Doors versus Windows for Barracks of European Troops.

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