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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1603.

Press
Mis.

639-640

Dated 28-5-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

13

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
28th May 1867.

No. 639. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 17th May 1867, No. 790 :—

1. Government in their Order of the 29th April 1867, No. 1,258, approved and sanctioned an estimate from the current Reserve under " Civil Buildings," amounting to Rupees 720, for the construction of a semi-terraced roof over the dome of the chancel of Saint George's Cathedral.

2. The Superintending Engineer proposed this method of arresting the dampness in the walls and ceiling, at the suggestion of the Trustees, though I have reason to believe he had his doubts as to the propriety of erecting this second roof for very much the same reasons as I beg to adduce below.

3. I made a further careful examination of the building. Owing to the chancel of the Church having been added within the last few years, an unequal settlement took place, and cracks have shown themselves in the crown of the groined arches and in portions of the wall. I do not think these very serious, though I do hesitate on being called upon to add another roof on top, and so increase the tendency of the walls to settle. The present roof, also, is composed of groined arches, springing from semi-circular ones of considerable span, and, though the estimate allowed of supporting the new roof on the arches on account of the saving of expense, a better and safer method would be to put together flat trusses stretching from outer wall to outer wall, a mode of construction, owing to the great span, which would involve much difficulty and considerable outlay in its execution.

4. In my letter to Colonel Boileau of the 14th December last, forwarding the plans and estimates, I stated as follows : " I am inclined to think it would be " preferable to re-asphalte and otherwise repair the present roof, as great additional " weight will now be added to that on the walls which are already showing signs " of settlement," but the Superintending Engineer thought it better to send on the estimate for sanction as it now stands.

5. I beg, therefore, for the above reasons, Government will allow me to hold the sanction in abeyance, if not, to cancel the grant altogether, and to revert to the original proposal and experiment of asphaltting the present roof. The outlay will be comparatively trifling, about 50 Rupees. There appears to have been too much sand in the composition lately put on, but with more care in its application, I think that we shall succeed better, causing fewer cracks in the work, and that effectual measures may be taken before the rains to stop further signs of dampness in the ceilings.

No. 640. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1867, No. 1,603.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 77.

Under the circumstances explained, the Acting Superintending Engineer is authorized to make the experiment proposed in paragraph 5, and to hold in abeyance the sanction which was accorded in the Proceedings of Government of the 29th ultimo, No. 1,258.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Accountant General.

„ Ecclesiastical Department.

Etd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 790.
From,

33
Superintg. Engrs Office 4th D.
Madras 17 May 1867

Vizal^l. Colonel J. Bean R. E.
As^t. Superintending Engineer 4th D.

66
Colonel W. A. Orr R. E.
Secretary to Government P. W. D.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Government in their order of the 29th
April 1867, No. 1258, approved and sanctioned
an estimate from the current Reserve under
"Civil Buildings" amounting to Rspees 720
for the construction of a semi-terraced roof
over the dome of the chancel of Saint George's
Cathedral.

2 The Superintending Engineer pro-
posed this method of arresting the dampness
in the walls and ceiling, at the suggestion of the
Trustees though I have reason to believe he had his
doubts as to the propriety of erecting this second
roof for very much the same reasons as I beg to
adduce below.

3 I made a further careful examina-
tion of the Building, owing to the Chancel of
the church having been added within the
last

last few years, an unequal settlement took place, and cracks have shown themselves in the crown of the groined arches and in portions of the wall. I do not think these very serious, though I do hesitate on being called upon to add another roof on top, and so increase the tendency of the walls to settle. The present roof, also, is composed of groined arches springing from semi-circular ones of considerable span, and, though the estimate allowed of supporting the new roof on the arches on account of the saving of expense, a better and safer method would be to put together flat trusses stretching from outer wall to outer wall, a mode of construction, owing to the great span, which would involve much difficulty and considerable outlay in its execution.

4 In my letter to Colonel Boileau of the 14th Dec^r last, forwarding the plans and estimates I stated as follows, "I am inclined to think it would be preferable to reasphalte" and otherwise repair the present roof, as great additional weight will now be added to that on the walls which are already showing signs of settlement," - but the Superintending Engineer thought it better to send on the estimate for sanction as it now stands.

I

5 They, therefore, for the above reasons, Government will allow me to hold the sanction in abeyance, if not, to cancel the grant altogether, and to revert to the original proposal, and experiment of asphalting the present roof. The outlay will be comparatively trifling, about 5000 Rupees. There appears to have been too much sand in the composition lately put on, but with more care in its application, I think that we shall succeed better, causing fewer cracks in the work, and that effectual measures may be taken before the rains to stop further signs of dampness in the ceilings.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours Most Obedient Servant
A. J. Sup. J. Engr. & Co.

Sup. J. Engr. Office & Co.
Madras 17 May 1867

To, Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.
Secretary to Government P. M. D.
Fort Saint George

287 1863-28
from 1863-28

July 1863
L. Davis

To the Lady to Good-Will

March 1863
April 1863

Regarding that the
may be allowed to hold
the position of good for
the construction of a dam
estimated 1000 feet over the dam
of the Channel of 15 feet per sec
Cathedral in any case
not to exceed the present
height and to meet the
original proposed design
must of building the dam

1863-28

1863-28

Under the circumstances
explained, the
Engineering is authorized
to make the necessary
proposed in para 5, and
to hold in accordance the
recession which was
accorded in the case
of the 29th March
No 1258-

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