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(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

_____ DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 877 Press / Mis.—

233-38

Dated 11 7 1837.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th July 1867.

Read the following papers:—

No. 280. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kotagherry, 30th May 1867, No. 911.

1. I have the honour to forward an extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Salem, on the already unserviceable condition of the huts, &c., at Sooramungalum in Salem.

2. I trust that Government will take notice of the matter.

From the Superintendent of Police, Salem, to the Assistant Engineer, Salem Range, dated Salem, 22nd May 1867.

1. I have the honour to forward, for your perusal, a Diary* of Inspector Dias, and to inform you that I have this morning inspected the Police huts at Sooramungalum, and find them very much in the condition described by him; so far as I can judge they are at present unsafe, and as likely as not to come down with a run when next there is a heavy fall of rain.

* To be returned.

2. These huts were handed over to us by the Public Works Department only some eight months ago, having been built at a total cost of Rupees 546.

3. I shall feel obliged by your kindly having them inspected, and by your informing me at your earliest convenience whether you can undertake to repair them, and if so, at what cost.

4. I would take this opportunity of mentioning that some of the plaster has been washed off the back wall of the new lock-up at Sooramungalum, and that there are already several small holes in the wall, which appears to have been constructed, partially at least, of sun-burnt brick.

Extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Police, Salem.

After seeing the Inspector General at the Railway Station in the morning, went to look at the Police huts at Sooramungalum, which were reported to be in a dangerous state. On inspection I found that in all of them a great part of the earth had fallen off on the side exposed to the rain, and that the walls were cracked in a dozen places. One of the yard walls has already fallen down, and as far as I can judge the whole batch of huts are quite as likely as not to come down with a run when next there is a heavy fall of rain, they are in so dangerous a state that the men are moving their families out of them, and I doubt whether it is any use attempting to patch them up. I have to-day written a letter to Edgcome, copy of which I enclose, it is really perfectly disgraceful that Government money should be thrown away like this. Here we have paid Rupees 540 for six huts which have not lasted eight months.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspector General of Police.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

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

Fort Saint George,
15*th June* 1867.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, for early and full report.

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

18*th June* 1867.

No. 281. From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 27th June 1867, No. 58.

1 Letter from Inspector General of Police, with two enclosures.
1 Letter from Assistant Engineer, Salem Range.

1. With reference to your endorsement dated 18th of June, on a letter from the Inspector General of Police, I have the honour to report that I inspected the Police huts at Sooramungalum on the 22nd. I found that they had been utterly neglected by the Police Department, and they were consequently in need of some repairs. Some of the huts were unoccupied (possibly because the Constables find it convenient to live elsewhere), but not one hut was in such a state that it could not be occupied.

2. It is notorious that bungalows in this country, that let for 40 or 50 Rupees a month, if left unoccupied and neglected for a few months present a most dilapidated appearance. How then can it be expected that mud huts should last if no repairs are made to them, and if, as in this case, no one is left to take care of them.

3. I forward a letter from the Assistant Engineer of the Range, from which it will be seen that it is thirteen months (not eight months as stated by the Superintendent of Police) since the huts were completed, and also that the huts were left unoccupied for at least a month after they were given over to the Police.

4. It would be well if huts of this kind, requiring no professional skill to design or construct, were, for the future, built by the Police Department. They would then be more carefully looked after, and would consequently last longer.

From the Assistant Engineer, Salem Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, Department Public Works, dated Salem, 25th June 1867, No 52.

1. In reply to your Memorandum No. 183, dated 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I inspected the Police huts at Sooramugalum on the following day, and found them in the condition noted below :—

Enclosures 3.

2. Beginning from the south end, and naming the huts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

No. 1. In good order, a portion of the compound wall fallen down, the hut unoccupied.
No. 2. A few tiles blown off the roof of the hut compound wall in good order, the hut unoccupied.
No. 3. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut occupied.
No. 4. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut occupied.
No. 5. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut occupied.
No. 6. Hut and compound wall in good order. Hut unoccupied.

3. From the above statement you will observe that the huts are not in such an alarming condition as reported by the Superintendent of Police. I would, however, emphatically put on record the fact, that huts in such an exposed situation, constructed of such frail materials, need constant supervision on the part of the Police Department, and on the part of those who occupy them, and without such constant supervision it is not reasonable to expect them to stand the effects of rain and wind.

4. You will note that three out of the six huts were unoccupied at the time I inspected them. This of itself is, in my opinion, a serious omission on the part of the Police Department. Dwellings of this description to be kept in anything like decent order must be continually occupied.

5. I would point out that Captain Warlow is in error when he states that the huts have not lasted for eight months.

The extract from his diary is dated 22nd May. The date on which I finally inspected the huts, and reported that they were fit for occupation was 30th April 1866.

6. I may remark that although I reported on the 30th April that the huts were fit for occupation, they were not occupied up to the 4th June following. I consider this a matter of importance.

7. In conclusion, I would observe that I utterly object to the following remark made by Captain Warlow, "it is really perfectly disgraceful that Government money should be thrown away like this." I take this opportunity of asserting most emphatically that Government money has *not* been thrown away.

8. It would be well if this department were relieved of such petty works, as the construction of Police huts. Perhaps if the huts were constructed by the Police Department there would be more care taken of them after construction, than appears to be at present the case.

No. 282. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1867, No. 2,078.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 38.

1. These reports of the Superintending Engineer and the Officer in charge of Salem Range furnish a very different account of the condition of the Police huts at Sooramungalum from that given by the Superintendent of Police at Salem. The Government observe that not one of the huts is considered unfit for occupation, and the appearance of dilapidation which those structures present is sufficiently accounted for by their having been utterly neglected since their completion and transfer to the Police Department nearly thirteen months ago, though, to ensure the preservation of buildings constructed of the ordinary and perishable materials which are generally employed on these huts, special care should have been taken of them, and petty repairs, when necessary, executed in good time.

2. In November 1864 the Government expressed the opinion that the erection of Police huts could not require the employment of skilled labour of any kind, nor demand the supervision of the professional Department; and the Government of India having since ruled* that only large Police stations are to be considered as coming within the category of Police works which are to be executed by the agency of Public Works Officers, His Lordship in Council wishes it to be distinctly understood that the duty of providing hutting accommodation for the Police force belongs to that Department.

* 6th December 1865, No. 3,697.

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

To the Superintending Engineers.
,, Inspector General of Police.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Judicial Department.
Captain Kennedy.
Ex-l. S. T. Augustin.

Fifth Division D.P.W.
Salem District

No. 52.

Salem Range office
Salem 25th June 67.

From the
Assistant Engineer
Salem Range

To the
Superintending Engineer
5th Division D.P.W.

Sir,

Enclosures: 3.

1. In reply to your Memo: No. 183, dated 24 Instant, I have the honour to report that I inspected the Police Huts at Swamimalam on the following day, and found them in the Condition noted below -

2. Beginning from the South end, and naming the Huts, 1-2-3-4-5- and 6-

No. 1- In good order - a portion of the Compound wall fallen down - Hut unoccupied -

No. 2 - A few tiles blown off the roof of the Hut - Compound wall in good order - the Hut Unoccupied -

No. 3 - Hut and Compound wall in good order - Hut occupied -

No. 4 - Hut and Compound well in good order - Hut occupied.

No. 5 - Hut and Compound well in good order - Hut occupied.

No. 6 - Hut and Compound well in good order - Hut unoccupied -

3. From the above statement you will observe that the Huts are not in such an Alarming Condition as reported by the Superintendent of Police. I would however emphatically put on record the fact, that Huts in such an exposed situation, Constructed of such frail materials, need constant supervision on the part of the Police Department, and on the part of those who occupy them. And without such Constant Supervision it is not reasonable to expect them to stand the effects of rain and wind.

4. You will note that 3 out of the 6 Huts, were unoccupied at the time I inspected them. This of itself is, in my opinion, a serious omission on the part of the Police Department - Dwellings of this description to be kept in anything like decent order must be Continually occupied.

5. I would point out that Captain Warlow is in Error when he states that the Huts have not lasted Hundreds for Eight Months -

The Extract from his diary is dated 22 May - The date on which I finally inspected the Huts - and reported that they were fit for occupation was April 30 - 1866 -

6. I may remark that although I reported on the 30 April that the Huts were fit for occupation, they were not occupied upto the 4th June following - I Consider this a matter of importance -

7. In Conclusion I would observe that I utterly object to the following remark made by Captain Warlow - "it is really perfectly disgraceful that Government Money

should be thrown away like this" -
I take this opportunity of asserting
most emphatically that Govern-
ment Money has not been thrown
away.

8. It would be well if this
Department were relieved of such
petty works as the Construction
of Police Huts. Perhaps if the Huts
were constructed by the Police De-
partment - there would be more
care taken of them after Con-
struction - than appears to be
at present the case.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Most Obdt Servt
A R Edgeworth Lieut RE
Assistant Engineer

Fifth Division D.P.W
Salem District
No
From the
Apprentice Engineer
Salem Range
To the
Supt. Engineer
5th Do. D.P.W.

No 52 of W 24/30/67

Dated 25 June 67
Rec 27th Do

Enclosures 3.

In reply to Superintending Engineers Memo. No. 183 of 24th Instant offering explanation regarding the Police Huts at Soorumangalam.

No

Salem 22d May 1867

From

Captain J. P. Harland
Superintendent of Police
Salem

To Lieut. A. P. Edgeome
Apprentice Engineer
Salem Range

Sir

I have the honor to forward for your perusal a Diary of Inspection Dears and to inform you that I have this morning inspected the Police Huts at Soorumangalam, and find them very much in the Condition described by him so far as I can judge they are at present unsafe and as likely as not to come down with a rain when such there is a heavy fall of rain.

2 These huts were handed over to me by the P. W. D only some eight months ago having been built at a total Cost of Rs 540

3 I shall feel obliged by your kindly having them inspected and by your informing me at your earliest Convenience, whether you can undertake to repair them and if so, at what Cost.

4 I would take this opportunity of mentioning that some of the plaster has been washed off the back wall of the new lock up at Soorumangalam and that

v Lr. has returned

there are already several small holes in the wall which appears to have been Constructed partially at least of sun burnt Brick.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedt Servt

(Sd) J. P Warlow Captain

Superintendent of Police

True Copy

J P Warlow Captain

Superint of Police

2/136/67

1867 Departt.

Enclosure

In a letter from the Inspector General of Police dated Kotagherry 30th May 1867 No 911.

Extract from the diary of the Supdt of Police reporting on the unserviceable condition of the Huts &c at Soorammungalum

In Jud. Lr 1221/67.

Extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Police, Salem

3

After seeing the Inspector General at the Railway Station in the morning went to look at the Police huts at Soorammungalum which were reported to be in a dangerous state: on inspection I found that in all of them a great part of the earth had fallen off on the side exposed to the rain and that the walls were cracked in a dozen places. one of the yard walls has already fallen down and as far as I can judge the whole heads of huts are quite as likely as not to come down with a run when next there is a heavy fall of rain. they are in so dangerous a state that the men are removing their families out of them and I doubt whether it is any use attempting to patch them up. I have to day written a letter to Edgeome Copy of which I enclose. it is really perfectly disgraceful that Government money should be thrown away like this. here we have paid Rs 5740 for nine huts which have not lasted eight months

(True Extract)

Inspector General of Police

No 911 Office of the Inspr Genl of Police
Kadaghenny 30th May 1864

From

W. Robinson Esqre C.S.I
Inspector General of Police

To

The Hon'ble A. A. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir

I have the honor to forward an Extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Salem on the already unsatisfactory condition of the Gaol there at present arising from the overcrowded state of the Prison.

I trust that Government will take the matter into consideration.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
W Robinson
Inspector General of Police

Stephenville, Engineer Office, 5th Dec.
St Lucia, 27th November 1866

No 358.

From, Lieut. Col. H. C. A. Stoddart R.E.
Superintending Engineer
5th Division.

To, Colonel C. A. Dyas R.E.
Secretary to Government
&c &c &c

Sir,

I have the honor to forward enclosures as noted in the margin.

Enclosure. Letter from Inspector General of Police with enclosure.

Letter from Assistant Engineer, Castries (Range).

Dated 30th May 1867
Rec'd 5th June
No 911
No 2078 - 11th July 1867
Enclosure No 2
No 1221.

Forwards an Extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Police, Soufriere, on the unserviceable state of Police Stock at Soufriere.

Referred

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

Port of Spain
15th June 1867

E. J. Lawrence
Chief Secretary

To
The Public Works Department.
dated 15th

No 780

10 June 1867

Recd 5th July

Referred to the Superintending Engineer for the 5th Div. for early and full report.

Col. R.E.
Actg Col. Sec.

5th July 1867 R. 8th

Public Works Department.

No 2078

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th July 1867.

Read the following

From The Inspector General of Police A. C. No 911 Dated 30th May 1867.

From The Salem Engineer 5th Dn. (Here enter No. 58 dated 27th June 1867.

ORDER THEREON, 186 , No.

These reports of the Superintending Engineer, and the Officer in charge of the Salem Range furnish a very different account of the Condition of the Police huts at Sowrammungalum from that given by the Superintendent of Police at Salem. The Government observe that most one of the huts is considered unfit for occupation, and the appearance of dilapidation which those structures

N.

WOM

From The Superintending Engineer
To The Inspector General of Police
Fort St George

Dated 27 June 1867.
Rec'd 1st July 1867.
No 58
Encl. 1

Stating that the Police Buildings at Sowrammungalum are noticed in the Order dated 11th July 1867. Ult. Para 8.

Ans. 2078-11th July 1867.

present is sufficiently ac-
counted for by their having
been utterly neglected since
their Completion and transfer
to the Police Department nearly
thirteen months ago, though to
ensure the preservation of
Buildings Constructed of the
ordinary and perishable ma-
terials which are generally
employed on these lines, special
Care should have been taken
of them, and petty repairs,
when necessary, executed in
good time.

In November 1864
the Government expressed
the opinion that the erection
of Police lines Could not
require the employment of
skilled labor of any kind,

× 6 Dec 65, No 3697

nor demand the supervision
of the professional Depts;
and the Government of India
having since ruled that
only large Police Stations
are to be Considered as
coming within the Category
of Police works which are
to be executed by the agency
of Public Works Officers,
His Lordship in Council
wishes it to be distinctly
understood that the duty
of providing suitable ac-
Commodation for the Police
force belongs to that Dept.

To
The S. Engineers
" Inspector General of Police
" Controller
" Judicial Dept
" Captain Kennedy

150
Dept 12/5/67

Pub. Works 1867. Depart.

Proc. of Govt. for July

No 2078

Proc. of the Madras Govt.
Dt 11th July 1867

Passing orders on certain papers relative to the alleged defective construction of Police Huts at Sooramungalum in the Salem District.

No 1280 @ 282

C. 6th July 1867 Dd 8th