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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2472	Press
325-26	~~Mis.~~
Dated 13 . 8	1867 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.

13th August 1867.

No. 325. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department :—

Requesting that the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division may be called upon to report on the measures to be adopted for providing the accommodation required for the Army Clothing Department at Madras. (Here enter 7th August 1867, No. 2,911.)

No. 326. ORDER THEREON, 13th August 1867, No. 2,472.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 23.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division for early and full report, in communication with the Clothing Agent.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

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MILITARY DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Superintendent Army Clothing... ... Here enter 11th July 1867, No. 4.

From the Controller of Mily. Accts..... ... 20th " " E.

From the Superintendent Army Clothing, Madras, 11th July 1867, No. 4; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I regret having to report, for the information of Government, that the building known as Moorat's Gardens on the Mount Road, and now occupied by the Army Clothing Department, was broken into by thieves on the night of the 25th June 1867, and property abstracted therefrom to the value of about three hundred Rupees.

2. The robbery was effected by one of the workmen employed by a Maistry in the Department secreting himself during the afternoon among a large quantity of ready made Native Infantry cloaks, and thereby getting locked in the premises when the building was closed for the night. About midnight, he confesses to having opened one of the windows from the inside and handed out to an accomplice three bundles of Native Infantry cloaks, each containing ten, and two pieces of American Drill, measuring about 80 yards—the whole valued at about Rupees 300.

3. As soon as the property was missed, intimation was given to the Police, who, in communication with a talliar attached to the Clothing Department, discovered the stolen cloaks cut up into pieces in the house of a Burmese resident in Black Town, on whose information the thieves were apprehended, and the case has been committed to the ensuing Sessions for trial. The American Drill has not yet been discovered.

4. This robbery and loss of Government property compels me to urge on the notice of Government the unsuitableness of the present building, for the purposes of the Army Clothing Department.

5. The building is the property of one Girderdoss Govindoss, a Sowcar residing in Black Town. He purchased the property by foreclosing a mortgage he held over it from the late Firm of Ashton Richardson and Co., for Rupees 31,000. Government commenced renting the premises on the 1st April 1859, at Rupees 300 per mensem, so that Government has already paid in rent within one thousand Rupees of the purchase price. The building was never, in my opinion, well suited to the purpose for which it has been retained, but the difficulty has been to obtain another. The proprietor will do nothing to the building, not even the most ordinary repairs, and, as the house is private property, Government is naturally unwilling to expend money upon it. I reported to the Barrack Master, in March last, the state of insecurity in which a large and varied stock of Government property was left, from there being no proper fastenings to the doors and windows, but nothing was done, and I confess to surprise that the building has not been before forcibly entered, and a large amount of more valuable property taken than on the present occasion.

6. Since the introduction of the sewing machines, it has become necessary to admit from three to four hundred tailors daily into this building, to serve and work the machines, and finish off the clothing, from there being no other suitable workshop in which they can be employed. These tailors, as a class, are notoriously thieves, and in a small building like this, already half filled with Government stock lying about in open packages, the strictest supervision cannot prevent robbery.

7. The question, however, now is what can be suggested to Government as the best course to pursue under the circumstances. There appears to me but three

suggestions to make—either to erect a building *de novo* suitable to the purposes of an Army Clothing Department, or to make some other existing Government building available, or to purchase the present building, and to alter and add to it so as to render it suitable.

8. With regard to the second suggestion, I think there can be no question that, of all public buildings now the property of Government, there is none better suited or adapted to the purposes of a large manufacturing establishment like the Army Clothing Department than the building now occupied by the Military Male Orphan Asylum, if it can be made available for the purpose.

9. There is abundance of space (with some additions) for stores in bulk, workshops for machines, workshops for tailors finishing off the garments, cutting out rooms, and departments for issue of all trimmings as well as packing and painting bales prior to dispatch.

10. Were these buildings made available to the Army Clothing Department, I am convinced that an establishment might be organized giving employment daily to hundreds of poor European and East Indian women, and to many Soldiers' wives, circulating a large amount of money, in return for labor, among a class that are now in great poverty—but without plenty of space, such as the Male Asylum buildings afford, it would be fruitless to attempt anything of the kind.

11. The only other building in any way suitable is the present Normal School; but it would have to be considerably altered and added to: however, that might be done, as the property belongs to Government, and the school might be transferred to this building until other suitable accommodation could be found for it.

12. I do not think the purchase of the building now in occupation would be advisable, with a view to converting it into a Clothing Department, as a large price would be demanded for it, and it is not a building well adapted for the purpose, but there is ample space in it for the accommodation of the Male Asylum boys, or those of the Normal School, until otherwise provided for.

13. I would respectfully solicit early orders on this subject, as the machine work of the Department has come to a stop for want of space, and the period for commencing the clothing of the European portion of the Army is already passed.

Referred to the Controller of Military Accounts, for early report.

12th July 1867.

From the Acting Controller of Military Accounts, Fort Saint George, 20th July 1867, E; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor to return the letter of the Superintendent Army Clothing, dated 11th July 1867, No. 4, referred for my report under docket dated 12th idem.

2. The Superintendent complains of want of accommodation in the building at present occupied as the office and work-shops of his Department, of the general unsatisfactory state of the building as regards repair, and of the insecurity of all goods stored therein from various causes, which he explains.

3. Although the robbery, which the Superintendent reports, appears to have been owing to a want of the simple precaution of ascertaining that the building was thoroughly vacated before being closed, there is much cause for anxiety regarding the safety of valuable public property, part of which would seem to be lying in rooms, to which the working establishment have general access—the remainder being stored in various parts of the building, without the ordinary safeguard of adequate bolts and fastenings.

4. The owner of the house, it is said, declines to execute even the commonest repairs. To this he cannot be compelled; but it must be allowed that, in the absence of any agreement on his part to furnish his house with the bolts and locks necessary to the safe custody of valuable goods, such safe-guards should have been provided by the tenant; and, in this case, the Superintendent is responsible that this has not been fully effected.

5. The Superintendent proposes the occupation of some other suitable Government building by the Clothing Department. I am not aware of any which could be made of use for this purpose. The Male Asylum is not a Government building, and cannot be alienated from the purpose for which it was built. The present Normal School is, I believe, the property of Government, but it labors in common with the house now occupied by the Clothing Department, under the disadvantage of having no special adaptation for the uses to which it would be put. Could the exchange proposed by Colonel Silver be conveniently effected, a great expense must necessarily be incurred, in fitting it for the reception of stores, and for the accommodation of a manufacturing establishment.

6. It is for consideration whether steps should not at once be taken for providing special public accommodation for an establishment, the existence of which must continue so long as a distinct Army is maintained in the Presidency. Colonel Silver points out that, at the present rent, Government will have, in little more than eight years, paid the full value of the building now occupied by the Department—the cost of which to the present owner is stated to have been Rupees 31,000.

7. It may not be considered beyond the province of this Department to suggest that it is by no means necessary that an expensive style of building should be adopted for the working establishment of the Clothing Department, nor for the safe keeping of the clothing stores.

8. Plain substantial buildings would be better adapted for these purposes—suitable accommodation being separately provided for the Superintendent and his office establishment.

ORDER, No. 2911, 7th August 1867.

The Governor in Council concurs generally in the foregoing report from the Controller of Military Accounts, which will be communicated to the Superintendent and Agent for Army Clothing and Department of Public Works, which latter Department will issue instructions to the Superintending Engineer of the Division to submit, in communication with the Clothing Agent, a report on the measures considered most expedient for rendering the premises more secure, and for providing accommodation to the extent required by the Superintendent, with specification of any proposed alterations, together with an approximate estimate of cost, at the same time informing Government whether the suggestion made by the Controller of Military Accounts in paragraphs 6 and 7 of his report, for the provision of special public accommodation, could be effected at any reasonable rate of expenditure.

(True Extract.)

Macmillan Colonel,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Clothing Department.
.. Controller of Military Accounts.
.. Public Works Department. *with 20 spare copies.*
.. Barrack Master, for information.
Exd. A. W. Cooke.

To Mr. 1867 Det. -
Prof. G. H. Fordham
No. 3001

No. of the Madison Court
Prin. Det.

Det. 7
No. 10 3 Aug 17

Oct. 21/72 - 13 Aug 1867

Regarding that
the Judge's order of the 4th
may be called upon to
report on the measures
to be adopted for providing
the accommodation be-
quied for the Army Clothing
Dept. at Madison.
Note on file -

Ch. 325-326

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Oct 24/72

Commd. & the
Supt. Engineer of the 4th
as per env. and full
report, in communication
with the Whiting Agent -

W. H.

1054 Bar

Sept 14/67

Grant at George's
1302 Aug 1867

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