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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2550

Press
~~Mis.~~

480-81

Dated 20 . 8

1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th August 1867.*

No. 480. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Palar Anicut, 9th August 1867, No. 2,301:—

1. I beg to bring to the notice of Government that in their Order of the 29th November 1866, No. 3,791, an estimate, along with others for certain works required for the European Regiment in Fort St. George, was sanctioned for a Fives Court and Racket Court, amounting to Rupees 9,300, and the work has accordingly been in progress since, funds having been provided this year in G. O. of the 17th May 1867, No. 1,494.
 - 1 Estimate.
 - 1 Plan.
2. I now find from correspondence which has passed between the Superintending Engineer, Colonel Boileau, and Captain Goddard, that as early as January last it was found necessary to alter materially the nature of the foundations, and on my inspection of the work, I observed that these foundations were being laid on wells. The Executive Engineer has just forwarded the enclosed revised estimate for those and other alterations, and it amounts to no less a sum than Rupees 25,300, or Rupees 16,000 in excess of the other.
3. Captain Goddard, when opening out the ground, found that the foundations of the neighbouring bastion had a very wide spread, and were built on wells, indicating very bad soil, and he immediately requested Colonel Boileau to allow him to adopt the same nature of foundations, which requisition was sanctioned.
4. This involves an excess of Rupees 3,400 alone, the wells for the centre wall dividing the two Courts having been sunk in three rows, those for the other walls in two rows, and all of them 6 feet deep with 6 feet solid work above.
5. The other alteration, which more especially affected the estimate, is the extent of casing of stone for the walls. Colonel Boileau directed that this material should be used throughout for the division wall, in place of on the face only, as intended by Captain Goddard. This addition, and the increase of breadth from 2½ to 3 feet, as well as a more expensive description of work, which Captain Goddard considers necessary, and involves a highly polished face of wall, has added very much to the rate and quantity of stone required, and involves an increased cost of Rupees 10,900 on the original estimate. These alterations, and certain additions to the work not contemplated in the original design, raises the amount by Rs. 16,000.
6. I beg further to state that the stone-work has not as yet been carried out, and it is questionable whether it is desirable to go to such an expense in quality, which should have been allowed for, if necessary, in the original estimate, though, as regards quantity, I have submitted the estimate, with plans, for the orders of Government, in deference to the views of the Superintending Engineer, whose duties I am only temporarily performing.
7. My own experience would lead me to suppose that, though good workmanship to the walls is required to ensure the game of Rackets being efficiently played, it is unnecessary to secure perfection at a cost of nearly 11,000 Rupees, when ordinarily dressed stone will suit the ordinary purposes of the game.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th August 1867.*

No. 481.

ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1867, No. 2,550.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 34.

1. From the foregoing papers the Government learn with surprise that the new Fives and Racket Courts in Fort Saint George, for constructing which an estimate amounting to Rupees 9,300 was submitted by the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division at so recent a date as last November, are now estimated to cost Rupees 25,300, being more than 170 per cent. in excess of the sum originally sanctioned.

2. The revised estimate has been sent forward in such an incomplete and unsatisfactory manner that it is impossible to trace the items in which this enormous excess occurs, but from Colonel Bean's letter it would seem to be chiefly attributable, first, to the insufficiency of the foundations allowed in the original estimate, and second, to its being thought necessary to construct the walls and floors of the Courts with granite polished in the most expensive and extravagant manner. It appears that the foundations have already been laid, and that an excess over the estimate of no less than Rupees 3,400 has actually been incurred on this item. Colonel Bean states that the stone-work has not yet been carried out.

3. The whole proceedings connected with this work appear to have been, from first to last, of the most irregular description. It seems clear that the original estimate was most carelessly prepared, and that no pains were taken to ascertain the requirements of the selected site, and to adapt to it the standard plan of the buildings to be erected on it. The consideration of the materials to be used, and of their cost, seems to have been postponed till the work had been actually commenced. Upon these points full explanation will be called for from the Officer who prepared the estimate.

4. From Colonel Bean's letter it appears that so long ago as January last it was found necessary to alter materially the nature of the foundation, the alteration involving a large addition to the cost. It was clearly the duty of the Superintending Engineer, when the necessity for this change of plan became evident, to bring the circumstances to notice, and the Government cannot express too strongly their dissatisfaction at having been kept for seven months in complete ignorance of what was going on. The blame for this neglect is no doubt due, in the first instance, to the late Superintending Engineer, Colonel Boileau; but the Government observe that Colonel Bean has allowed three months to pass without bringing the subject to their notice.

5. With regard to the estimate now before them, the Government observe that the information afforded by it is most meagre, and that it does not enable them to institute any comparison between the work now said to be required, and that for which provision was made in the original estimate. The attention of the Superintending Engineer is drawn to Chapter V, Clause 26 of the Code, and the estimate will be returned with a view to its being prepared in the manner there prescribed. In the meantime, pending further orders on the subject, all work will be at once stopped, except such as may be necessary to secure from injury what ~~have~~ been already executed.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th August 1867.*

6. In re-submitting the estimate now returned, the Government desire that Colonel Bean will revise the exorbitant rate for stone-work. They consider the proposed expensive polishing to be quite superfluous, and that stones well dressed with the chisel will answer every purpose, both for the walls and floors. As regards the centre wall, it will be quite sufficient if it is faced on both sides with stone. The granite flooring, which in the plan appears to be 9 inches in thickness, may well be reduced by one-half; but it is observed that, from the plan and estimate which have been submitted, it is impossible to ascertain what proportion of the floor it is proposed to cover with stone.

7. The Government observe, in conclusion, that the dimensions of the new Courts have been altered from those given in the standard plan, and on this point they desire to be furnished with explanation.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, with one Plan and one Estimate.

.. Military Department.

.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

N^o 2301.

Superint^g Eng^s Office 4th Dⁿ
Camp Bahar Anicut 9th August 1867.

From,

Sir^t Colonel J. Bean R. E.

A^d Superintending Engineer 4th Dⁿ

To,

Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.

Secretary to Government P. M. D.

Sir,

I beg to bring to the notice of Govern-
ment that in their order of the 29th November 1866
N^o 3791, an estimate, along with others for certain
works required for the European Regiment in
Fort Saint George, was sanctioned for a Fives
Court and Racket Court, amounting to Rupees
9,300, and the work has accordingly been in
progress since, funds having been provided this
year in G. O. of the 17th May 1867 N^o 1494.

2 I now find from correspondence which
has passed between ^{the} Superintending Engineer
Colonel Boileau and Captain Goddard that,
as early as January last, it was found necessary
to alter materially the nature of the foundations,
and on my inspection of the work, I observed
that these foundations were being laid on wells.
The Executive Engineer has just forwarded the
enclosed revised estimate for these and other
alterations, and it amounts to no less a sum
than

Enclosures
1 Estimate
1 Plan

than Rupees 25,300 or Rupees 16,000 in excess of the other

3 Captain Goddard when opening out the ground found that the foundations of the neighbouring bastion had a very wide spread and were built on wells, indicating very bad soil, and he immediately requested Colonel Boileau to allow him to adopt the same nature of foundations, which requisition was sanctioned.

4 This involves an excess of Rupees 3,400 above, the Wells for the centre wall dividing the two Courts having been sunk in three rows, those for the other walls in two rows, and all of them six feet deep, with six feet solid work above.

5 The other alteration which more especially affected the estimate is the extent of casing of stone for the Walls. Colonel Boileau directed that this material should be used throughout for the division wall, in place of on the face only, as intended by Captain Goddard. This addition and the increase of breadth from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet, as well as a more expensive description of work, which Captain Goddard considers necessary and involves a highly polished face of wall, has added very much to the rate and

7 and quantity of stone required, and involves an increased cost of Rupees 10,900 on the original estimate. These alterations, and certain additions to the work not contemplated in the original design, raises the amount by Rupees 16,000

6 I beg further to state that the stone work had not as yet been carried out, and it is questionable whether it is desirable to go to such an expense in quality, which should have been allowed for if necessary in the original estimate, though, as regards quantity, I have submitted the estimate, with plans, for the orders of Government, in deference to the views of the Superintending Engineer, whose duties I am only temporarily performing.

7 My own experience would lead me to suppose that, though good workmanship to the walls is required to ensure the game of rackets being efficiently played, it is unnecessary to secure perfection at a cost of nearly 11,000 Rupees, when ordinarily dressed stone

stone will suit the ordinary purposes of the game.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt.

Heur V. C. R. E.
Ag. Sup. Engr. 4th Div.

No. 480

2550-2050 Aug 17/67

To the Secretary
to Government
dated 14th August 1867
Recd 15th August 1867
No 2301
Enclosure 2
Submitting a Plan and
estimate amounting
to Rs. 25,300. or Rs. 16,000 in
excess of the estimate sanctioned
for a new Court.
and the Court for the
Cantonment Resident in
St. George.

To the Secretary
to Government
dated 14th August 1867
Recd 15th August 1867
No 2301
Enclosure 2
Submitting a Plan and
estimate amounting
to Rs. 25,300. or Rs. 16,000 in
excess of the estimate sanctioned
for a new Court.
and the Court for the
Cantonment Resident in
St. George.

2550 Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 20th August 1867.

The Ag. Sup. Engr.

4th Div. H. E. No 2301 dated 14th Aug 1867

From the foregoing papers the Government learn with surprise that the new Dives and Pochet Courts in Port Saint George, for constructing which an estimate amounting to Rs. 9,300 was submitted by the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Div. at so recent a date as last November, are now estimated to cost Rs. 25,300, being more than 170 per cent in excess of the sum originally sanctioned.
2. The revised estimate has been sent forward in

in such an incomplete
and unsatisfactory
manner that it is im-
possible to trace the
the items in which this
enormous excess occurs,
but from Colonel Bean's
letter it would seem to be
chiefly attributable; 1st,
to the insufficiency of the
foundations allowed in
the original estimate,
and, 2^d, to its being
thought necessary to
construct the walls and
floors of the Courts with
granite polished in the
most expensive and
extravagant manner.
It appears that the
foundations have already
been laid, and that an
excess over the estimate
of

of no less than £
3400 has actually been
incurred on this item.
Colonel Bean states
that the stone-work has
not yet been carried out.
3 The whole proceed-
ings connected with
this work appear to have
been, from first to last,
of the most irregular
description. It seems
clear that the original
estimate was most care-
lessly prepared, and that
no pains were taken to
ascertain the requirements
of the selected site, and to
adapt to it the standard
plan of the building
to be erected on it. The
consideration of the ma-
terials to be used, and
of their cost, seems to
have been postponed till
the work had been actually

commenced. Upon
these points full ex-
planation will be called
for from the Officer
who prepared the estimate
4. From Col Bean's
letter it appears that so
long ago as January last
it was found necessary
to alter materially the
nature of the foundations,
the alteration involving
a large addition to the
cost. It was clearly
the duty of the Supergr,
when the necessity for
this change of plan
became evident, to bring
the circumstances to
notice and ^{the} Govt cannot
express too strongly
their dissatisfaction
at having been kept
for seven months in
complete

complete ignorance of
what was going on.
The blame for this neg-
lect is no doubt due, in
the first instance, to the
late Supergr, Col Bouleau,
but the Govt observe that
Col Bean has allowed
three months to pass
without bringing the sub-
ject to their notice.
5 With regard to the
estimate now before them,
the Govt observe that the
information afforded by
it is most meagre, and
that it does not enable
them to institute any
comparison between the
work now said to be
required, and that for
which provision was
made in the original
estimate. The attention of
the Supergr is drawn
to Chap V Clause 26 of
the Code, and the estimate

will be returned with
a view to its being
prepared in the manner
there prescribed. In the
meantime, pending further
orders on the subject,
all work will be at once
stopped, except such
as may be necessary
to secure from injury
what has been already
executed.

6 In resubmitting the
estimate now returned, the
Gov^t desire that Col^l
Beem will revise the ex-
orbitant rate for stone
work. They consider the
proposed expensive pro-
cessing to be quite super-
fluous, and that stones
well dressed with the
Chisel will answer every
purpose, both for the
walls and floors. As

As regards the ¹⁵centre
wall, it will be quite
sufficient if it is faced
on both sides with stone.
The granite flooring,
which in the plan
appears to be 9 inches
in thickness, may well
be reduced by one half;
but it is observed that,
from the plan and so-
lutions which have been
submitted, it is impos-
sible to ascertain what
proportion of the floor
it is proposed to cover
with stone.

7 The Gov^t observe, in
conclusion, that the di-
mensions of the new
Courts have been altered
from those given in
the standard plan,
and on this point they
desire to be furnished
with

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 8 Vic. S. E. 4" 75
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 deep 28" August

h. s. deep 20/8/67 hick 4" 75
 s. App. 23-8-67

24
 3

Pub: Works 1867 Depart.

Pro: of Govt. for August

No. 2550

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Of 20th August 1867

Returning with
Remarks the revised Estimate
for Ammunition and Racket
Court for the Regiment in
Fort Saint George.

No 1808 481