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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1383	Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

CIRCULAR No. 34 PUBLIC WORKS.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Military.

FORT WILLIAM, MAY 11 1872.

Supply of Church furniture.

Read again :—

- Public Works Department Code Chapter II, Section iv.
- Memorandum to Home Department, No. 473 A—G, dated 12th October 1870.
- Home Department Memorandum No. 472, dated 25th October 1870.
- Public Works Department Memorandum to Home Department, No. 514 A—G, dated 7th November 1870.
- Home Department Resolution Nos. 302—5, dated 25th August 1871.
- Public Works Department Memorandum to Home Department, No. 45 A—G, dated 10th January 1872.
- Home Department Memorandum No. 52, dated 8th February 1872, and enclosures.
- Public Works Department Memorandum to Home Department, No. 271 B—M, dated 28th February 1872.

Read also :—

- Home Department Resolution No. 88, dated 20th March 1872.
- Public Works Department Memorandum No. 512 B—M, dated 12th April 1872.
- Home Department Memorandum No. 146, dated 30th April 1872.

OBSERVATIONS.—In Chapter X, Section iv, para. 3 of the third edition of the Public Works Department Code, the Government consents to supply churches with "such plain furniture as is essentially necessary for the proper performance of the service according to the ritual of the Church of England." In the same para. it is stated—"It will rest with private individuals to furnish the means of imparting the ecclesiastical features and architectural decorations to the building should they desire it, and also of supplying additional furniture, or furniture of a more costly description and means of lighting."

2. A question having arisen as to what articles constitute "Church furniture," the Governor General in Council has had the matter under consideration, and, in consultation with the Home Department it has been decided that the following articles shall, in future, be provided by the Public Works Department :—

- a.—Appliances to seat the clergyman and congregation, and allow them to kneel in decent comfort.
- b.—Communion Table and rails.
- c.—Pulpit.
- d.—Reading-desk.
- e.—Font and cover.
- f.—One almirah, one table and three chairs for the vestry.
- g.—Two Altar chairs.
- h.—Punkahs, complete, and when necessary, thermantidotes.
- i.—Suitable apparatus for lighting the church.

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The "Reading desk" should be simply a desk (however appropriately shaped), and not an enclosure, expensive from its size, and occupying needless space.

3. The Civil Department will undertake to provide a suitable set of Communion Plate; a safe for its custody, which might also be used for records; the fair linen cloths and napkins required for the celebration of the Communion Service; an Altar-cover of red embroidered cloth, and the requisite number of Bibles and Prayer-books for the Clergyman.

4. All other charges should be met by the congregation.

5. The above rules are applicable to all churches, whether in the Mofussil, or in the cities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, save the Cathedrals in the Presidency towns, which should be specially treated.

6. When a church is to be furnished, it is desirable that the Church Committee, or Clergyman in charge, be informed of the amount sanctioned for the separate items, thus giving the community an opportunity of adding by private subscription to the elegance or convenience of any of the articles of furniture.

ORDER.—Ordered, that this Resolution be communicated to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North Western Provinces and the Punjab. Local Governments and Administrations in the Public Works Department noted in the margin, for information and guidance.

The Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, British Burmah, Mysore and Coorg, and Ajmere.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Governor General's Agents for Central India and Rajpootana.
The Superintendent of Port Blair and the Nicobars.

Also, that it be communicated for information to the Home and Military Departments, and the Quarter Master General.

W. C. A. S. Colonel, R. A.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To

*The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras
Public Works Department.*

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Govt. of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS. ✓

To The Superintending Engineer

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 14th Dec 22, No. 1383.

Nos. 383 & 29

Church furniture. Circular

from the Govt of India

^{intimating}
~~presenting~~ the description

of Church furniture to be

supplied by the V. M. Dept.

Comd to Superintd.