

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th March 1872.*

No. 448. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 7th March 1872, No. 4,906:—

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be good enough to move Government for a revision of the allotment for Military buildings in case of Item No. 2 of the Budget for 1872-73 for barracks, etc., for two "Field Batteries in the Horse Artillery Lines" at the Mount.

2. The allotment for this year is only Rupees 2,000, whilst Rupees 77,708 is most urgently required to finish the buildings. The present allotted sum of Rupees 2,000 will just finish off one block of buildings with out-houses, leaving the other two in a most unfinished state, one block being partially roofed in, and the third having no protection from the weather but the flooring of the upper story.

3. From the Proceedings of the Committee of which I was a member I know that these barracks are very much wanted, as the troops are now living in barracks condemned long ago. But it is on other grounds that I now urge that these barracks should be finished at once and not left to deteriorate, which they will do if allowed to remain in an unfinished state.

4. The three blocks of barracks were commenced in 1867, or five years ago, and expenditure has been—

	RS.	A.	P.
1867-68	...	...	4,999 15 11
1868-69	...	...	37,999 15 5
1869-70	...	...	27,182 8 0
1870-71	...	...	49,994 7 7
1871-72	...	...	40,000 0 0
			1,60,176 14 11

If such delay takes place it cannot be supposed that in case of failure from permanent dampness, inferior materials, warped beams, cracks and fissures, etc., that the Engineer department can be held answerable, which it is always when works prove a failure.

5. The whole work so long in construction must deteriorate in quality, the bricks will become covered with mosses, and the chunam will not bite; not being plastered the spaces between the bricks are filled with seeds and plants which may not germinate for years after; the wood cut up into its proper scantling often warps, and not being covered with wood-oil or paint becomes cracked and full of dry rot, etc. None of these disadvantages show themselves at first when finished off, but do so afterwards, and our department gets the blame.

6. So important do I consider it to finish off these barracks, that I would most strongly recommend that so many items be taken from the Budget under Original Works, Military, as will make up the amount now asked for. This work must be of more importance than many which have been proposed.

7. I might also add that one cause of the excess of the estimate lately submitted for this work may be traced to this continued delay, and to the apportionment of money by dribblets. It is not either fair to the contractors, who naturally expect that they may hasten on with the work to completion. They do not complain or

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ask for compensation, for the competition is so keen amongst contractors for Government work that they know very well if compensations were awarded they would never get another contract, so it is better to take the first loss, and await the orders for proceeding with the work.

No. 449. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1872, No. 779.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 16.

The Government fully concur with the Superintending Engineer in considering that delay in the completion of the buildings referred to must necessarily lead to deterioration and loss, but they are not prepared to augment the grant for those buildings for 1872-73 by deferring the prosecution of any of the few works which on the ground of their importance and urgency have been included in the Budget on the recommendation of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. In the event of the Government of India complying with the application of this Government for a larger assignment under Military the Honourable the Governor in Council will be prepared to take the subject of Colonel Wilkieson's letter above recorded into further consideration.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
.. Military Department.

Erd S. T. Augustin.

Public Works Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Read the following

The Supg Engr 4th Divⁿ (No. 4906 of 11th March 1872)

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GOVT. OF INDIA
 PUBLIC WORKS.

The Superintendent Engineer
 1st Division

No. 19 Sub. 779.

No. 1188/149

Military Buildings. Paper
 orders in letter from the
 subject of Colonel
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 considered into further
 buildings at St. Thomas
 Mount.

J. G. G. G.
 No. 160