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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

*Public Works*

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

3230

Press

~~B.P.~~ No.

~~Mts.~~

Dated 12 / 11

193  
1875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
12th November 1875.*

No 277      Read the following letter from Colonel W A CROMMELIN, R E, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Military Works), to Major-General G W WALKER, R E, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 26th October 1875, No. 1,834 M W. —

I AM directed to forward copy of a letter, No. 1,188, dated 9th August 1875, from Lieutenant-Colonel H P Hawkes, Deputy Commissary-General, on the subject of designs for bakeries, and to inquire whether, in the opinion of the Government of Madras, the plan recommended by that officer is considered a satisfactory one, and superior to the Bengal standard plan issued with Public Works Department Circular, No 117, dated 19th December 1867

From Lieutenant-Colonel H P HAWKES, Deputy Assistant Commissary-General, Secunderabad, to Lieutenant-Colonel G BARDIN, Executive Commissariat Officer, Kamthi, dated Secunderabad, 9th August 1875, No 1,188.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No 122, of the 4th August 1875, asking for information as to the suitability of the so-called standard plan for bakeries

2 My opinion of this plan has been unhesitatingly given in my report to Government published with their order, No 1,914, of the 5th June 1873 The experience of two additional years' working has fully confirmed the adverse opinion therein expressed, and I cannot too emphatically condemn a plan which has entailed upon this station the most unsuitable building it is possible to conceive

3 The mere perusal of the old correspondence on this subject has shown me that Major Taylor's only qualification for the self-imposed task of a designer of bakeries was a little superficial mechanical knowledge, but on the special subject upon which he undertook to guide others, his own plans show him to have been utterly ignorant

4 I speak strongly on this subject, because the blind adherence to what has been called his "standard plan" has entailed much loss on the State, and has laid upon us at this station the duty of preparing an important article of the soldiers' ration in a building totally unsuited for the purpose

5 In confirmation of the above remarks, I beg to refer you to an Article in the Calcutta Review for June 1872, from which you will see the estimation in which Major Taylor's plans are held in his own Presidency The review is not an official publication, and may have slightly heightened the effect, but I have reason to believe that the account there given is substantially true

It says, "The Commissary-General (Bengal) in an evil hour lent ear to the flattering tale of a certain would be Archimedes in the department To describe the fantastic crudities and horrible inventions of this rash aspirant for mechanic fame, might doubtless be amusing, but would be hardly edifying, suffice it to say that after wasting large sums of money, this visionary left nothing but 'wreck behind,' to wit amorphous fragments of wood and iron circumjacent in every large station, sad evidences of his folly and presumption"

6 The plan proposed by me in my report to Government is for a bakery turning out 3,000 loaves daily Your issue is probably not much more than half this, and the dimensions would consequently have to be reduced Mr Glass will doubtless be able to effect this without difficulty, but if a rough sketch from me would be of any assistance to him, I should be glad to furnish it on your supplying me with the following data —

Number of loaves baked daily, whether you are to have an English mill and engine, or whether you grind by hand. Whether you will store the wheat in the bakery or elsewhere

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12th November 1875.

7 A good substantial building, such as I recommend, will, of course, cost a good sum, but it is the most false economy to run up an unsuitable erection as that proposed by Major Taylor. It involves a permanent expense for additional establishments, it is wasteful in material and labor, and takes away from the bakery the useful stimulus of a desire to do credit to an efficient factory

8 With regard to the revised plan of ovens suggested in Public Works circular, I regret that I cannot recommend them, they are of the kind called "furnace" ovens, as shown in my report to Government, there is no economy in fuel, and they are frequently failures. The only bakery in which I know them to be working is that at Poona, and from what I saw there on personal inspection a few months ago, I do not think they are any improvement on the ordinary ovens, they require more experienced men to work them, and, unless the "furnace" is very accurately designed, they are certain to fail. They are much more expensive than the ordinary oven, and require a lot of heavy iron work, and I much doubt whether any but a professional (European) oven builder could erect them with any chance of success. I therefore strongly recommend an adherence to the ordinary oven lined with fire-brick and with a layer of coarse salt well packed under the oven bed

No 278

ORDER THEREON, 12th November 1875, No 3,230

MILITARY WORKS, No 8.

His EXCELLENCY the Governor in Council is of opinion that Lieutenant-Colonel Hawkes' practical acquaintance with the subject of bakeries is such as to render his judgment in the matter of their design, if not decisive, at least necessarily to be followed by considerable alterations of the standard plan of 1867. What these should be will be reported by the District Engineers of the Presidency and Bangalore in correspondence with each other and in personal communication with the Commissariat Officers at those stations.

(True Extract)

(Signed) G W WALKER, Major-General, R.E.  
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Presidency  
" " " Bangalore  
" Military Department.

Public Works Department

Letter from the Govt. of India  
dated 26 Oct/75

Circulated for orders  
The Commissariat Officers  
at Madras and  
Bangalore should, in  
the Secretary's opinion  
be the best judges

Should state that  
Colonel Hawkes knows  
more about bakeries  
and baking than any  
other officer in the Presidency  
and that he has  
the greatest confidence  
in his opinion in these  
matters. And therefore  
would wish to avoid  
any plan recommended  
by him, as is the standard  
plan - G

G. W. Walker Major-General  
Secretary to Govt.  
P. W. D.

No 3230  
Pro. of the Madras Govt.  
Under date 12 Nov 1867.  
Read the following  
From the Govt of India (H.E. No 1834, dated 28 Oct 1867)

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 PUBLIC WORKS.



13/11/75  
 G. E. Presidency  
 Dated  
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G. O. 12/10/75 1875, No 3230

Nos 277-278

Bengal Standard plan  
for Bakeries.— In  
 order on letter of  
 the Govt. of India  
 enquiring whether Col.  
 Hawkes design for Bakeries  
 is a satisfactory one  
 & superior to the —.