M.R.O. I—10,006—28-2-50

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1774	Press
~~B.P. No.~~	~~Mis.~~
	C876
Dated 12-7 —	~~195—~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 212. From Major J. VERTUE, R.E., District Engineer, Trichinopoly, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 7th June 1876, No. 225.

I HAVE the honor to report that, in company with Captain Morris, I have this morning examined a considerable number of the rafters in the European Hospital. These were taken quite at random, not because there was any reason to suppose them worse than others. In every instance the rafter, where imbedded in the masonry, was more or less decayed, in some instances entirely gone, so that it rested on a mere point. Many of the rafters too have very much sagged, and altogether I consider the roof to be in a dangerous state. It is possible it might stand for years, but it might also suddenly, and without warning, give way, and as repair would necessitate an examination of every rafter, and from the experience we have had, the entire renewal of nearly all, it seems much better to at once determine on a new roof, the moreso as the present is seventy years old.

2. I have therefore to solicit the early instructions of Government on the subject.

No. 943.

No. 212-A. MEMORANDUM.

THE Chief Engineer has the honor to note as follows on the subject of letter from the District Engineer of Trichinopoly, No. 225, of 7th June :—

Presuming that the European Hospital referred to is the same building as that to which G.Os., Nos. 3,398, of 30th November 1875, and 805, of 30th March 1876, relate, and one of those to which No. 1,278, of 22nd May, relates, it would appear to be incumbent on the District Engineer of Trichinopoly to adopt measures for rendering it safe with the Repair Funds at his disposal. But not to raise its walls or add new verandahs, or incur any expenditure in improvements which will be thrown away when an entirely new hospital is built. If, however, the Military and Medical Authorities will be satisfied that the building, improved and added to as per estimate of Rupees 16,000, may in all respects answer instead of a new hospital on the standard plan, then that estimate may be included in those called for by the last quoted order.

The District Engineer will observe from the tenor of the first and last quoted orders that he is held responsible for carrying out whatever work may be *emergently* necessary for the safety of the troops.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Chief Engineer.

14*th June* 1876.

No. 212-B. Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th June 1876, No. 3,009.

No. 212-C. From Brigadier-General W. S. WILLIAMS, Commanding Southern District, to Brigadier-General A. HOWLETT, C.B., Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George, dated Trichinopoly, 8th June 1876, No. 211.

I HAVE the honor to forward to you, herewith, a copy of a letter, No. 225, from the District Engineer, reporting upon the state of the roof of the European Hospital at this station which is pronounced to be dangerous, and such, that it might suddenly, and without any warning, give way.

2. As a building in this condition is not safe for habitation, I have to request that I may be permitted to take up house accommodation for such of the patients as cannot be accommodated in the rear block of hospital buildings used as a recreation room, and which it is proposed to reserve for cases of contagious or infectious diseases, ordinary cases only being sent out.

3. I have to request that early instructions may be issued for the renewal or repair of the roof.

No. 136.

FORWARDED for the information of Government, and with a request that immediate orders may be issued in the Public Works Department for the roof of the European Hospital being thoroughly repaired.

2. As requested by the Officer Commanding Southern District, and in anticipation of sanction of Government, he has been authorized to hire house accommodation for hospital purposes.

(By order,)

OOTACAMUND, *19th June* 1876. (Signed) A. HOWLETT, Brigadier-General, *Quartermaster-General.*

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for early attention.

(By order,)

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel, *Secretary to Government, M.D.*

No. 212-D. From Major J. VERTUE, District Engineer, Trichinopoly, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Nangaveram, 3rd July 1876, No. 312.

WITH reference to your memorandum, No. 996, of 28th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, after much consideration and discussion of the matter with the Military Authorities, it has been thought expedient to strip the roof of as much of the building as is generally required and put it in a safe condition by replacing as many of the rafters as is judged needful. This will be done, ward by ward; so that as fast as one is completed, the patients will be moved into it.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th July 1876. *No.* 1,774.

2. From the enclosed copy of a letter from the Medical Officer in charge of European details, to the Brigade Major, you will learn that it is almost certain a new hospital will have to be built; at least, in the face of an opinion such as that recorded by Dr. Mackenzie, to which I entirely assent, I cannot conceive any other course possible.

3. This premised, I think the course I propose to adopt is the most economical, and, as the walls are very thick, there is no reason why the roof so repaired should not last for years.

4. In letter, No. 307, dated 30th June 1876, I have applied for a grant of Rupees 3,000 for "Repairs, Military," the Budget grant being almost exhausted.

5. I shall report further when the work has so far progressed as to enable a tolerably correct opinion to be formed of the expenditure that will be required.

From Surgeon-Major J. MACKENZIE, M.D., British Medical Department, in Medical charge of European Detail, Trichinopoly, to the Brigade-Major, Southern Division, Trichinopoly, dated Trichinopoly, 24th June 1876, No. 94/76.

IN reply to your communication, No. 1,393, of the 22nd instant, enclosing memorandum, No. 943, of the 14th instant, from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated 30th November 1875, 30th March 1876, and 22nd May 1876, respectively, I have the honor to state that it appears to me to be in contemplation to adopt one or other of two measures in consequence of the unsafe condition of the European Detail Hospital at this station; either to make such substantial repairs of the existing building as will appear to give it claims to be considered a permanent one, or, on the other hand, to put a temporary roof upon it, so that it may be utilized whilst an entirely new hospital is being built.

2. Of these two plans I think the more advisable will be the latter.

3. I do not consider any amount of alteration or repair of the present building could possibly result in constituting it a useful permanent hospital. Its basement is lower in many places than the surrounding ground, so that in wet weather the dampness appears right through the stone flooring. Besides, in addition to the walls being too low, it is altogether faulty in construction, in so far as it is too narrow, badly lighted, badly ventilated, wanting in sufficient depth of verandah, and hotter than it need be.

4. In a trying climate like that of Trichinopoly, where the British Troops suffer yearly so severely from the great heat that prevails, I consider that, in an establishment set apart for the treatment of sick, every contrivance and appliance of modern times should be put in force, to make it as cool as possible.

5. For these reasons, and having in view the improvement that have been made of late years in the construction of public buildings, I do not see that I can do otherwise than give my recommendation in favor of an entirely new hospital, and of the immediate re-roofing of the old one in a temporary and inexpensive manner, so that it can be used with safety pending the completion of the other.

6. As, however, under any circumstances, some considerable time must necessarily elapse before the new hospital is finished, I think it would be well to take into consideration, before re-roofing the old building, the advantage that would result from raising the walls about a couple of feet.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th July 1876. No. 1,774.

7. I understand the District Engineer considers the cost of doing this would be little; and I feel sure the benefit to the patients, even if it were only to facilitate their getting through one other hot season, would be more than an equivalent for the outlay.

No. 213. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1876, No. 1,774.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 3-A.

His Excellency the Governor in Council approves of the action determined on, and undertaken, with reference to placing the European Detail Hospital at Trichinopoly in a safe condition, as reported in the letter last recorded above. The District Engineer will report in due course the probable cost of the work, and whether an additional allotment is required.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Recd. 7th June 1876.

District Engr. Office
7th June 1876.

No. 225.

From

The District Engineer
Trichinopoly

To

The Secretary to Govt.
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to report, that, in company with Capt. Morris, I have this morning examined a considerable number of Rafters in the European Hospital. These were taken quite at random, not because there was any reason to suppose them worse than others. In every instance the rafter where imbedded in the Masonry was more or less decayed, in many instances entirely gone, so that it rested on mere point. Many of the rafters too have very much sagged, and altogether I consider the roof to be in a dangerous state. It is

feasible it might stand for years, but it might also suddenly, and without warning, give way; and as repair would necessitate an examination of every part, and from the experience we have had, the entire renewal of nearly all, it seems much better & at once determine on a new Roof, the most as the present is 30 years old.

2. I have therefore to solicit the early instructions of Government on the subject.

I have &c

(Sgd) James Pattle Major R.E.
District Engineer

Issued Copy

No. 34
Forwarded to the Brigade Major N.D. for information, and with reference to his Docket, No. 1250 of 6th inst.

James Pattle Major R.E.
District Engineer

NR 7 Jan 1876

No 225

District Engr Office
7th June 1876.

From
The District Engineer
Trichinopoly.

To
The Secretary to Govt.
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, in company with Captain Morris I have this morning examined a considerable number of the Rafters in the European Hospital. These were taken quite at random, not because there was any reason to suppose them worse than others. In every instance the Rafter, where imbedded in the Masonry, was more or less decayed, in some instances entirely gone, so that it rested on a mere point. Many of the Rafters too have very much sagged, and altogether I consider the roof to be in a dangerous state. It is possible

No 212

Plan & Estimate Engineer
Trichinopoly

To The Principal Sheriff & Co
Madras
No 34

Preliminary Plan & Estimate for
Rent Hook of Europeans
Hospital at Negapatam &c.

Rs 3259 ½ ½

Rec'd 7 June 76.
Reg'd 10 "

Plan No 5906

it might stand for years, but it might also suddenly, and without warning, give way, and as repair would necessitate an examination of every pier, and from the experience we have had, the entire renewal of nearly all, it seems much better at once determined on a new work, the more so as the present is 70 years old.

2. I have therefore to solicit the early instructions of Government on the subject.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obdt Servt

James Devine Major R.E.
District Engineer.

Comptd

Gl 30-June/75 No 3398
" 5-June/76 - 34.
" 30-June/76 - 805
Milty for 5 May/76. Cho 3697.
8 March/76. 621
22 May/76. 1276.

P. W. 1876 Dept.

From No 1128

The District Engineer

Trichinopoly

To The Secretary to Govern-ment

P. W. Department

Madras

No. 225.

Dated 7th
Recd. 9th June } 1876

European Hospital—

Reports on the dilapidated state of the European detail Hospital & requests instructions on the same.

No 212

Rec'd-6.7.76 Rtd 12-7-76
Cir-24-6.76. Rtd 29.6.76
Dup 26 Ct 10-6-76 [illegible]

No 3

4

No 211.

Head-Quarters. Southern District
Trichinopoly. 8th June 1876

13

From The Offr Commanding
Southern District

To The Quarter-Master-General
Fort Saint George.

Sir

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a copy of a letter, No. 225, from the District Engineer reporting upon the state of the roof of the European Hospital at this Station which is pronounced to be dangerous, and such, that it might suddenly and without any warning give way.

2. As a building in this condition is not safe for habitation I have to request that

that I may be permitted to take up house accommodation for such of the patients as cannot be accommodated in the 2nd Block of Hospital Buildings used as a Recreation Room and which it is proposed to reserve for cases of contagious or infectious diseases — Ordinary cases only being sent out.

3. I have to request that early instructions may be issued for the removal or repair of the roof.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Lt. Col. Williams Brigadier General
Commanding Southern District

15

For Early Orders

Quarter Master General's Office
H. Q. Dy. Ootacamund 19th June 1876.

No. 1311

Forwarded for the information of Government, and with a request that immediate orders may be issued in the Public Works Department for the roof of the European Hospital being thoroughly repaired.

2. As requested by the Officer Commanding Southern District, and in anticipation of sanction of Government, he has been authorized to hire House accommodation for Hospital purposes.

(By order)
[signature] Dy. Qr. Mr. General,
Quarter Master General.

To
The Secretary to Government
Military Department.

C. No: 4668 –

M.D. Barrack Buildings Hospitals	July 1876 Dept No 3269	
No 3269 submitted to the Public Works Department for early attention (Signed) [illegible] Col. [illegible] 19 June 1876	Memo from the Adjutant General 136. The Officer Commanding Southern District to A.A.G. 19 June /76 to the Dy. Qr. Mr. General Fort Saint George	
	No. 211 Trichinopoly 8 June 1876	
No. 106 of 14 June 1876	Requests permission to move out sick in hospital the roof being unsafe	Memo: 943 dated 14th June 1876 / 990 " / 28 " "
No. 212 B		No. 5006
Recd - 6.7.76 Recd 7.7.76 / Cir - 24.6.76 [illegible] 29.6.76 / [illegible] 19 June		

European Detail Hospital
Trichinopoly 24th June 1876.

No. 94/76

From
The Medical Officer in Charge
European Detail Trichinopoly

To
The Brigade Major
Trichinopoly

Sir,

In reply to your communication No. 1393 of the 22nd instant enclosing Memo No. 940 of the 14th instant from the Chief Engineer Public Works Department; Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department dated [illegible] November 1873 – 30 March 75 and 27th May 1876, respectively I have the honor to state that it appears to me to be in contemplation to adopt one or other of two measures in consequence of the unsafe condition of the European Detail Hospital at this station either to make such substantial repairs of the existing building as will appear to give it claims to be considered a permanent or on the other hand to put a temporary so that it may be utilized whilst an entirely new Hospital is being built.

Of.

Of these two plans I think the more advisable must be the latter.

I do not consider any amount of alteration or repair of the present building could possibly result in constituting it a useful permanent Hospital. Its basement is lower in many places than the surrounding ground, so that in wet weather the dampness appears right through the stone flooring. Besides in addition to the walls being too low it is altogether faulty in construction, in so far as it is to narrow, badly lighted, badly ventilated, in wanting in sufficient depth of Verandah, & hotter than it need be.

In a trying climate like that of Chinsoly, where the British troops suffer frash so severely from the great heat that prevails, I consider that in an Establishment set apart for the treatment of sick every contrivance and appliance of modern times should be put in force to make it as Cool as possible.

For these reasons, and having in view the improvements that have been made of late years in the construction of public buildings,

I do not see that I can do otherwise than give my recommendation in favor of an entirely new Hospital, and of the immediate re-roofing of the old one, in a temporary and inexpensive manner so that it can be used with safety pending the completion of the other.

19

As, however, under any circumstances some considerable time must necessarily elapse before the new Hospital is finished, I think, it would be well to take into consideration before re-roofing the old building, the advantage that would result from raising the walls about a couple of feet.

I understand the District Engineer considers the cost of doing this would be little, and I feel sure the benefit to the patients, even if it were only to facilitate their getting through one other hot season, would be more than an equivalent for the outlay.

I have &c &c

/Signed/ J. Mackenzie Deputy
Surgeon Major & Deputy
Dr. Medical Ch. European Establ.

/True copy/

James Porter Major R.E.
Comds District Engineer Trichinopoly

Enclosure in a letter from the District Engineer Tpichinopoly No 312 of 3rd July 1876.

Copy of a letter from Colonel Gillan Principal Medical Officer in charge Madras Division Hospital Establishment to the Deputy Surgeon General Madras

Tpichinopoly Division Engrs. Office

No. 312. Camp 3rd July 1876.

Nangavaram

From The District Engineer

To The Chief Engineer

D.P.W.

Sir

With reference to your Memo No 996 of 25th June

I have the honor to inform you that after much consideration and discussion of the details with the Judiciary Authorities, it has been thought expedient to obtain the proof of as much of the Building as is generally required over put in a safe Condition by replacing as many of the rafters as is judged needful. This will be done, Ward by Ward, so that as soon as one is completed, the prisoners will be moved into it.

2. From the enclosed Copy of a Letter from the Medical Officer in charge of European Details to the Brigade Major you will learn that it is almost certain a new Hospital will have to be built, at least, in the face of an opinion such as that recorded by Dr Maskenzie, to which I entirely assent, I cannot conceive any other

Common possible

3 This prevents me from the Course I propose to adopt in the most economical, and as the Walls are very thick there is no reason why the roof so repaired should not last for years.

4 In letter No 307 dated 28th June 1876 I have applied for a Grant of Rs 3000 for the "Repairs Military" the Budget Grant having already been exhausted

5 I shall report further when the work has so far progressed as to enable me to form a correct opinion to be formed of the Expenditure that will be required.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
Lawrence Vertue Major RE
District Engineer

GO 30-11-75 No 3398.
20-3-76 - 805.

Memo 963 16th June 1876
" 996 28 "
" 1036 6 July "

8 W. 1876 Dept.
No: 475

From
The District Engineer
Trichinopoly
To
The Chief Engineer
Dpt

Dated 22nd July 1876.
Recd 24th " "
No 312.
Confidential.

European Hospital—
Plan of the proposed
new (Building)
to replace the Building
into repair in order to render
it safe—

No 212 D.

Cir 6.7.76 Rte 12.7.76
Despatched 4-7-76

11

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

READ the following:—

From
The District Engineer
Trichinopoly } (No. 225 dy 7th June 1876)
Endorsement of the
Military Dept } (" " 3009 " 19th " ")

The District Engineer will report what action he has taken on the Chief Engineer's Memo. No. 943 of 14th June and despatch him on receipt of the Original of the above letter; the instructions contained in which are approved.

It is observed that at any time since issue of G.O. No. 3398 of 30th November it was in the power of the District Engineer, Trichinopoly to carry out any work necessary for the safety of the patients in the European Hospital.

Noted it was in the
to the Executive
Engineer
Inspection
Superintending
Engineer
Engineer
Assistant
Overseer
Head Draftsman or Accountant
Other Subordinates
J. Spicky
Military Dept

The question seems to be whether the Hospital should be simply re-roofed — or whether, as it has to be re-roofed, its height should not be increased to at the same time — and also whether an entirely new Hospital should not be built — Allusion is also made by the Chief Engineer as to whether the Military & Medical authorities will accept the present buildings with improvements (at a cost of Rupees 16000) in lieu of a New Hospital —

Before any order is passed, I think me of the above plans might be referred officially to Government for sufficient instructions as to the relative advantages of the two proposals — the District Engineer may be consulting first to some temporary expedient which will prevent any other collapse — pending decision —

What is needed is the means to form a speedy decision — & order that the work may be proceeded with —

27th June 76. W.

4128
4757
4868

No. 1774 of 12th July 1876.

From Dist. Supt. Trichinopoly No. 225 of 7th June
Chief Engr. Memorandum — 943 — 14th "
Endorsement of Mily Dept. — 3009 — 19th "
From D.E. Trichy — — — 312. — 3rd July

A. S. The Governor in Council approves of the action determined on, & measures taken, with reference to the plans for the Suspension Bridge & Hospital at Trichinopoly in a safe condition, as reported in the letter last recorded above. The Dist. Supt. will report in due course the probable cost of the work, and whether an advance allotment is required.

W. M.

What do we know? Would not you write for a meeting of Ld

W.

I think attention should also be paid to the two last paragraphs of Engr. in Chf. Mr Kenzie's letter No 94/76 of 24th June 1876 W.

D.E. Trichy
Ex. P. Coll
Mily Dept

Dated 18/7/76

P. 4128
4751 4658

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The D. S. Trichinopoly

Dated

Issued

Rcd. Encl.

G. O., 12th July 1876. No. 1774

Nos. 212 - 213

212a

Ent Proc Reg
2-8-76

European Default Hospital at Trichinopoly - Approvis of the action determined on, and undertaken with reference to plan in the ——— in a case considering and requesting the Dist. Engr. to refund the probable cost of the work, to whether an additional allotment is req.