

Recd 27/6/83

Dec 1832 Wd 29th June 83

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Communicated to
Officers concerned.

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Subst PWS ✓

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STATEMENT of PAYMENTS made in ENGLAND OF
INVOICES despatched to INDIA, during the

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

25th June 1881, No. 1247.

Court-houses.

Read the following paper:—

*From H. WIGRAM, Esq., Officiating District Judge of South Malabar, Calicut, to the
Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 17th June 1881, No. 221
[Current No. 1831].*

On 9th July 1875 my predecessor, Mr. Stuart, addressed the Government on the subject of the insecurity of the building in which the District and Subordinate Courts are held. The building was emphatically condemned by the District Engineer as unsafe. The Government, in their order of 2nd July 1875, No. 1607, were content with stating that substantial repairs must be made by the owner, and that they were not in a position to provide funds for a new building.

2. Six years have now elapsed, and we have had no immediate cause for alarm until lately when most dangerous-looking cracks have suddenly appeared in the walls of the Sub-Judge's Court-room, and it is evident, from examination of the lower story, that the foundations on the western side have sunk considerably, and that a sudden storm might bring down that side and with it the major portion of the building. The present District Engineer has examined the whole building, and he pronounces it unsafe and considers it impossible to place it in a safe condition by patch-work.

3. The Sub-Judge has removed his Court to his private room, which is in my portion of the building, and his clerks have been ordered to vacate the western side which is usually occupied by them. I cannot conceal from myself that in the case of a sudden monsoon storm, accompanied by high winds, some fatal catastrophe may occur, and I think that no time should be lost in providing suitable accommodation for the Courts before another monsoon sets in.

4. The Collector has long ago promised me an excellent site for a new Court-house which should comprise accommodation for the District, Subordinate, and District Munsif's Courts under one roof according to the standard plan already adopted at Cuddalore.

The site is in close proximity to the Police Office and Collector's Cutcherry and at a short distance from the jail. It is situated in the heart of the town and at least a mile nearer to the residences of the public officials and vakeels.

5. I trust that, in the circumstances, there will be no difficulty in sanctioning the work on an emergent estimate. I understand that the whole building can be completed for less than Rs. 50,000. The present is the best time for collecting material, and if despatch is used the building might be completed and ready for occupation before the end of the year. I enclose the District Engineer's official report on the state of the building.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Report on District and Subordinate Court-houses at Calicut.

The buildings which are private property are two storied, of laterite in mud, plastered with chunam. The roofs are tiled over Malabar trusses.

2. The Subordinate Court is held in the southern-most portion of the block. This part is in a dangerous state. The south wall is cracked in four places, the cracks extending by the sides of the windows to the ground. On the east side there are similar cracks, one of a serious character showing uneven settlement. The north face has one crack, whilst the west has seven or eight, and is altogether in a most shabby condition.

3. In the upper story the Subordinate Judge's dais is arched in and ceiled; one of these arches is cracked through thrust of the roof.

4. The roof-timbers are weak, and the beams of one of the trusses has been pushed outwards, and has broken portion of the masonry lying beneath it. The beam rests immediately on a light wall-plate insufficient to support the weight that would fall on it should the damaged masonry fall. Until the weight of the roof is taken off the masonry by props, the building is in a highly dangerous condition. In any case, it should be vacated as soon as possible, for the state of the walls, which are still settling, is so bad that I do not consider the buildings are fitted to receive large numbers of people.

5. The District Court occupies the northern part of the block.

6. There are cracks on the north, east, and west walls, most of these have been plastered up, and the building has been recently white-washed, so that the walls do not seem to be in so bad a condition as the Sub-Court's. There are no signs of any recent settlement, but from the similarity of the buildings and the nature of the soil, very sandy loam, I am of opinion that settlement may recur at any time during the monsoon.

7. The roof is supported by two series of props, for the original trusses were quite unequal to the load; one of the beams is unsafe as it is cracked across at the point where the upright (king-post in a properly constructed truss) rests. In places where there is no ceiling dry rot shows in the roof-timbers and probably exists throughout.

8. In its present condition the building is unsafe, and it is doubtful whether without almost entire rebuilding, it could be made fit for a Court-house. As the Court-houses are private property as thorough an inspection as is desirable is impossible.

9. The building was condemned in 1875 by the then District Engineer.

(Signed) E. H. PRINGLE,
Executive Engineer, W.C.D.

17th June 1881.

ORDER THEREON, 25th June 1881, No. 1247.

The foregoing letter will be referred to the Public Works Department with request that early orders will issue for the preparation of the requisite plan and estimate for a new Court-house which seems to be urgently needed.

2. The question of funds should receive early consideration.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
J. S. S. S. S. S.
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
" Accountant-General.
" District Judge, South Malabar.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

S. d. 75 No 25

P.W.C. No. 3877

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
JUDICIAL.

To
THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 25th.

Issued

Recd.

G.O., 25th June 1881, No. 1247.

JUNE.

Court-houses.—Letter from the District Judge, South Malabar, regarding the very unsafe condition of the building at Calicut in which the District Court, the Subordinate Court, and the District Munsif's Court are held, referred to the Public Works Department in view to the immediate preparation of a plan and estimate for a new Court-house and for the early provision of funds.

N^o 1670 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 6th July 1881
Read the following :—

Pro. of Govt. Judicial Dept H.S. No 1247 of 25th June 81.

Communicated to
the Supty. Engrs 2^d Circle
for very early submission
of the requisite plan &
estimate.

2. The reserve of
provincial funds under
Civil Buildings being
exhausted, it will be
considered in the Financial
Dept. whether the required
amount can be placed
at the disposal of the
P. W. Dept.

To The S.S. 2^d Circle
in Financial Dept.

CCP
5.7.81

Enclapa copy of
H. 285 2281 W 57
16-9-81-90

Island soon

B. v. 1670 W 9 6 July 1881

accepting the general
arrangement proposed I
the S. E.

D

Sw

D. W

Continued at

the same time ad-
-vising that great
protection has the
unseasonable wind-
could be in dis-
-posable in a climate
like that of the west
Coast

Att

17.8.81

No.

GOVT.
OF MADRAS.

188

P. W.
DEPT.

SECRETARY.

Chepauk,

16th Aug.

1881.

OFFICE NOTE.

To

W

Court House at

Calicut -

I have made a few

penal notes on the

S. E. letter, but I can't

admiral the architectural

appearance of the building

As it is an important

one costing some Rs 2000

would it not be as well

to ask the Committee

to take a decision

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

27th August 1881, No. 1771.

Court-houses.

Read the following papers:—

From L. McIVER, Esq., Acting Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, Appellate Side, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 18th August 1881, No. 1632 [Current No. 2473].

From a copy of the South Malabar District Judge's letter, No. 307, dated 1st August 1881, to the address of the Chief Secretary to Government, on the subject of the construction of a new Court-house, the High Court learns, for the first time, that there has been any correspondence on this subject, and I am to ask that the High Court may be favored with a copy of G.O., dated 25th June 1881, No. 1247, Judicial Department.

2. The High Court gathers that the plan of the proposed building provides for a single record-room for the Courts of the District and Subordinate Judges. This is an arrangement in which the High Court cannot acquiesce. The responsibility of the several Record-keepers of the several Courts is, and, in the High Court's opinion, should remain distinct; and if the record of several Courts are placed under one roof, provision must be made for separate rooms, so that there may be no opening for confusion of responsibility.

3. I am again to ask that the recently adopted practice on the part of District Judges of corresponding with Government direct, and without the knowledge of the High Court, on matters within the control and supervision of the Court, may be distinctly prohibited, except in cases of emergency, and also that all Government Orders on matters affecting the Judicial Department may be communicated to the High Court.

From H. WIGRAM, Esq., Officiating District Judge of South Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 1st August 1881, No. 307.

With reference to G.O., Judicial Department, dated 25th June 1881, No. 1247, I have the honor to state that the site of the new Court-house has been surveyed and plans prepared by Mr. Pringle, the District Engineer, under instructions from Major Meade, the Superintending Engineer of the Circle. Both of these officers held consultation with me as to the required accommodation, and the plan adopted appears to be excellent in design and to satisfy every requirement. It will be observed that I propose to amalgamate the Sheriff and Copyist Department of the three Courts, and to place the records of my own and the Sub-Judge's Court under one roof. This is in accordance with a suggestion made by Mr. P. P. Hutchins, the District Judge of Madura, who by experience has found that he can work these departments more economically when amalgamated.

2. If the plans are sanctioned by Government it will only remain to find the funds, and I again respectfully submit that the work is very urgent, and that it will be unsafe to occupy the present building during another monsoon. The owner of the present building is, of course, unwilling, under present circumstances, to execute substantial repairs.

3. I have had a statement prepared showing the actual receipts and disbursements of all the Courts in South Malabar during the last three years. This shows that there is an average annual surplus of more than Rs. 1,20,000 on the regular establishments and Rs. 10,000 on the process-service establishments after allowing 10 per cent. for pensionary liabilities—total Rs. 1,30,000.

4. The average annual surplus in the three Courts, which it is proposed to accommodate in the new building, is more than Rs. 32,000, and I venture to submit that, with these figures before them, the Government will feel justified in providing a liberal grant for the current year, and the balance at the commencement of the next official year, so that the building may, if possible, be completed before the end of May 1882.

From H. WIGRAM, Esq., Officiating District Judge of South Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 22nd August 1881, No. 343 [Current No. 2529].

On 1st August 1881 I addressed to you a letter which was by mistake forwarded to the Registrar of the High Court. The Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court have found fault with me for corresponding directly with Government, but I am not aware of any standing order requiring me to transact *all* correspondence with Government through the High Court.

2. The correspondence between Mr. Stuart and the Government in connection with the Court-house in 1875 was carried on directly with Government, and I adopted the same course. I have now the honor to submit a copy of the letter and request that early orders may be passed.

ORDER THEREON, 27th August 1881, No. 1771.

Copy of the order applied for in paragraph 1 of the Registrar's letter will be furnished.

2. Paragraph 2 of the aforesaid letter will be communicated to the Public Works Department in continuation of G.O., 25th June 1881, No. 1247.

3. The attention of all District Judges will be called to the remarks made in paragraph 3, in view to their discontinuing the practice objected to by the Honorable the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court.

(True Extract.)

R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Registrar, High Court, with copy of G.O., 25th June 1881, No. 1247.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the District Judge, South Malabar.
„ all other District Judges.

Gobt. of (1881) Madras.
JUDICIAL.

To
THE REGISTRAR, HIGH COURT,
&c., &c., &c.

N^o 2281 W a/16th Sept/87

Communicated to
the Supty Engrs 2^d circle
in continuation of G.O.

N^o 1670 W a/6th July 1887.

(Sd) J.P.

Dated August, 27th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th August 1881, No. 1771.

AUGUST.

N^o 2281 W a/16th Sept/87.

Court-houses.—Paragraph 2 of letter from the Registrar, High Court, conveying the Court's disapproval of the provision in the plan of the new Court-house of a single record-room for the Courts of the District and Sub-Judges of South Malabar, communicated to the Public Works Department; and the attention of all District Judges called to the remarks made in paragraph 3, in view to their discontinuing the practice of corresponding with Government direct, and without the knowledge of the High Court, on matters within the control of the Court.

To the S.E. 2^d Circle

With order.

Ch
Nos 1975 + 1976 d/23 angst 1971

P. W. DEPARTMENT-1881-82.

MEMORANDUM.

Current No. 4503

Letter Number 342

dated the 6 August 1881

from the Supg. Engineer of 2 Circle

Forwarded to the
Consulting Architect to Govt.
with request that he will
prepare a design for a new
Court house at Calicut.

2. While accepting the General
arrangements proposed by
the Supg. Engr, the Ch.
Engr considers that the
architectural appearance
of the building is susceptible
of considerable improvement.

3. The Cons. Architect will
remember that great protection
from the monsoon must be
held to be indispensable
in a climate like that
of the West Coast.

(By order)

24/8/81
Sd/-

24/8/81
To The Cons. Archt. with the letter
above quoted & 7 enclosures (to be filed)
Ch. to the S.S. 2 Circle

Department, 1882-83.

Current No. 5771

Letter No. 359

Dated the 24th Aug: 1882

From the Supt. Engr. Fourth Circle

NOTE OF REMARKS.

Memo:

The above letter with Plans
Sketches &c of the proposed
Dist: masonry work at
Calicut are forwarded at the
request of the Supt. Engr. Fourth
Circle, to the Asst: Consulting
Architect, who will be so
good in expediting the
submission of the details of
working drawings, & allow
sufficient protection from
driving rain to the upper
room Verandahs, & heavier
Cornice to protect lower
walls from damp &c.

22
4

4/9/82

P. W. (1882) Department.

From *P.W.C. No. 5-771*
The Supg. Engr. Fou
Conl

No. 359
Dated 24th } Aug 82
Recd. 28 }

Subject.

Reporting on plans & letter
for new district, sub. judge
& St. Croix's Courts at
Calicut

Entd in Receipt Regr

Disposal.

No 1668 C of 15th Sept 82

Forwarded to the Comd
Archtt. to Govt. with
request that he will furnish
the working drawings
referred to in para. 8.
of the Supg. Engr's report
& revise the design as
suggested. By order

Desd. of Hon. Thompson
to Govt. Archtt. 15/9
To the Comd. Archtt. in orsl. to be re-

B. 2281 W 2 16-9-81
B. 1975 + 1976 2 23-8-
B. 1670 W 2 6-7-81 81

C. A. W.

Plan request -
C. A. to expedite
Sulawesi

Calicut - plan

AC 22/11/82
Reminded to hold back