

(1) Number of pages 20

51 (2) Date of repair 22-9-88

(3) Initials of the Referencer DP
29/9/88

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

J.W.D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

2796

Press.
Mis.

Dated

8

11

1884

198

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

On 9

Archives — 1 10,006-9 00

(9 sheets laminated)

Sheet no 10 Smith
(out of sequence)

8TH NOVEMBER 1884, No. 2796 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. L. MORANT, R.E.,
Officiating Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department, dated Chepák, 5th November 1884, No. 1209 :—

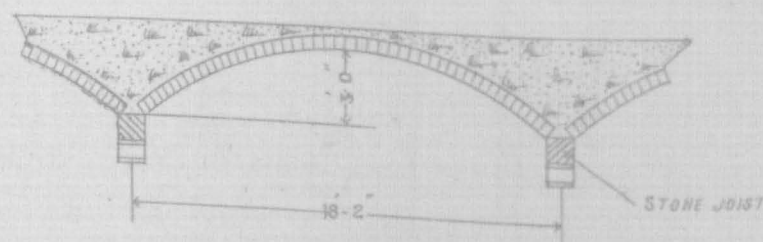
As called on in paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 1120 W., dated 5th May 1884, I have
the honor to report on the difficulties which appear to be experienced in procuring an
adequate supply of well-seasoned timber, and on the measures which I venture to
recommend in view to the removal of those difficulties.

2. The teak timber now available in Madras is dear in price, indifferent in
quality, limited in quantity and not procurable at all in very large sizes. It appears
to be immature in growth and to have been felled at some comparatively recent period.
The trade appears to have fallen into the hands of a few speculative and wealthy
native merchants who can afford to wait until the high price which they demand is
paid to them. The Forest department practically give us little or no assistance, and
their professed help will be unavailing until they can be induced to offer timber for
sale in a central depôt at Madras.

3. The Public Works Workshops have begun to supply this office with teak
timber, and the Superintendent has helped us much in so doing. But necessarily the
timber is unseasoned, and has had to be purchased as wanted from local merchants.
There has been unavoidable delay at times in meeting our demands.

4. I venture to suggest this office being allowed to store timber in scantlings or
in logs to be used up after being kept as occasion requires. The recently-acquired
Wallajah Bagh property would serve for this purpose excellently well. But I would
not confine the selection to teak. Mr. Browne of Tellicherry supplies Malabar timbers
of various kinds which, if purchased and stored, might be found cheap and useful. For
example, interior doors might be made with a combination of two or more timbers, such
as (say) rosewood (red) and white cedar (white), the styles being of red and the
panels of white wood, the wood being left unpainted and only varnished. Mr. Browne
has published a printed list of Malabar timbers, giving their uses and qualities. To
obtain the teak I think the cheapest way would be to send a competent and trust-
worthy subordinate direct to Burmah and to the Anaimalais or elsewhere in India,
to purchase a ship-load or more (say) of logs and scantlings. These could then be
stored and be used when needed. In the course of a year about 400 tons, or 20,000
cubic feet of timber, would be used, but a single load containing about 500 tons
might be first purchased as an experiment. The Gun Carriage Factory selects timber
in this way and keeps a large quantity in stock. There is no reason why this office
should not do the same, not only without experiencing any loss thereby, but even with
a direct money profit to Government, and indirectly in having better timber. I anti-
cipate the price of timber in all our estimates could be reduced by 25 per cent. at least,
and this would give in one year at our present rate of consumption a gain to Govern-
ment of Rs. 20,000. If Government could see their way to sanctioning an outlay of
(say) Rs. 20,000 on timber, this sum could easily be cleared off within five years.

5. Looking to the perishable nature of all timber especially in a climate like this in which the ravages of whiteants adds, perhaps, to the injury to which the wood is everywhere liable, I beg to advocate the substitution of stone for wood in flat roofs. I embodied this idea in the type design recently submitted to you for a Sub-Judge's or Munsif's Court. I enclose a section of such a roof built in the Madras Senate House, and which has stood well for some years. Experiments are being made to ascertain data on which to calculate the resistance of the stone of this Presidency to breaking across. Where stone is not easily procurable, flat concrete arches might be constructed over verandahs with economy and increased endurance over timber.



6. The following information has been kindly supplied to me by Major C. W. Brereton, R.A.:-

Details connected with timber obtained by the Gun Carriage Factory.

(All timber is stacked for five years in log and one and-a-half years in scantlings).

Name of Wood.	Price.	Whence obtained.
Teak	RS. A. P. 150 0 0 per ton of 50 cubic feet.	Conservator of Forests, Salween Division, Moulmein.
Rosewood	2 7 11 per cubic feet ...	Contractor, Coilandee Velapel Mohideen.
Trincomallee	1 4 0 exclusive of freight.	Ceylon Government.
Pedouk	130 0 0 per ton of 50 cubic feet.	Conservator of Forests, Moulmein.
Sal	2 8 0 per cubic feet exclusive of freight.	Commanding Officer, Fort William.
White Cedar	1 4 3 per cubic feet ...	Contractor, Kunje Kolanthen Haji.

ORDER—dated 8th November 1884, No. 2796 W., Public Works.

The General Superintendent, Public Works Stores, has been authorised in separate Proceedings to lay in a large stock of Burmah teak which will be obtained direct from Rangoon. This will be available for the Consulting Architect, as for other divisions. When the consignment arrives at Madras, the Consulting Architect can take over a portion of it, and store it at Wallajah Bagh, if he prefers doing so to leaving it at the Public Works Stores.

2. The Consulting Architect may lay in a small stock of Malabar timber (such as rosewood and white cedar) suitable for doors and windows, utilising the same when opportunity offers, and reporting the results.

3. The substitution of stone for wood in flat roofs, advocated by Major Morant in paragraph 5 of his letter, can best be dealt with by making such provision in individual estimates, as has been done in the type design for a Munsif's Court. No general orders on the subject seem necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Consulting Architect to Government.
To Superintending Engineers.

Exd. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated November, 8th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 8th Nov. 1884, No. 2796W.

NOVEMBER.

Timber

Orders on letter from the Consulting Architect complaining of the difficulties experienced in obtaining well-seasoned —, and suggesting certain measures to remedy them.

The Public Works
Stores might lay in a
stock of timber. The
stocks would then be
available not only for
the Consulting Architect
but for Executive Engineers
generally.

C.A.W.

I think the Supdt has been
already authorised to purchase a
large supply of teak direct from
Burmah. This will be available
for C.A. as for other Divisions. When
the assignment reaches Madras C.A.
can take over a portion of it &
store some at Wellington. Heaps of
timber being sent to leaving it at the
P.W. Store.

Order may authorise C.A. to lay in
a small stock of Malabar timbers
suitable for doors & windows — such as
Kamond & white cedar — utilising some
when opportunity offers & refuting wants.

The substitution of stone for wood in
flat roofs, as advocated by Major
Mason in his paper, can best be
dealt with by providing for same in
individual estimates, as has been done
in the type design referred to. No further
order on the subject is advisable.

Cd.

5.11.84

Consulting Architect's Office,

Chennai, Madras.

5th November 1884

No. 209

Government of Madras.

Department.

Madras.

to how to report on the

be experienced in

ply of well-seasoned

are which I intend

the demand of them

available in Madras

in quality, limited

at all in very large

mature in growth and

comparatively recent

to have fallen into the

fine and wealthy

are afford to wait until

the demand is paid

Department practically give

ance and their prospects

rising until they can be

timber for sale in a central

3. The Public Works Workshops have begun to supply this Office with teak timber - and the Superintendent has helped us much in so doing. But necessarily the timber is unseasoned, and has had to be purchased as wanted from local merchants. There has been unavoidable delay at times in meeting our demands.

4. I venture to suggest this Office being allowed to store timber in scantlings or in logs to be used up after being kept as occasion requires. The recently acquired Wallaja Bagh property would serve for this purpose excellently well. But I would not confine the selection to Teak. Mr. Brune of Tellicherry supplies Malabar timbers of various kinds which if purchased and stored might be found cheap and useful. For example interior doors might be made with a combination of two or more of timbers such as (say) Rose-wood (red) and white Cedar (white), the styles being of red and the panels of white wood, the wood being left unpainted and only varnished. Mr. Brune has published a printed list of Malabar timbers giving their uses and qualities. To obtain the Teak I think the cheapest way would be to send a competent and trustworthy subordinate direct to Burmah and to the Annamallays or elsewhere in India to purchase a ship load or more (say) of logs and scantlings. These could then be stored and be used when needed. In the course of a year about 100 tons or 20,000 bft of timber would be used, but a single load containing about 500 tons might be first

2796/2
first purchased as an experiment. The Gun Carriage Factory selects timber in this way and keeps a large quantity in stock. There is no reason why this Office should not do the same not only without experiencing any loss thereby but even with a direct money profit to Government, and indirectly in having better timber. I anticipate the price of timber in all our estimates could be reduced by 25 per cent at least and this would give in one year at our present rate of consumption again to Government of Rupees 20,000. If Government could see their way to sanctioning an outlay of say Rupees 20,000 on timber - this sum could easily be cleared off within 5 years.

5. Looking to the perishable nature of all timber especially in a climate like this in which the ravages of white ants adds perhaps to the injury to which the wood is everywhere liable I beg to advocate the substitution of stone for wood in flat roofs. I embodied this idea in the Type Design recently submitted to you for a Sub Judge's or Munsiff's Court. I enclose a section of such a roof built in the Madras Senate House and which has stood well for 500 years. Experiments are being made to ascertain data on which to calculate the resistance of the stone of this Presidency to breaking across. Where stone is not easily procurable flat concrete arches might be constructed over verandahs with economy. X and

and increased endurance over timber.

The following information has been kindly supplied to me by Major G. W. Brereton I. A. Details Connected with Timber obtained by the Gun Carriage Factory.

All Timber is stacked for 5 years in logs and 12 years in scantlings.

Name of wood.	Price	Whence obtained
Teak.	150/- per Ton of 50 cub. ft.	Conservator of Forests Salween Division Moulemein.

Rose wood.	2.7.11 per cft.	Contractor Saitander Velapet Mokhidan.
------------	-----------------	--

Trincanallee	1-4-11 Exclusive of freight.	Ceylon Govt.
--------------	---------------------------------	--------------

Pedak	130/- per Ton of 50 cub. ft.	Conservator of Forests Moulmein
-------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Gal	2-8-11 Exclusive of freight.	Commanding officer Fort William
-----	---------------------------------	---------------------------------------

White cedar	1-4-3 per cft.	Contractor Hunge Hoolan then Haji.
-------------	-------------------	--

I

2796
7

I have the honor to be
Sir,

your most obedient servant

John Morant.

Lieut Col. R. G.
off^r Consulting architect to Govt.

2796
7

P. W. D.
Roads and Buildings.

From
THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To
The Secretary to Govt.
Pub. Wks. Dept.



No. 1209

Dated 5th November 1884

Received

No. of ENCLOSURES 1.

Subject.

Reports upon the difficulties in procuring an adequate supply of well-seasoned timber & on the measures in view to the removal of those difficulties.

N^o 2796 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8th November/84

Read the following

The Comm. Architect

to the Govt. of Madras

2796
H. B. No. 1209 of 5th Nov. 84

The General Super-
intendent Public Works
Stones. has been autho-
rized in separate Progs.
to lay in a large stock
of Burmah Teak which
will be obtained direct
from Rangoon. This
will be available for
the Consulting Architect,
as for other Divisions.
When the consignment
arrives at Madras,
the Consulting Architect
can take over a portion

of it, and store it at
Mallajah Bagh, if he
prefers doing so to
leaving it at the Public
Works Stores.

The Consulting Ar-
chitect may lay in a
small stock of Malabar
timber suitable for
doors and windows
(such as rose wood and
white cedar) - utilising
the same when oppor-
tunity offers, and
reporting the results.

The substitution of
stone for wood in
flat roofs, as advoca-
ted by Major Morant
in para 5 of his letter,
can best be dealt with

by making such
provision in indivi-
dual estimates, as
has been done in the
type design for a
Munro's Court. No
general orders on the
subject seem necessary.

CO
7.11.84

W
7.11.84

C. B. Foster
S. H. S.

Decr, 29-11-84

ES.

ag

of it, and store it at
Wallajah Bazar, if he
prefers doing so to
leaving it at the Public
Works Stores.

The Consulting Ar-
chitect may lay in a
small stock of Malabar
timber suitable for
doors and windows
(such as rose wood and
white cedar) utilising
the same when oppor-
tunity offers, and
reporting the results.

The substitution of
stone for wood in
flat roofs, as advoca-
ted by Major Moirant
in para 5 of his letter,
can best be dealt with

by making such
provision in indivi-
dual estimates, as
has been done in the
type design for a
Municipal Court. No
general orders on the
subject seem necessary.

CD
7.11.84

LL
7.11.84

Chd for
S. H. V.

Decr. 29-11-84

ES

ay

2600

9236

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



(10)

11/11
5/11

Dated

To

By

G.O.

1884, No.

Letter

Order in the form
of a contract
comprising of the
following particulars
in the form of a
contract for the
construction of a
road from the
station to the
village of

10/11 X 10
9