

Mr C No. 4797 ✓

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

(9) ECCLESIASTICAL.

82c

55c

Issued

Recd. 29.5.85

Encl.

G.O., 14th May 1885, No. 86.

No. 1296. W of 3? June 1885

MAY.

St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund.

Declining to entertain the plans submitted for extending the organ chamber and for lighting the church.

No. 1296 W of 3? June/85
B

Communicated
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to the Supp. Supp.
to the Supp. Supp.
IV Circle.
IV Circle

1.6.85

S. E. IV Circle

167/5. 11/6 21/6
29.5.85. 2.3.6.85

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From the Venerable J. F. BROWNE, B.D., Archdeacon of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 9th March 1885, No. 307.

I have the honor to forward, for the favorable consideration of Government, two letters from the Rev. A. C. Taylor, Chaplain of Ootacamund.

2. No. 1, dated 14th February 1885, enclosing plan and estimate, amounting to Rs. 3,030, for extending the organ chamber of St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund; in connexion with this I append some remarks made by the Lord Bishop, asking that the design may be submitted to further authority with a view to its improvement.

3. No. 2, dated 19th February 1885, enclosing estimate for lighting apparatus for the church. The numbers quoted by the chaplain seem to show that an evening service is appreciated. The estimate forwarded amounts to Rs. 540, but by section 1 of paragraph 1259 of the Public Works Code only Rs. 300 is admissible, unless Government should see fit to sanction the excess.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Rev. A. C. TAYLOR, M.A., Chaplain of Ootacamund, to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated Ootacamund, 14th February 1885.

With reference to your letter, No. 280, of 12th February, and the enlargement of the organ chamber at the Church of St. Stephen, I have the honor to refer you to the letter from this office, No. 35, dated 3rd March 1884, and acknowledged in your demi-official of 12th March to Rev. C. H. Pelly.

2. In addition I may add that the Church Committee have had this matter before them since 1878, and Dr. Maclean, "the designer" and "part author" of the organ, as he describes himself, has repeatedly, by letter and in person, urged the necessity of enlarging the chamber in which the organ now stands and which he considers totally inadequate, and had he been consulted he should have pointed out that the organ could not be erected in such a small chamber. On 1st February 1882, Dr. Maclean, C.S., repeated his conviction that it was useless to repair the organ (which must be sent to England for needful repairs) unless the roof was raised and walls thrown back, and he considered the condition of the organ "a discredit to the principal church of the chief sanitarium in India." The final request of this Church Committee to the Department of Public Works for an estimate was made on 4th February 1884, and after several reminders from myself the estimate was received on 19th January 1885, and returned to the present Executive Engineer for transmission to yourself. I trust therefore that you will give your strong recommendation to the enlargement, and beg Government to sanction funds for the same.

From the Rev. A. C. TAYLOR, M.A., Chaplain of Ootacamund, to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated Ootacamund, 19th February 1885, No. 95.

I have the honor to inform you that in a few days you will receive an estimate from the Executive Engineer, Nilgiris, for the lighting of St. Stephen's Church, and as this is a new work I beg your hearty recommendation of the same to Government on the chief ground that an evening service evidently supplies a want. I ground my statement on the following: anxious to try one late service, in Advent, on Wednesdays, I began a 6-30 p.m. service, and borrowed some old

Assembly room lamps to light the church. The attendances were 80, 113, 56, and on Christmas eve 220. I was requested by several business and office people to have my Friday service at 6-30 instead of 4-30. The attendances have been 52, 127, 57, 62, 78, 72, and last Friday 87. Ninety-eight were present at 7 p.m. on Ash-Wednesday, and 42 at 7 p.m. evening prayer this evening. Under these circumstances, I am anxious to have permanent and suitable lamps, and hope the Government will be pleased to sanction their purchase after 1st April 1885 if they are unable in this budget. Personally I believe that an evening service on Sundays would be preferred by the majority, but until I have sufficient light, it would be inexpedient to ask for the wishes of the congregation.

MEMORANDUM.

The organ chamber in St. Stephen's Church ought, no doubt, to be enlarged.

2. But before Major Smith's design for the enlargement is sanctioned by the Government, I should be glad if either the Consulting Architect to Government or the Chief Engineer might be asked to consider whether the design may be improved.

3. I take the opportunity of urging the advisability of providing better ventilation for the church. The want has long been felt. Loud complaints have reached me recently. In the chancel two of the five windows ought to be made capable of turning on pivots. The new window in the enlarged organ chamber ought also to have its central lancet similarly hung.

MADRAS,
4th March 1885.

F. MADRAS.

Note by the Chief Engineer.

This estimate, amounting to Rs. 3,030, provides for enlarging the organ chamber in St. Stephen's Church, by raising its roof 6 feet, and throwing back the east wall 8 feet.

2. The estimate appears to have been called for by the Church Committee, and the grounds upon which the proposal is based are stated by the chaplain to be that "Dr. Maclean has repeatedly, by letter and in person, urged the necessity of enlarging the chamber in which the organ now stands, which he considers totally inadequate, and had he been consulted he should have pointed out that the organ could not be erected in such a small chamber."

3. The present organ chamber was built in the year 1877, and reference to the Proceedings of Government in the Ecclesiastical department, under date 7th October 1876, No. 256, will show that the Church Committee are themselves responsible, both for the size of the chamber, and for its suitability to the new organ, which appears to have been purchased about that time. That the same body should now come forward with the complaint that the size of the chamber is altogether unsuitable to the organ, seems to require explanation.

4. With respect to the manner in which it is proposed to give increased size to the organ chamber, I cannot too strongly condemn the suggestion that the roof of that portion of the church should be raised 6 feet. It is true that the building does not possess much architectural merit; but it is at present inoffensive to the eye, and does not deserve the unsightly disfigurement which has been suggested.

5. The matter has had my careful consideration, and I do not see how an additional height of 6 feet can well be given to the organ chamber, except at a very considerable outlay. Nor does it seem to me that so great an addition to the height is necessary; but a moderate increase of height could be secured by simply lowering the floor of the chamber to the same level as the body of the church, or even a few inches lower. In this way additional height of something like 2 feet could be obtained at small cost.

6. To the proposal for obtaining additional floor-space in the organ chamber by throwing back the east wall 8 feet, there is not equally strong objection; and if the extra space is deemed essential, it can be given at comparatively small cost.

7. If these suggestions are approved, the estimate will be revised accordingly; but I desire to place it prominently on record that, if "the condition of the organ is discreditable," the responsibility attaches to the Church Committee.

8. The defective ventilation of the church is alluded to by the Bishop, and this point has also received careful attention. On examination it was found that the ridge ventilation provided in the chancel had been completely blocked up, and that other arrangements for ventilating the building had been neglected. These points have now been attended to, and other proposals for improving the ventilation of the church are being considered by the Executive Engineer.

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

4th May 1885.

No. 77-E.

Transferred to the Ecclesiastical department, with reference to endorsement in that department, No. 598, dated 13th March 1885, and in continuation of G.O., No. 19 E., dated 21st April 1885.

2. It is requested that the views of the Right Reverend the Bishop be obtained on the suggestions made by the Chief Engineer.

3. The records do not show the exact sum contributed by Government towards the erection of this church, but should the proposed work be approved, there will probably be no objection to the small additional expenditure now recommended.

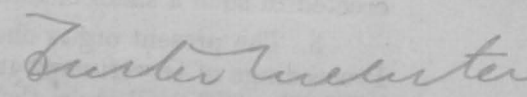
OOTACAMUND, (Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
5th May 1885. Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Ecclesiastical department,
with note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works department.

ORDER—dated 14th May 1885, No. 86, Ecclesiastical.

The Government are not prepared to entertain any of the plans now before them. The Church Committee should have submitted proper proposals at the time the organ chamber was built.

(True Extract.)



Chief Secretary.

To the Right Reverend the Bishop.
" Venerable the Archdeacon, with plan and estimates returned.
" Public Works department.
Copy to C. D. Maclean, Esq., Mus. Doc.

Exd. T. O'Connor.



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Recd. 16/5. Id 11/6 Encl. 12/6
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Side 47 240/85