C No 4904.

Govt. of {18 ,} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Emergent

Dated 3/7/96

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2d July 1896, No. 1933-34b.

Govt. House, Madras.

he Sanction of the Govt
f India [illegible] dered to be
applied for to a further ex-
enditure, during the current
fficial year, of Rs. 21,915 on
ertain improvements to
he —, and the Consg. Architect
irected to put the works in
and at once in anticipation
of Sanction.

Do

Requesting that
Sanction of the Govt. of
India be accorded at
an early date to a
further expenditure, during
the current official year,

P. W.

3

5 4+2

Of Rs. 21,915 on certain
improvements to the —
which have been ordered
to be started in anticipation
of Sanction

2/3/7

5

4904

Government of Madras.

1896.

6

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No.

DISPOSAL. Encls: 8 (2 plans)
Recd: 29.5.96

No. dated

urgent

From The Military Secretary
to H.E. the Governor.

ENCLOS.

No. 198

Dated 25th May 96

Received 27 — " —

SUBJECT.

Forwards, for sanction, estimates amounting to Rs 10,800 and Rs 10,900 respectively for enlarging the drawing room and providing ornamental ceilings and for constructing an intermediate floor in the monsoon dining room & providing ceilings to the dining room and intermediate rooms above, at Govt. House, Madras.

P. 220

T for examination

27/5/96

CHM
27.5.96

P.S. 119

29—2,000—23-9-95.

0
6/6

No. 198.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund
25th May 1896.

From

Major F. W. Romilly, D.S.O.
~~THE~~ MILITARY SECRETARY TO
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Stonehouse Hill.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward for sanction and early allotment of funds two plans and two estimates, the latter amounting to Rs. 10,800/- and Rs. 10,900/- respectively for (a) enlarging the drawing room and providing ornamental ceilings and (b) for constructing an intermediate floor in the monsoon dining room and providing ceilings to the dining room and intermediate rooms above, at Government House, Madras.

His Excellency the Governor has approved of the plans and estimates and desires that the work may be taken in hand in anticipation of the approval thereto of the Government of India in the event of the sanction of the Supreme Government being necessary.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
F. Romilly Major,
Military Secretary.

The defects brought to notice by [illegible] in the last part of his note are of themselves sufficient to warrant revision of this estimate for revision. But apart from that, there is no information given as to

(a) the nature of the soil
(b) the nature and depth of existing foundations
(c) the material of existing walls.

To carry the enlarged drawing room roof, it is proposed to insert two steel-box girders each weighing 4.6 tons. The existing foundations will merely get [illegible] of the distributed weight of the walls marked in dotted lines, while they will be required to support the weight of two 4.6 ton girders, plus their pillars each concentrated at two points. These pillars — or columns as described in the estimate —

60—200—18-12-95.

Public Works Department.

Nos 1933-4W. dt 2nd July 1896

Current No. A904

Letter No 198

Dated 25th May 1896

From the Military Secretary to H.E. the Govr.

NOTE BY TECHNICAL SECTION.

Name of work Improvements to Govt. House. Madras.

The Military Secretary to H.E. the Governor forwards for sanction & early allotment of funds two estimates with plans &c. for the following improvements at Govt. House,

(a) Enlarging the drawing room & providing ornamental ceilings —— Rs 10,800.
(b) Constructing an intermediate floor in the monsoon dining room and providing ceilings to the dining and intermediate rooms above —— Rs 10,900.

Estimate (a) provides for enlarging the drawing room, which is reported to be too small for entertainments by throwing open the two side rooms into it and increasing the size from 33'9" x 37'9" to 74'9" x 37'9". The partition walls & pillars dotted in black on plan are to be removed & those in the existing drawing room for a distance

distance of 27 feet with the wall & roof above supported by steel box girders of a section 27" × 21" with flanges & web ½" thick. Each girder is to weigh 4·6 tons and it is stated in the report accompanying the estimate that the section proposed is of sufficient strength to carry the weight above with ample extra allowance made for any accidental load.

The enlarged drawing room is to be provided with ornamental painted ceiling similar to the ceiling at the Connemara Library picked out with geometrical patterns with bold polished wood mouldings.

Provision has been made for four ornamental pillars at ends of the box girders and for ornamental pilasters as per plan shewn in red.

Estimate (b) provides for constructing an intermediate floor in the monsoon dining room in order to provide additional accommodation. The height of the present dining room is 28'4" from floor to ceiling. It is therefore proposed to reduce this height to 15 feet and to allow 12 feet for the proposed new floor which is to be divided by teak wooden partitions into a suite of rooms. The new floor is to be boarded with 1½" teak planks laid over teak joists & supported on four rolled steel girders of a section 14" × 6" weighing

weighing 57 lbs per foot run & spaced 8'9" apart.

The additional accommodation will consist of a bed room 22' × 18'7½", a dressing room 16'3" × 15'9" and a bath room 15'9" × 9'6" with a passage 6 feet wide. The access to this suite of rooms will be obtained by a few wooden steps down from the second floor vide plan.

The upper or sky room is also to be partitioned into a suite of rooms with wooden partitions similar to the intermediate floor.

Provision has also been made for providing the dining room, rooms in intermediate floor & rooms above with ½" teak plank ceiling nailed to the joists & painted in geometrical patterns.

The scantlings of roof timbers & steel rolled girders to the intermediate floor are correct. The weight that the box girders have to carry in the enlarged drawing room cannot be calculated as the plans are not in sufficient detail to do so.

The rates as far as can be checked are fair.

The amount of the estimates have been altered, estimate (a) from Rs 10,800 to Rs 10,830 owing to

---

wall, with the girders they carry, and the roof also, as might have been mentioned above, be a tremendous concentrated weight in form hitherto accustomed to a moderate distributed weight.

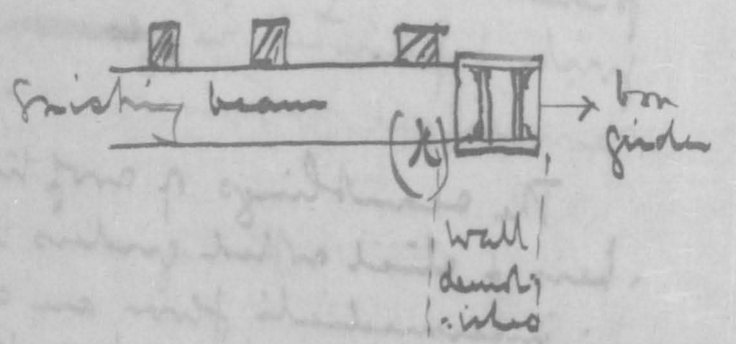
As regards the work to be done in the dining-room, the intermediate floor will not matter, as that will not entail raising, and consequently adding weight to existing walls. But the weight of the sky-room will be altogether extra, and we do not know that the walls & foundations beneath are in a fit state to carry it.

It is submitted that this work involving, as it does, very heavy expenditure, is not work to be rushed, neither is that proposed in connection with the Military Secretary's bungalow at Guindy works to be rushed. These works should be undertaken only after mature deliberation, and it will take some time to get the information necessary for decision whether all the proposed alterations can be executed with safety. It is quite certain that the works can not be completed by October, and as, if started now, they would be in an incomplete state on His Excellency's return they should not be commenced till April. Meanwhile the Government of India will have sanctioned, or have declined to sanction, these estimates. There is, therefore, no reason why things should not be done in order and not irregularly in anticipation of a sanction which we have no reason to anticipate will be given.

Proposed that these points be

the omission of certain pillars in the item of demolition of estimate (3) from Rs 10900 to Rs 9325 owing to clerical error in calculation in the item of dismantling walls in abstract estimate

The existing walls C C in drawing room supports the ends of the side room wooden beams marked B. B. These walls are now proposed to be demolished & box girders introduced to support the walls & roof above. It will be observed that no provision has been made to support these wooden beams. The box girders & beams appear to be on the same level vide section C D marked A. A. thus



Some means, it is submitted, may be made to support point (x). It is very probable that the ends of these wooden beams have decayed, it is therefore submitted that the roof of the side rooms may be renewed by providing new joists of a larger section for a span of 18' 3".

It will also be observed

Explained this to Military Secretary with a suggestion that all improvements be postponed till April.

CWBS
9/6/96.

That the arched wall K in side room is to be demolished but no provision has been made to support the joists either by a wooden beam or steel girder.

The estimates have been countersigned by the Military Secretary to H.E. the Govr. with the remark that H.E. has approved of the plans & estimates & desires that the work may be taken in hand in anticipation of the approval of the Govt. of India in the event of such sanction being necessary.

5-VI-96

Dw

On orders—

Draft Pros. are enclosed —

5/6/96

Note for H.E.

As it is very probable now the work will not be completed before the middle of Dec it is worth considering whether it would not be advisable to postpone commencing it till next April. If the work is in a half finished state by then the house will be unfit for occupation.

As repairs of the H.E. rooms have already been given to be put in until the work is completed a portion of the orders have been issued but no harm will be incurred if it is now decided to postpone the work till next April

9/6/96

CWBS
10.6.96.

the omission of certain

Nos 1932-21. W. d. 2nd July 1896

Urgent

O.S. 11.9. Govt House reading

4904

C. S. then submit a separate proposal upon it this but for the information of H. E. of the 5th of last month

16/6/96

W

Noted for the issue of instructions after the draft order has been framed — Meanwhile it is proposed to circulate the papers to Hon: members.

A. S. 16-June 96

16/6/96

a spare by 1813".

It will also be shown

will be incurred

the omission of certain
[illegible] in the items [illegible]

Nos 1933-34 W, d/ 2nd July 1896

Urgent

Recirculated to H.M. with reference to H.E.'s remark dated 20/6/96

It is not clearly understood from the Hon'ble [illegible] remarks whether he approves the drafts or not.

22/6/96

Sent back to H.E. then returned

22/6/96

a Spain by 1813".
It will also be shown

(40—1,000—21-4-94.)

the omission of certain
[illegible] in the item [illegible]

a span of 18'3".
It will also be

The work must be proceeded with at once and pushed on as rapidly as possible. I should like to see a progress report at the end of each month, beginning with the present month.

A. H
15.6.96

I should be delighted to see Govt. House Madras, improved, if the result should be that the Govr. ~~should~~ would live there instead of at Guindy, his residence at which place is socially most inconvenient and officially not unseldom detrimental to the interests of the public service. But as long as the Cooum remains unpurified, I am afraid there is very little chance of any Governor of Madras taking up his residence at Govt. House Madras, so permanently as to warrant the large expenditure proposed. It has also to be remembered that there has recently been a large sum spent on this residence & its connected buildings.

(40—1,000—21-4-94.)

Nos 1933-34 W, d/ 2nd July 1896

Note for His Excellency the Governor:—

As it is very probable that the work will not be completed before the middle of December it is worth considering whether it would not be advisable to postpone commencing it till next April. If the work is in a half finished state by October the house will be unfit for occupation.

As requested by His Excellency orders have already been given to push on with the work as rapidly as possible and the girders have been ordered but no loss will be incurred if it is now decided to postpone the work till next April.

11/6/96

W.

12.6.96

H.E. ~~Recirculated to His Excellency~~

Improvements to Govt. House, Madras.

Rs 20,694 are mentioned in the draft letter but up, besides which a large expenditure was incurred last year on the improvement of the Banqueting Hall – I forget the exact sum, but as I remember that a reference had to be made for the sanction of the Govt. of India, I presume it must have exceeded Rs 15000. Then there is a project which I confess I should be glad to see carried out, for lighting Govt. House, Madras, by electricity – This will necessarily involve a considerable expenditure. I regret, therefore, that I have to come to the conclusion that this proposed expenditure of Rs 20,155 should not be incurred –

It is contrary to rule that the proposed expenditure, or any part of it, should be incurred without the approval of the Govt. of India; and the Chief Engr. should not have given orders for the commencement of the work before that approval had been obtained – Until then, in my opinion, all work should be stayed.

16/6/96

x vide G.O. 153 W dd 31 Jany 95 –

With refce to the Hon. Mr. Grose's remark that the work "will provide accommodation which ought to be provided" I beg to point out that, in the days when the Duke of Buckingham was Govr., Govt. House, Madras, was found to afford sufficient accommodation not only for the Govr's staff but also for a household which always comprised four ladies, and frequently six, besides male & female European servants. I do not therefore understand why more accommodation should now be required & should [illegible] to know what the existing accommodation is, the A.D.Cs' bungalows included.

As regards the expenditure on the Banqueting Hall, as the amount seems to have been under Rs 15000, I do not understand why a refce was made (as I am almost sure it was) to the Govt. of India – Perhaps the C.E. will explain & state if I am right in my recollection as to the reference in question.

Since these papers came down, I have heard that a very large expenditure is being incurred on repairs to Govt. House, Madras, and the Marine Villa. I should like to know the amount thereof so that the total proposed expenditure may be considered at once.

From a telegram now in the file, it appears that certain girders provided for in the estimate at an estimated cost of Rs 1840 have been ordered from Bombay at an estimated cost of Rs 3600, thus adding considerably to the amt. ~~cost~~ of the total estimate. This is, if I am not mistaken, altogether opposed to orders & should not have been done –

If it should be decided by a majority that these estimates should be sanctioned & the proposed letter despatched to the Govt. of India, I

Nos 1933-4 W dd 2nd July 1896

P.W.D.

P.W. Current No. 4904 with draft order and notes by His Excellency the Governor and Honorable Members.

Recirculated to Honorable Members with reference to His Excellency's remark dated 20 June 1896.

It is not clearly understood from the Honorable Mr. Grose's remarks whether he approves the drafts or not.

22/6/96

W

request that the papers may be returned to me that I may add a minute on the subject, & be forwarded with the letter.

GB
22/6/96

I shall be glad to see the accommodation of Govt. House increased as proposed in the letter to India, and I approve of it.

JG
22/6/96

A.H. 26.6.96

The Honourable Mr Grose having approved the draft Proceedings, the papers are resubmitted to the Honourable Mr Bliss, as requested in his note of the 22nd instant.

The reference to India last year was made in connection with the Bandsmen's quarters and not the Banqueting Hall.

The papers are in manuscript and on the records of the Madras office.

The estimates for repairs have not yet come before Government but I have heard demi officially from the Consulting Architect that ordinary repairs will cost Rs 25,000 & special repairs Rs 15,000.

23/6/96
W

6/119

Urgent

~~The Hon. Mr Bliss C.I.E.~~

~~The Hon. Mr Grose C.I.E.~~

Improvements to Government House, Madras

The Hon. Mr Bliss C.I.E.
23/6.

193834

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS. Monthly Number. 1282

Coded Class D.T.

To (Office) Ootacamund
From (Office) Madras Triplicane

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
35/8	20	15	5	Dfd.

To Madras. Works.
From (Person) Consulting Architect

Irwins estimate government house madras allows rupees 1840 for box girders cost from bombay will be rupees 3600 please correct estimate girders have been ordered

Recd. from LN.
At Hrs. Mts. by
Sent to LN.
At Hrs. Mts. by

Telegraph Master.

OOTACAMUND 20 6-96

32 Word Form.

F. C1.

No. 4 T-35 4 95-10,00,000.

1282

Nos 1033-4 W, d/ 2nd July 1896

Urgent

No. 542 D

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM.

Dated ~~Madras~~, Ootacamund 25 June 1896.

Telegram from the Consulting Architect dated 24th June 1896:—

"Ordinary repairs Government House Madras and connected buildings in 1895-96 cost Rs 13,748 estimate for 1896-97 amounts to Rs 26,890 ordinary repairs to Government House Guindy in 1895-96 cost Rs 6,526 estimate for 1896-97 Rs 8780"

Copy forwarded to the Honourable Mr Bliss in continuatio

P. W. 41
2,000—6-3-96.

of the telephone message of yesterday.

D. McD. Campbell Colonel R.E.
Joint Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

E.G.H.

The Honourable Mr Bliss C.I.E.

Telephone

From Colonel Campbell
To Hon: Mr Bliss.

Your telephone of this day. Total expenditure actual and estimated on bandsmen's quarters is Rupees Fifty one thousand nine hundred. On fencing Rupees five thousand seven hundred and ninety four. Proposed expenditure on Servants quarters fencing Rupees Twenty six thousand and forty.

Other information asked for is not on record here. I have wired to Madras for it.

51900
5794
57694

24/6/96

W

R.D.

Note. The circulation cart having already left, this message is sent by a special messenger.

See =
Please send fair copy for correction before despatch
HA
25/6/96

Seen.
F.94
29.6.96
JG
29/6/96

No. 1933-4 W, dy 2nd July 1896

Minute by the Hon'ble H W Bliss, C.I.E.

25 Jun. 1896.

I regret that I am unable to concur in the proposal to spend ~~an~~ on improvements to Govt. House, Madras, the sum of Rs 20,155.

This sum is not very large in itself, but it is very large relatively to other sums recently spent, or now proposed to be spent, on Govt. Houses, and, as will be seen below, it is certain to be exceeded before the contemplated works are completed.

The reasons assigned for this proposal are that a larger and less unsightly drawing room is needed and that the bedroom accommodation is only sufficient for the family and staff of H.E. the Govr., so that there are no spare rooms.

It would no doubt be an improvement to enlarge the drawing room as proposed, but I do not think it is at all necessary to do so. The size of the room is 37' 9" × 33' 9", and I ~~[illegible]~~ know from the experience of many years that it is amply large enough for the accommodation, after dinner, of the largest party which ~~the~~ either dining room will hold. Its appearance is now somewhat cramped, but this is because H.E. the late Govr. blocked up the middle door on the East side by the back of a huge erection in the ~~[illegible]~~ summer dining room, which he had constructed for the display of his private plate. If this erection were removed, the drawing room ~~would both~~ look larger & would be ~~[illegible]~~ as airy as before.

As to the bedroom accommodation, I am not certain as to its extent: I applied for the information but it has not been supplied to me. ~~[illegible]~~ The Staff and household of H.E. the Govr. are

Friends

not of unusual size, however, so that I do not understand why additional bedroom accommodation should be needed, especially as I know ~~that it~~ the existing accommodation sufficed for the staff and household of H.E. the late Duke of Buckingham & Chandos, whose family included four ladies always, and sometimes six, and who habitually resided at Govt. House, Madras.

Even, however, if additional bedroom accommodation is needed, the question arises whether the present is a suitable time at which to propose to extend it. Independently of the ordinary annual repairs of Govt. House, Madras, for 1895-96 (a) and of the ordinary annual repairs of Govt. House, Guindy, for 1895-96 (b) and 1896-97 (c), I find that the following expenditure has been, or is proposed to be, incurred on these two Govt. Houses and buildings connected with them in the past and present official years:—

	Rs
Improvement of the Banqueting Hall	14,985
Bandsmen's quarters and fencing around them	57,694
The present estimate	20,155
Ordinary repairs in 1896-97 to Govt. House, Madras, ~~about~~	26,890 ~~25,000~~
Special do do do about	15,000
Proposed new servants' quarters at Govt. House, Guindy	26,040
Total	1,60,764

	Rs
(a) Actuals	13,748
(b) Do	6,526
(c) Estimate	8,780
Total	29,054

In two years, therefore, the total expenditure on these two Govt. Houses and their appurtenances will exceed Rs 1,90,000, if the excess below noted is taken into account; and if the furniture grants in the P.W.D. account and under the head of Contract Allowance are included, the total will exceed Rs 2,10,000.

Besides this, proposals are under consideration and tenders have been called for, for lighting these two Govt. Houses by electricity. What this will cost, I do not know; but it cannot but be that it will amount to a very large sum.

There is also the upkeep of Govt. House, Ootacamund, to be considered. What the annual amount of this is, I do not know.

Considering that the financial needs of the Govt. have quite recently ~~have~~ necessitated the imposition of considerable additional taxation, I am of opinion that the time is inopportune for large expenditure on objects of luxury rather than of public utility.

~~In~~ Further, I regret to have to express my disapproval of the commencement of work under the estimate now brought forward for sanction in contravention of the rule that all proposals for such expenditure ~~as~~ should be submitted for the approval of the Govt. of India (para 10, Ch: VI, P.W. Code, Vol ii). Nor is this the only breach of rules which has been permitted. I find that certain girders, the cost of which is entered in the estimate at Rs 1840, and which should have been procured ~~from~~ by indent on the Secretary of State, if at all, have been obtained from Bombay at a cost of Rs 3600. This is not covered by any of the exceptions stated in para 3 of the Resolution of the Govt. of India, No 185, dated Jan 10, 1883, Dept. of Finance & Commerce. It is not a case in which "serious inconvenience to the public service would be caused by waiting for the stores from England".

p. LXXXIX. Vol II P.W. Code

June 2[illegible]/1896

~~H.E. the Governor~~
~~The Hon. Mr. Grose C.I.E.~~

CHS
29/6

21/6/96

A
Proof of Pro:
and separate print of
minute to the end
to Chief Engineer for
corrections
30 June 96

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 1933W, d/2nd July 1896

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

B.H.
Buildings
3 P.

READ the following

From the Military Secretary to H.E. the Governor No. 198 d/25th May 1896.
Telegram from the Consg. Architect d/20 June 1896
Minute by the Hon. Mr. H.W. Bliss C.I.E. d/25 June 96

With the letter above quoted, the Military Secretary to H.E. the Governor submits the undermentioned estimates aggregating Rs ~~20,155~~ 21,915, as altered by the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. for improvements to Government House at Madras:-

(a) Enlarging the drawing room and providing ornamental ceilings . . . . . . Rs ~~10,830~~ 12,590

(b) Constructing an intermediate floor in the Monsoon dining room and providing ceilings to the dining and intermediate rooms above 9,325

Total Rs ~~20,155~~ 21,915

I regret that I cannot assent to either of these drafts

HB
18/6/96

The work, in my opinion, will be a very great improvement & will provide accommodation wh. ought to be provided, but it wd be contrary to binding rules to commence expenditure till the work has been approved by the G. of I. Under the Para of the I.P.W. Code quoted in the Notes Draft it is proposals for expenditure not reports of expenditure that have to be submitted for approval, & on the analogy of the previous para. it is clear that the requisition for expenditure must be submitted prior to outlay

(40—1,000—21-4-94.)

Funds have been provided in the current year's budget to the extent of Rs 20,694 for works connected with this residence, and the Govt: of India has been addressed on the matter as the amount exceeds the prescribed limit under para 10, chapter VI, volume II P.W. Code. The requisite sanction of the Govt: of India will, therefore, be applied for to the further expenditure now contemplated.

2. The Consulting Architect will put the works in hand at once in anticipation of sanction.

DESPATCHED
20 JUL. 96

To
The C.A. to Govt with 8 enclos:
" Military Secretary to H.E. the Governor.
" Ex P.W. D.

H.E. No 1934 W dy 2nd July 1896.

To
The Secretary to the Govt of India P.W.D.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No 1417 W dated 4th May 1896, applying for the sanction of the Govt: of India to an outlay of Rs 20,694× being incurred on works at Government House, Madras, I am directed to state that it is proposed to spend in the current official year a further sum of Rs 20,155 21915 on certain improvements to the building as will be observed from the accompanying copy of Proceedings of this Government No 1933 W dated 2nd July 1896.

2. The accommodation available in the present drawing and Monsoon dining rooms of this residence is considered insufficient, and the estimates now framed provide for the enlargement of

× Bandsmen's quarters Rs 14900.
Fencing & [illegible] 5794
20,694.

Sanction of India since received, and papers sent to Madras for issue - 15 June 96

2. There is a growing need in Madras for increased space in the reception rooms of Government House, and it is desirable that the present drawing-room should not only be enlarged, but that it should present a less unsightly appearance than it does now. The present plan will further these [illegible]

~~of the former and for the construction of an intermediate floor in the latter. His Excellency the Governor desires that these works should be put in hand at once~~, and Orders have, therefore, been issued to start them in anticipation of the sanction of the Govt. of India, which, I am to request, may be accorded at an early date

I have &c

9/6/96

3. I am to forward copy of a minute on the subject recorded by the Hon Mr Bliss.

A.34
26.6.96

Signed copy issued 11/7/96.

Spare copies issued 20/7/96.

Cu

Emergent

Estimates for certain improvements to Govt. House at Madras.

[illegible]. The bed-room accommodation is also insufficient. The Governor's family and staff fill all the ~~bed~~ existing bed-room accommodation, unless they are inconveniently crowded. The scheme now proposed will provide an additional bed-room and dressing-room. The improvements in question are urgently needed, and His Excellency desires that they should be carried out by the time of his return to ~~[illegible]~~ Madras from the Hills.

Print soon and send proofs for correction

W 30 June 96

W 15 June 96

No. 1933 W., 2nd July 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following papers:—

From Major F. W. ROMILLY, D.S.O., Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, to the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 25th May 1896, No. 198.

I have the honour to forward, for sanction and early allotment of funds, two plans and two estimates, the latter amounting to Rs. 10,800 and Rs. 10,900, respectively, for (a) enlarging the drawing-room and providing ornamental ceilings; and (b) for constructing an intermediate floor in the monsoon dining-room, and providing ceilings to the dining-room and intermediate rooms above, at Government House, Madras.

His Excellency the Governor has approved of the plans and estimates, and desires that the work may be taken in hand in anticipation of the approval thereto of the Government of India in the event of the sanction of the Supreme Government being necessary.

Telegram from the Consulting Architect to Government, to the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 20th June 1896.

Irwin's estimate Government House, Madras, allows Rs. 1,840 for box girders. Cost from Bombay will be Rs. 3,600. Please correct estimate. Girders have been ordered.

Minute by the Hon'ble Mr. BLISS, C.I.E., dated 25th June 1896.

Order—No. 1933 W., dated 2nd July 1896.

With the letter above quoted, the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor submits the undermentioned estimates, aggregating Rs. 21,915, as altered by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, for improvements to Government House at Madras:—

	RS.
(a) Enlarging the drawing-room and providing ornamental ceilings.	12,590
(b) Constructing an intermediate floor in the monsoon dining-room, and providing ceilings to the dining and intermediate rooms above	9,325
Total ...	21,915

Funds have been provided in the current year's budget to the extent of Rs. 20,694 for works connected with this residence, and the Government of India has been addressed on the matter as the amount exceeds the prescribed limit under paragraph 10, chapter VI, volume II, Public Works Code. The requisite sanction of the Government of India will, therefore, be applied for to the further expenditure now contemplated.

2. The Consulting Architect will put the works in hand at once in anticipation of sanction.

[Here enter No. 1934 W., dated 2nd July 1896.]

(True Extract.)

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

To the Consulting Architect to Government, with eight enclosures.
" Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated July, 2nd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O. No. 1933 W., 2nd July 1896.

JULY.

Government House, Madras

The sanction of the Government of India ordered to be applied for to a further expenditure, during the current official year, of Rs. 21,915 on certain improvements to the —, and the Consulting Architect directed to put the works in hand at once in anticipation of sanction.

Correct—Resolt we have fair for signature
MD
9/7/96

MINUTE BY THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E., DATED 25TH JUNE 1896.

I regret that I am unable to concur in the proposal to spend on improvements to Government House, Madras, the sum of Rs. 20,155.

This sum is not only large in itself, but it is very large relatively to other sums recently spent, or now proposed to be spent, on Government Houses, and, as will be seen below, it is certain to be exceeded before the contemplated works are completed.

The reasons assigned for this proposal are that a larger and less unsightly drawing-room is needed, and that the bed-room accommodation is only sufficient for the family and staff of His Excellency the Governor, so that there are no spare rooms.

It would no doubt be an improvement to enlarge the drawing-room as proposed, but I do not think it is at all necessary to do so. The size of the room is 37′ 9″ × 33′ 9″, and I know from the experience of many years that it is amply large enough for the accommodation, after dinner, of the largest party which either dining-room will hold. Its appearance is now somewhat cramped, but this is because His Excellency the late Governor blocked up the middle door on the east side by the back of a huge erection in the summer dining-room, which he had constructed for the display of his private plate. If this erection were removed, the drawing-room both would look larger and would be as airy as before.

As to the bed-room accommodation, I am not certain as to its extent. I applied for the information, but it has not been supplied to me. The staff and household of His Excellency the Governor are not of unusual size, however, so that I do not understand why additional bed-room accommodation should be needed, especially as I know that the existing accommodation sufficed for the staff and household of His Excellency the late Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, whose family included four ladies always, and sometimes six, and who habitually resided at Government House, Madras.

Even, however, if additional bed-room accommodation is needed, the question arises whether the present is a suitable time at which to propose to extend it. Independently of the ordinary annual repairs of Government House, Madras, for 1895-96 (*a*) and of the ordinary annual repairs of Government House, Guindy, for 1895-96 (*b*) and 1896-97 (*c*), I find that the following expenditure has been, or is proposed to be, incurred on these two Government Houses and buildings connected with them in the past and present official years:—

	RS.
(*a*) Actuals	13,748
(*b*) Do.	6,526
(*c*) Estimate	8,780
Total ...	29,054

	RS.
Improvement of the Banqueting Hall	14,985
Bandsmen's quarters and fencing around them	57,694
The present estimates	20,155
Ordinary repairs in 1896-97 to Government House, Madras ...	26,890
Special do. do. do. about.	15,000
Proposed new servants' quarters at Government House, Guindy ...	26,040
Total ...	1,60,764

In two years, therefore, the total expenditure on these two Government Houses and their appurtenances will exceed Rs. 1,90,000, if the excess below noted is taken into account; and if the furniture grants in the Public Works Department and under the head of contract allowance are included, the total will exceed Rs. 2,10,000.

Besides this, proposals are under consideration and tenders have been called for for lighting these two Government Houses by electricity. What this will cost, I do not know; but it cannot but be that it will amount to a very large sum.

There is also the upkeep of Government House, Ootacamund, to be considered. What the annual amount of this is, I do not know.

Urgent

Considering that the financial needs of the Government have quite recently necessitated the imposition of considerable additional taxation, I am of opinion that the time is inopportune for large expenditure on objects of luxury rather than of public utility.

Further, I regret to have to express my disapproval of the commencement of work under the estimate now brought forward for sanction in contravention of the rule that all *proposals* for such expenditure should be submitted for the approval of the Government of India (paragraph 10, chapter VI, Public Works Code, volume II). Nor is this the only breach of rules which has been permitted. I find that certain girders, the cost of which is entered in the estimate at Rs. 1,840, and which should have been procured by indent on the Secretary of State, if at all, have been ordered from Bombay at a cost of Rs. 3,600. This is not covered by any of the exceptions stated in paragraph 3 of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 185, dated 10th January 1883, Department of Finance and Commerce. It is not a case in which "serious inconvenience to the Public service would be caused by waiting for the stores from England."

~~The Hon'ble Mr. Bliss I.E.~~

"Proof" submitted for approval.

8/7/96

W

CAW 9/7

No. 1934 W., 2nd July 1896.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Letter—from

The Hon'ble Colonel D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Public Works Department,

To

The SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA,
Public Works Department.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 1417 W., dated 4th May 1896, applying for the sanction of the Government of India to an outlay of Rs. 20,694 being incurred on works at Government House, Madras, I am directed to state that it is proposed to spend in the current official year a further sum of Rs. 21,915 on certain improvements to the building as will be observed from the accompanying copy of Proceedings of this Government No. 1933 W., dated 2nd July 1896.

2. There is a growing need in Madras for increased space in the reception rooms of Government House, and it is desirable that the present drawing-room should not only be enlarged, but that it should present a less unsightly appearance than it does now. The present plan will further these objects. The bed-room accommodation is also insufficient. The Governor's family and staff fill all the existing bed-room accommodation, unless they are inconveniently crowded. The scheme now proposed will provide an additional bed-room and dressing-room. The improvements in question are urgently needed, and His Excellency desires that they should be carried out by the time of his return to Madras from the Hills. Orders have, therefore, been issued to start them in anticipation of the sanction of the Government of India, which, I am to request, may be accorded at an early date.

3. I am to forward copy of a minute on the subject recorded by the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Ootacamund,
2nd July 1896.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated July, 2nd.

Recd. *Encl.*

No. 1934 W., 2nd July 1896.

JULY.

Government House, Madras

Requesting that sanction of the Government of India be accorded at an early date to a further expenditure, during the current official year, of Rs. 21,915 on certain improvements to the —, which have been ordered to be started in anticipation of sanction.