

2434
Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 2456 w

DATED 24th August 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Note: Correspondence regarding a proposal that a few lengths of — should be kept in public offices for use in case of fire. Count to S.E. for reports to the ^{public} buildings in their circles which should be provided with hose for the purpose indicated.

1. Remuneration 28-10-96 210
2. Do. to S.E. II-V 17-12-96 14
3. Do. to S.E. II circle 9-2-96

INDEXED 21/2

P. W. D.
100-15-2-96

2156

Correspondence regarding a proposal that a few lengths of — should be kept in public offices for use in case of fire, communicated to Superintending Engineers for report as to the public buildings in their circles which should be provided with hose for the purpose indicated.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 3161, dated 10th July 1896.

Read—the following letter from HERBERT BRADLEY, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 29th June 1896, Ref. on C. No. 2368 C./Rev. :—

I regret to have to report the occurrence of a fire yesterday afternoon in one of the buildings which forms a part of my office. The fire broke out at about 2 p.m. in the building occupied by the Sheristadar's department and the record-room. It consists of two large rooms, and two smaller ones on the ground floor, the smaller ones being between the two large ones. Above one of the smaller ones is an upstairs room built by a former Collector with a staircase leading to a landing outside the room. The landing was divided off by a wooden screen and seems to have been the officer's retiring room.

2. The room and landing have, for years, been treated as a lumber-room, but recently every thing has been cleared out of the room which was given up to the Survey Department. On the landing was a large accumulation of useless forms and records, the destruction of which I sanctioned on Saturday the 27th. The Record-keeper passed on the instructions for the destruction of the records to the Assistant Recordkeeper, who in turn left them to be carried out by the masalchi. The masalchi opened the room for the coolies to begin working at about 7 a.m., and the cinerator was filled up. The coolies then remained on the landing until 12 o'clock when they went home to their food.

3. The fire was discovered about 2 p.m., and was very fortunately extinguished by 4 o'clock, nothing having been destroyed except the roof and part of the flooring of the room in which it occurred. The next room and the rooms below were somewhat injured by water, and a good many tiles on the adjoining roofs broken, but the fire was practically confined to the room in which it occurred.

4. When I first arrived, as the fire appeared to be getting a hold on the roof and the building in which it occurred contained the record-room, I broke open the door and one of the windows of the record-room and had a few records removed to a place of safety, but the fire was got under very shortly and very few records were removed. No records other than those marked for destruction were destroyed, though a few maps and some stationery belonging to the Survey Department were injured with water. The total damage will, I believe, be made good within Rs. 500.

5. I have held an inquiry into the cause of the fire, but have not been able to ascertain anything. I think it was certainly accidental, or it would not have occurred among useless papers, but in the record-room itself and would have happened at night, and I expect that it was due either to the carelessness of a cooly who was smoking while at work, or that some children went up the stairs and set fire to the paper in play, while the coolies were away.

6. It is, of course, most unsatisfactory that the supervision of coolies destroying records should have been left to a masalchi on Rs. 6 per mensem. The Recordkeeper is much to blame for not having seen the work carried out, and the Assistant Recordkeeper for neglecting the duty which had been given him to do. They can be adequately punished by me. In future, I think, a few lengths of hose should be kept in an office like this so as to enable water to be pumped from the wells to any portion of the buildings. The municipal fire engine, which was got worked very well, but would have been much more useful, if we had been able to work it direct from one of the wells. Most of the public offices here are concentrated in one compound and this suggestion would, I think, add greatly to their safety.

Resolution—Mis. No. 3161, dated 10th July 1896.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board supports the Collector's suggestion that a few lengths of hose should be kept in all important public offices so as to enable water to be pumped direct from the wells to any portion of the buildings.

3. It is observed that the Collector will himself take due notice of the conduct of the subordinates who were in part responsible for the occurrence of the fire.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Acting Secretary.

Mis. No. 2935, Revenue.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

(By order.)

Ootacamund,
23rd July 1896.

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Office-note from the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 13th August 1896, No. 66.

ORDER—No. 2456 W., dated 24th August 1896.

Communicated to Superintending Engineers, who will report which public buildings in their circles should, in their opinion, be provided with a few lengths of hose for the purpose indicated.

2. The liability of individual buildings to take fire, and the question whether the water-supply is such that the hose will be of real service, should be considered in preparing the lists of buildings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers.
„ the Consulting Architect to Government.
„ the Revenue Department.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

Public Works (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 7434

Order

Rest Case

6940 - Print

7434 - 2nd

No 2456 W, dt 24th August 1896.

From

The Secy to Gov.
Revenue Dept.

No. 66.

Dated August 13.

Received " 14. } 1896.

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

HOSE.

Considering that the order regarding the proposal for provision of a public office for prevention of fire should arise in the P.W. Dept.

Communicated to Superintending Engineers, who will report which public buildings in their circles should, in their opinion, be provided with a few lengths of hose for the purpose indicated.

2. The liability of individual buildings to take fire, and the question whether the water supply is such that the hose will be of real service, should be considered in preparing the lists of buildings.

C. C.

Superintending

C.A. to Govt.

Rev. Dept.

P. W. 20
1,000-5-8-96
24/8

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue)
no. 3161 Mis., dated 10th July 1896.

Read the following letter from Herbert Bradley Esquire, Col-
lector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of
Land Revenue, Madras, Ref. on C.no. 2368 C/Rev. of '96, dated
29th June 1896.

I regret to have to report the occurrence of a fire yesterday afternoon in one of the buildings which forms a part of my office. The fire broke out at about 2 P.M. in the building occupied by the Sheristadar's Department and the Record room. It consists of two large rooms, and two smaller ones on the ground floor, the smaller ones being between the two larger ones. Above one of the smaller ones is an upstairs room built by a former Collector with a staircase leading to a landing outside the room. The landing was divided off by a wooden screen and seems to have been the officer's retiring room.

2. The room and landing have for years been treated as a lumber room, but recently every thing has been cleared out of the room which was given up to the Survey Department. On the landing was a large accumulation of useless forms and records, the destruction of which I sanctioned on Saturday the 27th. The Record keeper passed on the instructions for the destruction of the records to the Assistant Record Keeper, who in turn left them to be carried out by the Masalchi. The Masalchi opened the room for the coolies to begin working at about 7 A.M., and the Generator was filled up. The coolies then remained on the landing until 12 O' clock when they went home to their food.

3. The fire was discovered about 2 P.M., and was very fortunately extinguished by 4:00 clock, nothing having been

destroyed except the roof and part of the flooring of the room in which it occurred. The next room and the rooms below were somewhat injured by water, and a good many tiles on the adjoining roofs broken, but the fire was practically confined to the room in which it occurred.

4. When I first arrived, as the fire appeared to be getting a hold on the roof and the building in which it occurred contained the record room, I broke open the door and one of the windows of the record room and had a few records removed to a place of safety, but the fire was got under very shortly and very few records were removed. No records other than those marked for destruction were destroyed, though a few maps and some stationery belonging to the Survey Department were injured with water. The total damage will, I believe, be made good within Rs. 500.

4. I have held an inquiry into the cause of the fire, but have not been able to ascertain any thing. I think it was certainly accidental, or it would not have occurred among useless papers but in the record room itself and would have happened at night, and I expect that it was due either to the carelessness of a cooly who was smoking while at work, or that some children went up the stairs and set fire to the paper in play, while the coolies were away.

It is of course most unsatisfactory that the supervision of coolies destroying records should have been left to a Masalchi at Rs. 6 per mensem. The Record Keeper is much to blame for not having seen the work carried out, and the Assistant Record Keeper for neglecting the duty which had been given him to do. They can be adequately punished by me. In future, I think, a few lengths of hose should be kept in an office like this so as to enable water to be pumped from the wells to any portion of the buildings. The Municipal fire engine, which was got worked very well, but would have been much more useful, if we had been able to work it direct from one of the wells. Most of the public offices here are concentrated in one compound and this suggestion would, I think, add greatly to their safety.

Resolution

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board supports the Collector's suggestion that a few lengths of hose should be kept in all important public offices so as to enable water to be pumped direct from the wells to any portion of the buildings.

It is observed that the Collector will himself take due

21
notice of the conduct of the subordinates who were in part responsible for the occurrence of the fire.

(True Copy and Extract)

Reelan

Acting Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
The Collector of Coimbatore.

1896. *Sept*
Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue),
MADRAS.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

P.W.C.N. 6940

Recd: 31.7.96
Endt mis No. 2935.
22/7/96

Transferred to
the Public Works
Department.

Atmund
ag Secy to Govt.

(A.)
18 July 96.

ootacamund
23rd July 1906.

Recd 28/7

Recd 13.7.96.

Pro.no.3161 Mis.

Re. dated 10th July 1896

Subject.

Submitting for the information of
Government letter from the Collector
of Coimbatore reporting about the
occurrence of a fire in one of the
buildings forming part of the Col-
lector's office and considering
that a few lengths of hose should
be kept in all important public
offices.

1906 July 17-3-96

P.T.O.

It is observed

P.W.C.N.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

No.66

OFFICE NOTE.

Station Ootacamund date 13th August 1896.

From

The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Dept.

Ref: O.N.No.988 D, d/6th August 1896.

The question whether any lengths
of hose should be kept in all important
public offices depends on the liability
of the offices to fire and whether the
water supply is such as to allow the hose
to be of real service. The opinion of the
officers of the Department of Public
Works seems therefore to be needed in
each case. Moreover, as the proposal is
intended to be of general application to
all important public offices it would
appear more appropriate for the order to
issue in the P.W.D.

Atmund

Ag. Secretary to Govt.

STW

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