Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2836 W

DATED 8th Novr. 98

8/11/98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Return of Govt. House furniture

Directing the adoption of certain course for removing the difficulties experienced in connection with the preparation of the ———— Showing that the verification will, in future take place yearly & requesting the Consulting Architect to carry out the suggestions of the Military Secy to H.E. the Governor in regard to taking an inventory of the furniture at the three Govt. Houses.

70/3

JE.

Indexed. 8/11

P. W. 36.
1,000—12-2-98.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Government (1898) of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*
Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 2836 W., 8th November 1898.

NOVEMBER.

Return of Government House Furniture

Directing the adoption of certain course for removing the difficulty experienced in connection with the preparation of the —, stating that the verification will in future take place yearly, and requesting the Consulting Architect to carry out the suggestions of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor in regard to taking an inventory of the furniture at the three Government houses.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

Read—the following papers :—

From G. S. T. HARRIS, Esq., Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 13th August 1898, No. 1478.

With reference to the objectionable items statement for June 1898, items under miscellaneous irregularities, delay in submission of half-yearly returns of tools and plant, Government House, Madras, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Molesworth, Assistant Engineer, made a complete inventory of all furniture at this Government House up to 30th April 1898, the return was sent to the Examiner, with an explanatory note, that efficient check on Government House furniture was not possible, articles are shifted from one Government House to another, that satisfactory check with last audited return was not possible on account of the description, for instance, no distinction being made between an upholstered chair and a rattan one. It would therefore be seen that it was intended that this careful inventory, which took over four weeks in preparation, was to take the place of the half-yearly return, and, being under this impression, your No. 2924 C., dated 20th June 1898, was not replied to at the time.

2. The Examiner in his No. 2168 B./A., dated 22nd June 1898, returned the statement and asked that a combined return may be prepared for the three Government houses, now that the Ootacamund Government House had been added, and a distinctive nomenclature adopted.

3. I have been considering over the Examiner's proposals and find them quite impracticable to comply with unless it be possible—firstly, to take a simultaneous count of furniture at the three Government houses; secondly, notice be given to this department when furniture is moved from one house to another; thirdly, when furniture is brought or sold, intimation should be at once given. Should this be impracticable, I then suggest that an annual examination be made, such as is done with the tools and plant at the School of Arts, Madras (*vide* G.O., No. 1729 W., dated 11th June 1888), for, as matters stand at present, the compilation of these half-yearly returns for Government House is most unsatisfactory, the custody of furniture is not really under the charge of this department, and still it is held responsible for deficiencies, which is usually explained by the house butler that articles wanting have been shifted from one Government House to the other, to verify this statement is a difficult matter.

Office-note to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated 31st August 1898, No. 3798 C.

Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated Madras, 10th September 1898, No. 1067 A./A.

I quite agree with Mr. Harris that the present procedure relating to the periodical counting and the preparation of the half-yearly returns of Government House furniture is very unsatisfactory. So also, I may add, is the audit of those returns by my office for the reason that, under the existing condition of things explained in Mr. Harris' letter, those returns cannot be reliable records of the stock of furniture in the three Government houses.

2. I do not, however, see how under present arrangements an *annual* examination or stock-taking, as now proposed, instead of a half-yearly one, would get over the difficulty *unless* that count could take place simultaneously in all three Government houses; nor would the case be similar to the arrangement sanctioned in G.O., No. 1729 W., dated 11th June 1888 (quoted by Mr. Harris), under which the Consulting Architect is required to make an annual examination of the tools, apparatus, &c., in the Madras School of Arts, and the audit of the accounts of those articles is carried out by the local Accountant-General.

3. As regards the School of Arts, the articles are, presumably, all in one building and not liable to be shifted from one building to another, and the purchases of new or sales of old articles are arranged for by one and the same authority. The periodical verification must therefore be a comparatively simple matter.

4. The case of the furniture belonging to the three Government houses at Madras, Guindy and Ootacamund is widely different and is provided for under the special rules contained in G.O., No. 613 W., dated 7th March 1893. The furniture is not only not under one roof but is, according to requirements, shifted from one house to another: new *purchases* are at times arranged for by the Consulting Architect; at others by the Military Secretary without intimation to the Consulting Architect; and, similarly, I understand in regard to *sales* of old or obsolete articles (*vide* paragraph 3 of Consulting Architect's letter under reference).

5. To put things on a satisfactory footing, either of the following courses might be adopted :—

(1) *All* purchases or sales of Government House furniture should be arranged *through the Consulting Architect only*, and no furniture transferred from one house to another without *at once* advising that officer.

(2) Intimation should *without fail and invariably* be given by the Military Secretary to the Consulting Architect of any such purchases or sales as are effected direct by the former, as also of any removal of furniture from one house to another as contemplated in the Government Order above quoted.

(3) The furniture for each separate Government House should be complete *as a set in itself*, and no articles should be moved, even temporarily, from one building to another.

6. Assuming the adoption of any one of these *three* courses, there would be no objection from an audit standpoint and, as far as I can see, no practical difficulty in carrying out the verification *annually* instead of half-yearly, viz., Madras and Guindy in April, and Ootacamund in November, or, in fact, at such other times of the year as may be found most convenient.

Endorsement of the Secy. to Govt., Public Works Dept., dated 21st Sept. 1898, No. 972 D.

From Major F. W. ROMILLY, D.S.O., Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Guindy, 29th October 1898, No. 301.

I have the honour to return the correspondence forwarded to me for remarks with your endorsement No. 972 D., of 21st September 1898, and, in reply, to state that of the three courses suggested by the Examiner, I consider that that detailed in (2) would be most convenient.

I would suggest that an inventory of the furniture at the Madras and Ootacamund Government houses be taken at once, and that at Guindy in January next when His Excellency the Governor is in residence at Madras.

Order—No. 2836 W., dated 8th November 1898.

The second of the three courses proposed by the Examiner for removing the difficulty now experienced in connection with the preparation of the return of Government House furniture will be adopted in future.

2. The verification will in future take place yearly, instead of half-yearly as at present; Madras and Guindy Government houses in April and Ootacamund Government House in November.

3. The Consulting Architect will arrange to carry out the suggestions made in paragraph 2 of the Military Secretary's letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. B. deWINTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. W. D'Moss.

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 8987

A.

8

No: 2836 W, 8.11.98.
Genl. Act

The second of the three courses proposed by the Examiner for removing the difficulty now experienced in connection with the preparation of the return of Govt. House furniture will be adopted in future.

2. The verification will in future take place yearly, instead of half yearly as at present. Madras & Guindy Govt. houses in April & Ooty Govt. house in Nov.

3. The Consg. Architect will arrange to carry out the suggestions made in para 2 of the Milty. Secy's letter.

AW
7.11.98.

Rwr.

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

No. 301

Dated 29 october 1898

Received
Registered 31-10-98

Enclosures 4

Spare copies

SUBJECT

Govt House Furniture.
Regarding the preparation of the half yearly returns of—

D ~~21/11/98~~

~~DW~~

~~W~~

To The Milty. Secy. to H. E. the Govr.
" C. A. to Govt.
" Examiner, P. W. accounts.

[P. W. 29. / 1,000—5-9-98.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1729	W d/	11·6·1888	
972	D d/	21·9·98	
Memo 3798	C d/	31·8·98	
613	W d/	7·3·93	
~~1729~~	~~W d/~~	~~11·6·88~~	~~1888~~

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. ~~7592~~ 8987/98

Quote

From The Examiner, P. W. Accts, Madras

Order Endt No. 972 D., d/21st September 1898

Forwarded to the Military Secretary to H.E. the Governor for favour of report as to which of the ~~alternative~~ three courses suggested by the Examiner can most conveniently be adopted –

AC W
19-9-98.

Secy to Govt. Mil D.

No. 1067 A/A

Dated 10th September 1898

Received } 12-9-98
Registered }

Enclosures 2

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Returns of Government House Furniture – Furnishes C's opinion regarding the Count of and Submission of –

0L5388

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
3798C	31-8-98
613W	7-3-93
1729W	11-6-88

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C. A./1 500-11-6-97.

W

Office of the Consulting Architect to Govt,
Chepauk, Madras,
13th August 1898.

No. 1478

Print

From

G. S. T. Harris, Esq.,
Consulting Architect
to the Government of Madras,

To

The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department

Sir,

Enclosures.

C. N. 6737 with B
22/8/98

With reference to the O. I Statement for June 1898 items under Miscellaneous irregularities, delay in submission of Half yearly returns of Tools & Plant, Government House, Madras I have the honour to inform you that Mr Molesworth Asstt: Engineer made a complete inventory of all furniture at this Government House up to 30th April 1898, the return was sent to the Examiner with an explanatory note, that efficient check in Government House furniture was not possible, articles are shifted from one Government House to another, that satisfactory check with last audited return was not possible on account of th description, for instance, no distinction being made between an upholstered chair & a rattan one. It would therefore be seen that it was intended, that this careful inventory which took over four weeks in preparation was to take the place of the Half yearly returns, & being under this impression your No. 2924C D/: 20.6.98 was not replied to at the time.

x Perhaps with ccp 6340 & 6792 with G. Sastry

2 The Examiner in his No. 2168 B/A D/: 22.6.98 returned the statement and asked that a combined return may be prepared for the three Government Houses, now that the Coty Government House had been added, & a distinctive nomenclature adopted.

3. I have been considering over the Examiner's proposals and find them quite impracticable to comply with: unless it be possible. Firstly to take a simultaneous count of furniture at the three Government Houses. Secondly notice be given to this Department when furniture is moved from one House to the another. Thirdly when furniture is brought or sold, intimation should be at once given. Should this be impracticable I then suggest that an annual Examination be made, such as is done with the Tools & Plant at the School of Arts Madras vide G.O. No. 1729 W dated 11th June 1888, for as matters stand at present the compilation of these Half yearly returns for Government House is most unsatisfactory, the custody of furniture is not really under the charge ~~under the charge~~ of this Department, & still it is held responsible for deficiencies, which is usually explained by the House Butler that articles wanting have been shifted from one Government House to the other, to verify this statement is a difficult matter.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Ch. David
Consulting Architect
to Government.

a/2 B

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. ~~6791~~ 8987
3-9-98

EXAMINER,
P. W. ACCOUNTS.
2- SEP. 1898
No.............

A.B.
For report
W
2.9.98

→ Quote

& quote

No: 3798C d/31" August '98.

From

The Consulting Architect
to the Government
of Madras

No. 1478

~~Order~~ O.C.

To C

Please say whether you see any objection to the submission of an annual return of Govt. House furniture, the preparation of an accurate half yearly return being impracticable.

AKR
24.8.98.

W

Dated 13" August 1898

Received
Registered } 15-8-98

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Explaining cause of delay in submission of Half yearly Returns of Government House furniture Madras and Guindy for the half year ended 31.10.98.

2. I think the examn. might take place once a year viz. for Govt. House Madras & Guindy in April, & for Govt. House Ooty in Novr.

o L. 320

R 29/8

with file - to be retd.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
1729 W.	11-6-1888

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

E. No. 27.
1,000—6-9-97.

KEEP-WITH CURRENT No. GOVT. OF MADRAS. 1898 P. W. DEPT.

EXAMINER, P. W. ACCOUNTS.

dated 189 .

Madras, 10th September 1898.

OFFICE NOTE No. 1067 A/A

W Print

To

W.

Your Office Note No. 3798 C dated 31st. August 1898.

I quite agree with Mr. Harris that the present procedure relating to the periodical counting and the preparation of the half yearly returns of Government House furniture is very unsatisfactory. So also, I may add, is the audit of those returns by my Office - for the reason that, under the existing condition of things, explained in Mr. Harris' letter, those returns cannot be reliable records of the stock of furniture in the three Government Houses.

2. I do not, however, see how under present arrangementss an annual examination or stock-taking as now proposed instead of a half yearly one would get over the difficulty unless that count could take place simultaneously in all three Government Houses: nor would the case be similar to the arrangement sanctioned in G.O. No. 1729 W dated 11th. June 1888 (quoted by Mr. Harris) under which the Consulting

Architect is required to make an annual examination of the tools, apparatus etc in the Madras School of Arts, and the audit of the accounts of those articles is carried out by the Local Accountant General.

3. As regards the School of Arts, the articles are, presumably, all in one building, and not liable to be shifted from one building to another, and the purchases of new or sales of old articles are arranged for by one and the same authority. The periodical verification must therefore be a comparatively simple matter.

4. The case of the furniture belonging to the three Government Houses at Madras, Guindy and Ooty is widely different, and is provided for under the special rules contained in G.O. No. 6I3 W dated 7th. March I893. The furniture is not only not under one roof, but is, according to requirements, shifted from one house to another: new purchases are at times arranged for by the Consulting Architect; at others by the Military Secretary without intimation to the Consulting Architect and, similarly, I understand, in regard to sales of old or obsolete articles vide para 3 of Consulting Architect's letter under reference.

So long as I have been here, all sales have been undertaken by the G.W.D.

5. To put things on a satisfactory footing either of the following ~~alternative~~ courses might be

15/11/98

adopted

adopted:-

(I) All purchases or sales of Government House furniture should be arranged through the Consulting Architect only, and no furniture transferred from one House to another without at once advising that officer.

(2) Intimation should without fail and invariably be given by the Military Secretary to the Consulting Architect of any such purchases or sales as are effected direct by the former, as also of any removal of furniture from one House to another as contemplated in the G.O. above quoted.

(3) The furniture for each separate Government House should be complete as a set in itself, and no articles should be moved, even temporarily, from one building to another.

6. Assuming the adoption of any one of these three ~~alternatives~~ courses, there would be no objection from an audit stand point and, as far as I can see, no practical difficulty in carrying out the verification annually instead of half yearly - viz: Madras and Guindy in April, and Ooty in November - or, in fact, at such other times of the year as may be found most convenient.

15/11

Alternative = a choice between 2 courses.

W 10.9.98

C.

10/9/98

No. 301

Government House,
Guindy
29th October 1898.

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

Print

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Sir,

I have the honour to return the correspondence forwarded to me for remarks with your Endorsement No. 972 D. of 21st September 98, and in reply to state that of the three courses suggested by the Examiner, I consider that that detailed in (2) would be most convenient.

I would suggest that an inventory of the Furniture at the Madras and Ootacamund Government Houses be taken at once, and that at Guindy in January next when His Excellency the Governor is in residence at Madras.

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