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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	405	Press Mis.
Dated	31-3-19	868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
31st March 1868.

Read the following papers :—

No. 220. From the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 15th February 1868, No. 71.

The Superintendent, Eye-Infirmery, having in his Annual Report for 1867 represented the dilapidated state of the buildings, some portions of which he considered positively *unsafe*, the Deputy Inspector General of the Division was instructed to communicate with the Executive Engineer on the subject, and, with reference

Public Department, No. 887 of 1st September 1866.

to the Proceedings of Government marginally noted, to inspect the premises and report on their present condition.

2. This report I have now the honor to submit to Government for their information, and for such action as they may deem it necessary to take in the matter.

From the Executive Engineer, No. 1 or Northern Range,
No. 1739, of 4th February 1868.

3. I beg at the same time to append a letter just received from the Superintendent of the Eye-Infirmery, enclosing a communication from the Law Agent to the estate.

Dated 10th February 1868.

MY DEAR DR. MACKENZIE,

Mr. Shaw, the Law Agent to the Estate of the late C. V. Conniah Chetty, has sent me a letter* regarding the Eye-Infirmery buildings,

* Dated 10th instant.

which I have obtained his permission to pass on to you. The Government have rented these buildings since 1826 I understand, and if so, they have paid at least three times the value of the house, &c., in rent. The house was not a new one when Government first occupied it, so that possibly it may be nearly a century old. If this be the case, it is evident that the day has long gone by when the owners can gather rents undiminished by demands for repair, and that the time has come when, in the natural course of matters, much of the rent must be spent in keeping the buildings in a fit state for habitation.

2. The interests of the estate require that the building be tenanted without diminution of the rent—the interests of the Government require that money be spent on the necessary landlord's repairs : all that I have asked, all that I wish for is, that landlord's repairs shall be made ; that the buildings be placed in a safe and sound state ; and that from time to time the condition of the buildings shall be looked to, and necessary repairs effected. Considerable sums of money have been spent in re-roofing part of the male wards and the female ward, but the former was undertaken by a Native Contractor, *who had no supervision* ; and the latter by a Mechanical Engineer, not by a professional builder. It cannot then be a matter of surprise that much money has been spent to little purpose upon the buildings. The buildings are very extensive and require constant attention, and this they have not had since I became Superintendent of the institution. I have not seen the Receiver to the Estate for a year, and so utterly hopeless am I of getting any thing done that nothing is left me but to bring pressure to bear upon the officials in charge of the estate, through the Head of the Department and Government. The proposal to reduce the rent, on condition that Government undertake the necessary repairs, is a confession of weakness, and shows a desire to transfer to the Government what ought to rest upon the landlord's shoulders.

Yours, &c,
(Signed) G. SMITH.

14th February 1868.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
31st March 1868.*

DEAR DR. SMITH,

The Receiver of Conniah Chetty's Estate has shown me your Memorandum and enclosure relative to the state of the Eye-Infirmiry. I really do not know what to do about it. The amount spent on the repair of these buildings is enormous, and as great part of it was expended under the direction of a professional Engineer, it is difficult to believe that it has been laid out with very bad judgment, or thrown away. Another difficulty is, that Government are not in any way bound to continue in occupation of the premises, and the work you require to be done tends greatly to unfit the buildings for any other purpose than a hospital.

2. Do you think Government would agree to take the premises at a reduced rent, say Rupees 200 a month, and make the necessary repairs themselves.

3. Young Conniah will be of age in about six years, and will probably be glad to do any thing that you or Government may wish, but the Receiver must not go beyond keeping the property, as much as possible, in the same state as that in which it came to his hands.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) J. SHAW.

MADRAS, 10th February 1868.

(True Copy).

(Signed) W. MACKENZIE, M. D.,

Inspector General, Indian

Medical Department.

From the Executive Engineer, No. 1 or Northern Range, to the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, Presidency Division; dated Fort Saint George, 4th February 1868, No. 1739.

In reference to your letter, No. 288, dated 31st ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that, after inspecting the building in question, I am of opinion that, owing to neglect of landlord's repairs, to the roof in particular, the whole of the building on the premises, except the two new latrines, are suffering serious deterioration, and are becoming by degrees less and less adapted for habitation.

2. The place will, if it receive no more attention than it has hitherto received, eventually become a wreck. Roof after roof will rot and fall, and the walls will crack and open out, just as was the case in the bungalow at Locock's Garden, which we have lately restored and rendered habitable.

3. I pointed out to you one roof this morning which should be immediately removed, as it is in an imminently dangerous condition, and may occasion loss of life or limb.

4. You pointed out to me various palpable evidences of decay, which I attribute in every instance to the bad state of the roof and gutters, and the absence of zinc trunks and eave spouts.

5. The roofs should be thoroughly put in order, and the gutters repaired under the orders of some competent person.

6. You informed me that much money had been spent in repairing the building, but notwithstanding this the building bears abundant evidence of decay and commencement of dilapidation, and I have, therefore, no hesitation in stating that the money must have been laid out with very bad judgment, in fact thrown away.

7. The whole of the plaster and paint should be renewed, and the doors and windows set to rights; also floor pointed; at the same time that the roof is looked to.

8. Should the foregoing be at once acted upon, I have no doubt the place will last for an indefinite period, and be fit to be occupied.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
31st March 1868.*

No. 221. From the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 5th March 1868, No. 95.

With advertence to the Order of Government, marginally noted, I have the honor to state that, after communication with the Superintendent of the Eye-Infirmiry, and personal inspection of the Ophthalmic Wards in the General Hospital, I find that these wards are not yet ready for the reception of patients, and that some further delay is therefore inevitable.

2. This delay is attributed by the Superintendent of the Eye-Infirmiry to the dilatory manner in which the fittings of the wards are being prepared.

No. 222. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1868, No. 405.

With regard to the repairs stated in the first of the letters above recorded, to be emergently required to the building rented as an Eye-Infirmiry, the Government direct that an estimate of their cost be immediately prepared in the Public Works Department, and that the Receiver to C. V. Conniah Chetty's Estate be called upon to execute them, or to allow them to be executed by Government, their cost being deducted from the rent.

2. Referring to the second letter, the Government direct that immediate orders be issued in the Public Works Department for the completion of the Ophthalmic Wards in the General Hospital with as little further delay as possible. Explanation will there be called for in regard to the delay which has occurred, and also information as to the date by which the work can be completed.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
,, Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

Public DEPARTMENT.

No. 409.

From *The Inspector Genl. Indian Res. Dept.*Dated *5th March* 1868.FOR ORDERS.

Immediate action should be
 given through the Public
 Works Dept. directing the completion
 of the Ophthalmic wards in the
 General Hospital with as little
 delay as possible. Explanations
 should be called for in regard
 to the delay which has occurred
 and information as to the date by
 which the work can be completed.

In regard to the reports which
are sent to the emergency
committee the following report
as an eye witness, I think that
an estimate of their work should
be immediately prepared and
that the Bureau should be called
upon to execute them and allow
them to be executed by J. B.
their cost being deducted from
the rest.

by G.

I concur

N.

W. H.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from the
Inspector General, Indian Medical
Department

Here enter 15 Feb & 5th March 1868.
No. 41895.

Order. 31st March 1868 No. (405)

With regard to the
repairs stated in the first of
the letters above recorded, to be
urgently required to the build-
ing rented as an Dispensary,
the Government direct that an
estimate of their ~~be~~ immediately
prepared by the Public Works
Department, and the Receiver
to C. V. Coniah Chetty's estate
be called upon to execute them,
or to allow them to be executed
by

Drafting

WDR

by

by Government, their cost being
deducted from the rent.

2. Referring to the second
letter, the Government direct
that immediate orders be
issued in the Public Works De-
partment for the Completion of
the Ophthalmic Wards in the
General Hospital with as
little further delay as possible.
Explanation will there be
called for in regard to the
delay which has occurred, and,
also, information as to the
date by which the work can
be completed.

with a view to the completion of the work
as soon as possible.

The Pub. Works Dept. }
dtd 1/12/91 Insp. Gen. L. H. D. }
dtd 1/12/91 Insp. Gen. L. H. D. }

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No. 405

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 27th March 1868

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