

Public (1899) Department.

ORDINARY M.S.

G.O., No. 453

Dated 20 - 4 - 95

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording from P.W.D.
sancty, with remarks, an estimate
amounting to Rs 17, 600 for additions
alterations to the Secretariat Offices
on Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund.

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22/4/95

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Government {1899} of Madras. PUBLIC WORKS.

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} 1899.

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G.O., No. 967 W., 6th April 1899.

from N^o 453 of 20.4.99

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19.4.99

APRIL.



Secretariat Offices on Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund

Estimate of Rs. 17,660 for additions and alterations to the —, sanctioned, with remarks.

(d) Provision of two wooden staircases on the north and the south of the Revenue Department clerks' room, so that the present main staircase may not be used by the clerks and servants of the Public Works Department.

(e) *Detached Building*.—Addition of a room to the north of the existing library, of the same size as the latter, to be used as a library, the existing library being altered into two rooms, one for use as a tiffin-room for European and Eurasian clerks, and the other as a lumber room.

(f) Alterations and enlargement of the room hitherto in the occupation of the clerks of the Local and Municipal Department, so as to form one large room for the records and the clerks of the Joint Secretary, Irrigation Branch, the room hitherto occupied by the clerks of the Irrigation and the Railway Branches being exclusively reserved for the latter branch.

2. The above additions and alterations will be seen on referring to the plans, and have been designed by the Consulting Architect, after reference to the Chief Secretary and the Secretaries in the Revenue and the Local and Municipal Departments.

3. The original estimate of Rs. 17,700 submitted by the Superintending Engineer has been reduced by the Consulting Architect to Rs. 17,660, and the latter estimate is recommended for sanction.

4. In G.O., No. 376 W., dated 6th February 1899, the Consulting Architect was authorised to proceed with the improvements in anticipation of sanction to the revised estimate, and these are now in an advanced stage of progress. The building will, it is stated by the Consulting Architect, be ready for occupation by the time the Government goes to the Hills.

5. The accommodation proposed for the Public Works Secretariat requires re-arrangement. The room provided for the Chief Assistant, Public Works Department, is too small. He is at Ootacamund for the whole season, and conducts the whole correspondence connected with the Public Works and Marine Departments under the supervision of the Secretary. He is also Secretary to the Sanitary Board. For the efficient and prompt discharge of his duties in both capacities, he requires to have at hand a large reference library, portfolios of plans, stock files, Acts of the Legislature and many papers containing rulings of general importance. Unless his room contains ample space for the methodical and orderly arrangement of these various sources of information, confusion, delay, and probably mistakes are likely to occur in the disposal of the work of the Public Works and Marine Departments of the Government, and the numerous questions laid before the Sanitary Board. Under the proposed arrangement, the Under Secretary, Public Works Department, has to pass through the rooms allotted to the Chief Assistant and the Public Works Department clerks, in order to get to the Secretary's room, which is most inconvenient. The building is too far advanced to make any special alterations in construction, and everything necessary can be done by re-arrangement of the proposed accommodation. The Railway Under Secretary is mainly an inspecting officer, and on this ground is excused signing on behalf of Government, and has not hitherto been provided with a separate room. No separate provision for his accommodation is necessary any more than for the accommodation of the Under Secretary, Irrigation Branch. The following re-arrangement of accommodation is, after careful consideration, therefore proposed, as likely to better meet the interests of all concerned:—

(a) The room marked on the plan for the Joint Secretary, Railway, to be allotted to the two Under Secretaries, Public Works Department and Irrigation, the former Under Secretary being resident on the Hills for five months.

(b) The room marked for the Under Secretary, Railway Branch, to be given to the Chief Assistant, Public Works Department.

(c) The room marked for the Under Secretary, Public Works Department, and that marked C. A. W.'s room to be made over to the Joint Secretary, Railway Branch, to be utilized as he may desire.

6. The above arrangement will not curtail, but will considerably increase, the accommodation which the Joint Secretary, Railway Branch, has hitherto had, the area of the proposed rooms, with the retiring room, being 675 square feet against the existing area of 481 square feet. His Under Secretary will also be close to him. The advantage for the Public Works Secretariat generally will be that its Chief Assistant will have sufficient accommodation and the three Public Works Secretaries will have their assistants within easy reach of them.

(Signed) A. W. SMART, Colonel, R.E.,
Acting Chief Engineer.

11th March 1899.

ORDER—No. 967 W., dated 6th April 1899.

The estimate, amounting to Rs. 17,660, as altered by the Consulting Architect, for additions and alterations to the Secretariat offices on Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund, is sanctioned.

2. The re-arrangement of accommodation, proposed in paragraph 5 of the Chief Engineer's note read above, is approved.

3. A sum of Rs. 9,500 has been allotted to the work in the current official year, and the balance of the estimate will be provided in the final issue of the Provincial Civil Works budget for 1899-1900.

4. The conversion of the existing library in the detached building into two rooms, referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the Chief Engineer's note, should be held in abeyance until after the move of Government to the Hills, when a decision will be arrived at.

5. Of the two retiring rooms, adjacent to the Revenue Department clerks' room, on the lower floor of the main building, the southern one will be allotted for the muchi of that department.

6. Two additional record-racks should be provided for the Local and Municipal Department clerks' room.

7. The sanction accorded in paragraph 1 has been registered as Provincial No. 2 W. of 1899-1900 and classified as Civil Buildings—Original Works.

(True Extract.)

A. K. S. M.
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.

- " Consulting Architect to Government, with seven enclosures.
- " Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
- " Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- " Consulting Engineer for Railways.
- " Public Department.
- " Revenue Department.
- " Local and Municipal Department.

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