M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1583 Press ~~Mis.~~

182-133

Dated 5 & June 1879

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ins

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th June 1869.

No. 132. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

Passing orders on the letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division, furnishing the report called for in G. O., No. 1,135, of 1869, regarding the Talook Cutcherry at Ongole, Nellore District. (Here enter 31st May 1869, No. 1,772.)

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1869, No. 1,593.

Miscellaneous. ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No. 190. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated camp at Puduwadah, 27th April 1869, No. 19 :—

I HAVE the honour to report that, as desired in G. O., No. 1,135, of 7th April, I inspected the Ongole Talook Cutcherry on the 24th instant.

2. The floor was, in plan and estimate, entered as concrete plastered, and was laid in accordance, it was washed once a week or seldomer, and very badly used by people attending Cutcherry, picking at it in their idleness; the marks are quite visible in the prison wards, while in the part occupied by the Police, (which received fairer treatment,) it is perfect. However I have no wish to defend this style of floor: it has been condemned in G. O., No. 2,881, of 9th September 1868. The part occupied by the Cutcherry is already laid with flat bricks, and I have ordered that the remainder of the building should be similarly floored, but I would recommend that even there a good washing be occasionally given, as people will pick at any loose pointing.

3. The roof leaked last August. I do not know why a flat roof should not be expected to leak the first year; I should be surprised if it did not, every inch of timber in it is fresh, not to say green; for we are forbidden to keep any stock, and cannot therefore season our timber. The verandah also leaked in August, for very much the same reason, at the point where it joined the main roof. It was all repaired before the Collector's visit. There has been no rain for some months, and the Tahsildar informed me that he believed it was quite water-tight.

4. Two pillars at the angles of the building were cracked, probably by the bressummers of unseasoned wood straining them. They were shored up when the Collector saw them, not because they were dangerous but because they were to be taken down and a through-stone cap put on, agreeably to estimate forwarded by Mr. Sayce, and sanctioned by Colonel Winscom. One other pillar had a slight plaster crack: there is nothing whatever visible any where else.

5. The gratings mentioned in paragraph 5 are according to the plan. I have as yet failed to discover who designed the building. I have ordered that the entrance to the tower shall be bricked up with a small iron-barred gate to allow access in case of defence from the loop-holes being needed. The cell spoken of in the conclusion is entered in the plan as the "Police Inspector's room;" it was not intended as a cell, for the windows are only three feet from the floor.

6. Mr. Sayce, of whom the Collector writes in paragraph 7, has literally had nothing to do with the building.

Rupees	5,443	15	5	were expended by Mr. O'Connor.
„	5,866	1	7	do. Hasler.
„	36	7	11	cost of locks and bolts, was paid by Mr. Sayce.

7. I know no reason to suppose that Mr. Sayce would not have done his duty properly to the Kanignerry Cutcherry; but I have already removed him from the Range as reported in my No. 1 of 6th April 1869, approved by Government in Order, No. 1,282, dated 7th April 1869. I inspected the building on the 25th January, and was surprised when I compared what I saw with the Collector's remarks.

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1869, No. 1,772.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 124.

THESE papers have reference to the Talook Cutcherry constructed at Ongole on an estimate of Rupees 11,334, sanctioned in G. O., No. 2,493, dated 28th August 1865.

2. The building was completed during the year 1866-67, and in a letter dated 30th June 1867, No. 91, the Acting Sub-Collector reported that "as far as an unprofessional eye can judge" the Cutcherry was "every thing that could be wished." The Collector, however, having recently inspected the building, reported very unfavourably of its state, and his letter having been referred to the Superintending Engineer for such explanations as he might be able to offer after personally examining the Cutcherry, the second of the letters at the head of these Proceedings is his report.

3. It appears that the Cutcherry, though built strictly in accordance with specifications, has not been constructed with sufficiently seasoned timber, and has been floored with the ordinary brick concrete covered simply with a coat of fine plaster. The consequence has been that the roof leaked, the shrinking of the timber over the pillars has caused some of the tops of these to crack so far as to require a flat stone to be let in under the bressummers, and the flooring has been broken up. The latter defect is being remedied by laying the whole of the floors of the building with flat tiles, and the Government will look to the Superintending Engineer to carry out such further repairs as may be necessary to ensure the building being placed in all respects in good condition.

4. The Government are constrained to remark that the use of unseasoned timber in the construction of the building under consideration and the consequent failure of the roof and of two or more of the pillars supporting the verandah are extremely discreditable to the executive agencies employed, and the Superintending Engineer will be warned to use the greatest vigilance to prevent the recurrence of such errors in the buildings in progress in his division.

(True Extract.)

Colonel R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Revenue Department.,

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Clerk
A: 1807.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

2ND DIVISION.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 31*st*.

Recd. 2nd June. *Encl.*

G. O., 31*st May* 1869, *No.* 1,772.

MAY.

Nos. 690-691

Talook Cutcherry at Ongole.—Passing orders on the letter from the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division furnishing the report called for in G. O. No. 1,135 of 1869 regarding the Talook Cutcherry at Ongole, Nellore District.

A: 1593.

RECORDED.

5 June 69