

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th March 1871.*

No. 469. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th March 1871, No. 1,037 :—

Read the following letter from J. A. C. BOSWELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 4th August 1870, No. 3,613.

In my letter, dated 25th August 1869, No. 261, recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 17th September 1869, No. 6,951, I reported the urgent necessity there is for providing additional accommodation and improving the building now used as the Collector's cutcherry at Masulipatam. The Board recommended that Government should authorize the Superintending Engineer to prepare plans and estimates for the work. Before passing orders on the proposed improvements, Government (in Government Order, dated 5th October 1869, No. 2,729, Revenue Department) referred the Board's Proceedings to the Public Works Department, and in Government Order, dated 13th October 1869, No. 3,306, it was found impossible to provide in the out-going Budget for the proposed improvements.

2. I have, therefore, the honour to bring forward the subject again, in the hope that provision may be able to be made for this work in the next Budget, and that meantime the Board will again recommend Government to authorize the Superintending Engineer to prepare plans and estimates for the work. The present accommodation is quite insufficient. Every room is stuffed with records which there is not space enough to arrange, and Clerks and Accountants and Gumastas have to find sitting-room among the almirahs, boxes, etc., as best they can. The supplies of stationery have to lie quite unprotected in the passages, and the treasury-room, where the stamps have to be kept, is so low and dark and confined, that, as I have already reported, a considerable number of stamps have been eaten by white-ants.

3. In my letter to the Board, dated 25th August 1869, No. 261, I briefly stated what were the improvements I would suggest. I beg to forward, herewith, certain plans which I have just received from the Superintending Engineer, which, in his opinion, "carry out the requirements of my letter to the Board more economically than would the construction of other separate apartments." While approving generally of the plans, there are some things which will certainly require to be altered.

Plan A. shows the existing arrangements of the buildings.

Plan B. is the ground-plan of the main building, the treasury, and the separate room which the Superintending Engineer proposes to build for the Cash-keeper, etc.

Plan C. shows the upper storey of the main building, and elevation of its front and side, and of the Cash-keeper's room. I proposed the building of two new rooms, one on each side of the main building, one for English and the other for Vernacular records. Instead of this, Colonel Moberly has proposed to enclose all the verandahs round the main building, and make them into record-rooms. On my pointing out to him that this would entirely shut out light from the inner rooms, and that it was most objectionable that the records should be kept in verandahs, the Superintending Engineer has suggested instead, that the two rooms on each side of the central hall would answer well as record-rooms, and the verandahs (which he suggests may be widened) would be light and airy for the

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cutcherry Writers, etc. In my opinion, this plan would be equally objectionable. By enclosing the verandahs, the inner rooms must be made dark, and light is required in record-rooms as well as in office-rooms. The Clerks, Accountants, and Writers ought to have separate rooms, and not be thrust, in a make-shift manner, into enclosed verandahs. I adhere to my original proposal for building two record-rooms, one upon each side of the main building, and in order that they may not shut out light from the two side rooms to which they will be annexed, I propose that the roofs of the record-rooms shall be lower than the roof of the lower storey of the main building, so that the inner rooms may be lighted by high windows above the height of the roof of the record-rooms.

4. Colonel Moberly's plan is also objectionable for locating the Cash-keeper in a separate room apart from the treasury. The Cash-keeper's room should be the ante-room of the treasury, and the room for the custody of stamps, and the only entrance to each of these should be through the Cash-keeper's room, because, if the cash is in his charge, it is absolutely necessary that he should be able to overlook it, and not be located in a different building. Colonel Moberly's objection to my plans is, as he writes, that it is impossible to attach any respectable building to the existing treasury, the walls of which are only ten feet high. But I would suggest that it would be very desirable to raise the height of the rooms in the lower storey of the treasury building, the flooring between the two storeys is now in an unsafe state, imperilling the safety of the treasury. By removing the upper storey and raising the height of the lower one, the size of the rooms below might also be increased and new apartments added, and the upper storey rebuilt again with the old materials (a great deal of it wood-work). In the present plan, the necessity of a staircase has been overlooked. Further, Colonel Moberly proposes blocking up the present treasury building into a large money-safe, in a separate part of which the stamps and stationery are to be kept. This arrangement would never answer. There must be separate well-ventilated, light, and airy rooms for stamps and stationery, or else they will be liable to suffer from damp, rats, white-ants, etc.

5. The alterations and improvements urgently required in the Press-rooms have not been brought into this plan.

6. The treasury, stamps, and stationery-rooms and the Cashier's, should have their floors of asphalt; indeed, it would be a good arrangement to have all the floors asphalted as has been done recently in the new Noble Memorial School, built by the Church Missionary Society at Masulipatam. The stamps and stationery-rooms should have shelves, tin lined. The record-rooms I can supply with shelves brought up from the old Arsenal.

7. I have also proposed, as the cutcherry is two miles from the town, to build two refreshment-rooms in the compound, one for Brahmins and the other for other castes. I also proposed to have a reservoir of Kistna water built in the compound, a conduit being led from the nearest existing reservoir.

8. In preparing the new plans and estimates, I would suggest that the Superintending Engineer should communicate with me, as the mistakes in the present plan have entirely occurred from his neglecting to regard the suggestions in my letter to the Board, and substituting arrangements which would very materially incommode the office.

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ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 3.—Plans.

THE necessity of making extensive improvements in the cutcherry of the Collector at Masulipatam is obvious. The building is an old Court-house, and was roughly adapted for the Collector after the cyclone in 1864, and its defects were described in the Collector's letter, recorded in the Board's Proceedings disposed of in Government Order, 5th October 1869, No. 2,729.

2. Mr. Boswell proposes to build an upper storey with three rooms, one for himself and one each for two Assistants, to build an additional record-room on each side of the main building, to add rooms for stationery, stamps, and cash, and a Police guard to the treasury building, to enlarge the press-room and to put up two refreshment-rooms and make a reservoir for river-water in the compound of the cutcherry.

3. He submits plans prepared by the Superintending Engineer, but they are far from being satisfactory. The Board at first intended to take the advice of the Government Architect, but they are now of opinion that this would be useless without a more accurate description than they can give of the locality and the present building.

4. They accordingly resolve to recommend Government to authorize the Superintending Engineer to prepare fresh plans and estimates in detail, and to instruct him to do so in consultation with the Collector.

No. 470.

ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1871, No. 585.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve the proposal in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, and desire that it may be carried out; but the utmost economy must be observed in the estimate, as the grant for Civil Buildings is now an absolutely fixed amount included in the permanent provision for Provincial Services, no addition to which can be obtained from the Supreme Government.

2. The Government desire to know how the cutcherry, which was damaged in the cyclone of 1864, is now used, and whether it could not be repaired so as to afford better accommodation at less cost than the proposed improvements to the present cutcherry will provide.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 30th March 1871.

Read the following letter

of the Board of Rev.

Requesting to authorise
Supt. & Engrs. to prepare fresh
plans & estimates for im-
provement of Collector's
Cutcherry at Mannapattanam
in consultation with Collector

18th March 1871,
No. 1037

R.

J. D. S.

A. J.

The Govt. approve
the proposal in para 1
of the Board's Res. and
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14 To the Secy of the Govt with 3 Encls
Decr/21

21 — Mr De Puy

Geo. H. H.

Ms. A. 9. 5. 11. 10

G.D. 72

Influence of
the Gallic Cell
Cherry at Mass.
Lipstone, Mass.
Dec 1872

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