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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 24th January 1873.

No. 501. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 19th December 1872, No. 4,264 :—

In reference to G. O., 9th December 1872, No. 2,906, on the subject of the work to be executed during the current official year towards the restoration of Tiroomal Naick's Palace at Madura, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. In paragraph 2 of the G. O. above quoted, I am directed to see that "the works sanctioned in G. O., No. 1,487, of 15th June, and No. 1,839, of 5th August, are completed in the current year without fail."

3. I have the honour to point out that it is vain to talk of the sums sanctioned in the latter mentioned Government Order being completed this year, inasmuch as the sum entered at Rupees 5,230 for providing iron bars for Tiroomal Naick's bed-room was only approximately arrived at by Mr. Chisholm, as reported by that gentleman, and that the estimate for the same has never been before Government, and indeed is not prepared to this date, for reasons which I shall presently explain.

4. I have already informed the Government, see paragraph 4 of my letter printed with G. O., 26th September 1872, No. 2,286, that it was not until the receipt of G. O., 5th August 1872, that I had ever been informed that Lord Napier's "express instructions" were that the repairs of the hall H H of the lithographed plan were to be the first taken in hand. But from that date to this, I have never been favoured with a copy of His Lordship's instructions to this effect.

5. It is now sixteen or seventeen years since I first reported upon the Madura Palace, and I can confidently aver, from the sketches I made at that period, that that portion of the Palace called Tiroomal Naick's bed-room has, in the interim, suffered less from decay than any other of the damaged parts of the building. While considerable portions of the Palace have, to my knowledge, bodily disappeared.

6. In his letter to Government, under date 10th November 1871, No. 250, the Consulting Architect reported that only lately during heavy rain a large piece of masonry, nearly a ton in weight, fell from one of the side arcades, and that several other portions are in a critical condition. As truly remarked by Mr. Chisholm, occurrences of this kind "are calculated to shake the confidence of the public."

7. It appears to me only my duty to bring this matter to the prominent notice of the Government, in order that they may clearly understand the reasons on which Mr. Chisholm grounds his recommendation to defer, for the present, the tying, with iron-bars, of the hall known as Tiroomal Naick's bed-room.

8. I need scarcely say that I fully concur in this recommendation, and the more so because it is both Mr. Chisholm's and my own opinion that it is not advisable to use, for tie-rods, any other material than galvanized iron. I am confirmed in this belief as I observe that one of the tie-rods of the waggon vault, which were fixed but two years since, bears already the appearance of being considerably corroded. These rods are 50 feet above the level of the ground, and it is not possible to examine them without erecting a special scaffolding for the purpose.

9. Under the instructions of Mr. Chisholm the Palace Overseer has been engaged in taking the necessary measurements for the preparation of an estimate for tying up the whole of the rickety portions of the Palace. This is not only a tedious undertaking, but a matter even of some risk. These measurements will be completed shortly, and will be duly referred to the Government Architect, and I trust that the Government will permit that gentleman to indent on the India Office for the supply of the galvanized iron bars required, to be debited to the Palace allotment for next year.

10. I am in hopes that, after the above explanation, the Government will be pleased to sanction the suggestions contained in Mr. Chisholm's letter, printed with the G. O. under reply.

11. In paragraph 2 of this G. O. my attention, as also Mr. Chisholm's, is "again called" to the necessity of "systematic co-operation of all parties concerned in working out the details of the Madura Palace Works." I am quite at a loss to understand to what this refers, or, in what way this co-operation has at any time been disregarded by me, or, I may add, by Mr. Chisholm.

12. I think it only right to mention here how scrupulous the Government Architect has always appeared to me to be to conform in every particular to the allotments of available space mapped out by Lord Napier. And it may be conceded that on those occasions, where Mr. Chisholm has recommended a deviation from that allotment, he has done so on grounds which, in his opinion, would have met with Lord Napier's entire approval.

13. It must be remembered that the allotments in question were such as appeared to Lord Napier advisable when the whole Palace was completed. At the same time his Lordship was particularly anxious, for he personally expressed to me his wish to this effect, to bring into actual occupation, as speedily as possible, such portions of the Palace as could be most readily rendered available for that purpose, in order to prove practically the real value of the restoration works. It was with this latter view that when called upon by the Collector to allot sites for the Post Office, the Range Office, and the Deputy Collector's Office, Mr. Chisholm and myself selected the only available portions of the Palace which were in sufficiently good order to admit of their being used as such.

14. Moreover, Mr. Chisholm's designs for these offices are of a nature to admit of the materials being removed and utilized in other parts of the building at a comparatively trifling cost, should it be considered hereafter desirable to alter the location of any one or other of these offices.

15. There is now no longer any question of locating the Post Office in the Palace. But as regards the Range Officer and the Deputy Collector, they have a claim for accommodation, inasmuch as their offices have been sold over their heads. At the time that Lord Napier drew up his scheme of allotment, there was an officer of the Forest Department resident at Madura, but that gentleman has subsequently been removed, so that no legitimate exception can be taken to the withdrawal of a portion of the occupation originally provided for the Forest Department and now not required, in favour of the Deputy Collector, who is much in need of the same. As regards the proposed Range Office, I am quite unable to understand on what grounds its construction where proposed by Mr. Chisholm

was "prohibited" in G. O., 25th November 1872, No. 2,768. Certain spaces were marked off in Lord Napier's plan for the Public Works Department and Public Works Stores respectively. The former space is roofed by a dome (C^2) 80 feet high. This dome and its arcade "B" are, however, in a perilous condition, and at the present rate of progress four or five years must elapse before they are rendered fit for occupation. As the Range Office Store, which occupies one corner of the space allotted for Public Works Stores, is at present sufficiently capacious for all such stores, it was deemed advisable by Mr. Chisholm and myself to select for the Range Office the available space contiguous to that store on its west side. In thus utilizing the space mapped out for occupation by this department, I feel quite unconscious in what manner we have incurred the censure of the Government.

16. With regard to the verandah for the new Court for the Judge, I am of opinion that without it the Court will become a perfect oven, and will be simply unbearable. Indeed, I do not see how we can expect the Judge to take it over without the provision of a verandah, for in its absence there is no shelter available for either peons or witnesses. I am most strongly of opinion, therefore, that nothing should interfere with the immediate construction of this verandah.

17. In consideration of the various points above touched upon, I trust that objection will no longer be taken to the joint recommendations of the Government Architect and myself. These services are as follow:—

	Rs.
Restoring lower portion of waggon vault	1,200
Completing A	4,560
Range Office	1,270
Deputy Collector's Office	1,740
Verandah to new Court (approximate)	1,500
Purchase of houses	3,200
Total...	13,470
Pay of Establishment	1,750
Grand Total...	15,220

The sums available are in round numbers—

(*a.*) Allotment for the year	10,000
(*b.*) Do. in G. O., 31st October 1872, No. 1,481, in the Revenue Department	2,480
(*c.*) Sale of old Range Office, etc.	5,350
(*d.*) Do. materials of houses purchased	500
Grand Total...	18,330
Available balance...	3,110

18. I am of opinion that this balance could best be expended in completing the accommodation for the Collector, see paragraph 7 of Mr. Chisholm's letter printed with the G. O. under reply, and should this suggestion be approved an estimate will be duly submitted. I have the honour in conclusion to request, as the year is fast gliding by, that I may be favoured with the early instructions of Government as to the work to be actually carried out to the Palace during the remainder of the year.

No. 502. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1873, No. 243.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 23.

IN Lord Napier's Minute recorded with G. O., No. 69 of 11th January 1872, it is laid down in Section IX. that "the annual grant of Rupees 10,000 for the year 1872-73 should be exclusively appropriated for the repairs and security of the most ruinous parts of Tiroomal Naick's Palace at Madura," and in Section XXI. that it be "used for the repair of those portions of the building which might at any time collapse under the influence of the weather."

2. In the same Minute was laid down a fixed plan for appropriating various portions of the building for public purposes without imposing any further charge on the revenue, namely, by selling certain existing buildings and appropriating their proceeds for the purpose in view. The above instructions were communicated to Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts and Mr. Chisholm for their guidance.

3. Under the impression that those gentlemen had conformed to His Lordship's wishes, of which they were, moreover, presumed to have been informed by him personally, His Excellency the Governor in Council under dates the 15th June and 5th August 1872, sanctioned estimates, amounting to Rupees 7,250, for completing the restoration of the waggon vaulted vestibule, and of the octagonal domed room and others adjacent to it, destined for the Collector's accommodation, and to Rupees 5,230 stated as the cost of tie-bars for the roof of the hall destined to be the Judge's Court-house. It is with great regret that His Excellency in Council now learns not only that the so-called estimate of Rupees 5,230 had no existence in fact, but that it is not until Mr. Chisholm's late visit to Madura that any steps whatever have been taken towards carrying out Lord Napier's express injunctions to provide "for the repairs and security of the most ruinous parts of the building" as a first charge on the annual allotment of Rupees 10,000, although Mr. Chisholm himself recorded his opinion in November 1871 that "no more money should be spent on decorative works until the whole structure is rendered safe and durable."

4. Under these circumstances, there appears to be no alternative but to reduce the annual grant of Rupees 10,000, increased to Rupees 12,480 by Financial Order, No. 1,481, of 31st October, to a sum sufficient to meet the following items enumerated by Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, namely,—

	RS.
Restoration of waggon vault	1,200
Completing Collector's private room	4,560
Pay of Establishment	1,750
Total...	7,510

5. The object that the Government have especially in view at present being, that the building should be utilized for offices as speedily as possible, the objection said to be raised by the Judge to the occupation of the room assigned to him, because of the want of a verandah, cannot be admitted. A temporary verandah or substantial pandal will be at once put up, which will answer all purposes until the recess admits of constructing the permanent verandah. This expedient

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will enable the present Collector's Cutcherry to be sold, and in order that the proceeds may be speedily realized, the Judge will be informed, in the Judicial Department, that the Government attach importance to his immediately occupying his new quarters in order that the Collector may be thereby enabled to vacate his present office.

6. The balance of Rupees 2,650 is all that is immediately available from sale proceeds of old buildings, but it is ample to carry out all that can be done before next official year when other funds will be available, either towards building the verandah, the Range Office, or the Deputy Collector's Office. All that is wanted are estimates for the first two, and the Collector's countersignature for the third, when they may be sanctioned and carried on to completion without delay. The sites now selected for the two latter buildings are unobjectionable; all that the Government objected to was Mr. Chisholm's proposal to place the Range Office at F on the plan submitted by him, a space corresponding with that set apart by Lord Napier for a waiting hall.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
To R. F. Chisholm, Esq.
To the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings.
,, Judicial Department.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Revenue Dept
No. 252.

Govt. of [1873] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, MADURA.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 24th.

Read 28th Inst.

G. O., 24th January 1873, No. 213.

JANUARY
Nos. 501-502

13. Board's Rev Dec 31st Jany 73

Tiroomal Naick's Palace.—Passing orders on a report from the District Engineer relative to the restoration of Tiroomal Naick's Palace at Madura.

R/-179

29th Jan 73.