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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

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Dated	12-12-1878	197

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

25th November 1878, No. 4,488 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following papers :—

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I HAVE the honor to forward plans and estimates, the latter amounting to Rupees 2,66,660, for constructing a Government House at Upper Norwood at Ootacamund.

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| 2. Tracings of kitchen, stores, &c. | |
| 3. Two rolls of detailed tracings showing sections on Lines A, B, C, D, E, F, and G H. | |

No. 272-A. Memorandum by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

THE Chief Engineer has already pointed out that the high rates for labor and materials on the hills cannot be avoided. In 1859 Colonel Lawford, R.E., was deputed by Government to examine the existing data at Wellington, and after going very closely into the whole question he is said to have found it necessary to raise most of the rates. Since that time the rates of labor have risen with the prices of

food to what they are now.* But few of the indigenous tribes ever became artificers; these have, therefore, to be mostly imported from the plains, as is also the case in reference to ordinary laborers when large works are undertaken. The rates of course are affected by the expense of living on the hills and the exceptional climate, frequent and great loss accruing from wet days, &c., thus the unit of all data, the laborers, being expensive, material is naturally so.

2. Then again in the matter of lime, none is locally obtainable. The stone has to be quarried some 45 or 50 miles from Ootacamund carried here 6,500 feet above the quarries, at considerable expense, while the firewood to burn it is very dear. Contractors will not carry burnt lime, as it injures their cattle. Sand again is obtained with difficulty, in small quantities, at great cost.

3. No respectable contractors are forthcoming on the hills, and the native-manufactured bricks are infamous, spongy, half-burnt, ill-shaped things, half of which disappear in loading, unloading, and from the mere jar of the carts. The cost of carriage is another expensive item due to the high rates of labor, the heavy cost of bullocks, and the small loads the carts take, in comparison with what they carry in the plains.†

† Vide Table D attached.

4. Teak has to come from the Mudamallai Forest, between 30 and 40 miles from Ootacamund, to which it has to be lifted some 3,000 or 4,000 feet. Attempts have been made to obtain timber in scantlings direct from the forest, but have been unsuccessful in consequence of the extreme unhealthiness of that locality. The Public Works Department have nothing to do with price charged all round for teak by the Forest Department, and although the Public Works Department have sent selected and marked beams in the forest, it is found a very

difficult task to get the Forest Department carriage contractors to cart up beams so marked.‡ Experience shows that the timber coming from Mudamallai has not

improved, and that for every foot of timber actually placed in a building *quite two*

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* During 1877-78 Rupees 35,000 (34,890-5-0) annually work so done amounts to large sums.* The District Engineer is compelled to take up such in order that

he may find employment for the skilled artificers when no Government work is in hand, and that he may retain his workpeople who would otherwise be off to the plains and be not available when required.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21st November 1878.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

P.S.—An extract from notes supplied by District Engineer to Mr. Grigg for his forthcoming manual is appended (H). Detailed data of work at the Lawrence Asylums (E) and at Norwood (F) are attached, and also a memorandum explaining certain exceptional circumstances (G).

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2. The excessive charge for teak supplied by the Forest Department, and the great wastage incurred thereon will be brought to the notice of the Conservator of Forests. The Government cannot but come to the conclusion that in this way a purely fictitious revenue has been and is made to appear in the accounts of one Government Department, and correspondingly shown as a debit in the accounts of another.

3. The extremely high scale of rates generally has also attracted the attention of Government. The District Engineer will obtain tenders for future supplies needed, and only purchase from Forest Department when their price does not exceed the prices so obtained, and their conditions as to quantity and quality are equally favorable.

4. The Examiner is authorised to pass the expenditure incurred prior to this official year. The expenditure to date since 1st April has been covered by appropriations; and the question of supplementing these grants is now under consideration in the Financial Department.

5. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 143 B of 1878-79.

(True Extract.)

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Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle.
" Consulting Architect.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.
" Financial
" Private Secretary to His Grace the Governor.

Ed. C. Howarth.

20 Spare Copies

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Spare Copies

12: Dec 80

16 For the Casses at Long Forests Dec 13 Dec 17

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of 1878 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FOURTH CIRCLE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 25th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 25th November 1878, No. 4,488 W.

NOVEMBER

Nos. 272-273.

Missio 3016 of 12 Dec 78

*Comd to Commr of Forests
for report with reference
to the price of timber.*

Government House at Upper Norwood,
Ootacamund.—Sanctions with remarks
plans and estimates for a —

Revenue Department

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

N^o 5221

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FOURTH CIRCLE.

&c., &c., &c.

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Issued

Recd. 10 *Cumley* Encl.

G. O., 25th November 1878, No. 4,488 W.

NOVEMBER

Nos. 272-273.

N^o 7516

*Commence to the Committee
of Encls for report on para 2*

Government House of Upper Norwood,
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12th Cumley 78