

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 83.

The following Report on Public Works Department Stores, which was laid before the Legislative Council on the 23rd instant, is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 25th February, 1898.

Public Works Department,  
*No. 1.*

PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE,  
HONGKONG, 5th January, 1898.

“STORE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.”

SIR,—The necessity for proper store accommodation for the use of the Public Works Department, in some fairly central site, has been more than once brought to the attention of Government, but as nothing has been done yet to meet this undoubted want, it seems scarcely necessary to refer to previous files, and I have the honour now to bring the matter to your notice hoping that it may be possible to bring it to a definite issue.

2. The question was dealt with by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to report on the condition of Public Offices, from which subject, however, I think it should now be dissociated as it really stands on a quite different footing.

3. Paragraph 14 of the Report of that Committee describes the present accommodation used by the Department, which I here again enumerate.

The Public Works Department Stores are now located in three separate buildings, viz., Crosby Store, No. 3A Blue Buildings, and at Wanchai Store on Government land reclaimed from the fore-shore, in addition to which a small store is maintained at No. 2 Tank in connection with the workshop there, and some goods are also stored opposite the Sailors' Home.

4. Crosby Store occupies an area of 4,131 square feet and the old Education Offices (forming part of the same building but now unsafe and unoccupied) an area of 6,947 square feet, a total of 11,078 square feet of most valuable land in the heart of the City.

These buildings are in such a dilapidated condition as to be positively unsafe, rendering their use as stores very limited, and should they collapse, likely to lead to considerable loss of the property stored there. I estimate that less than one-third of the space is capable of being used.

The site is probably as valuable as any in the City, and I have little doubt would sell now for over \$12 a square foot, and thus bring in \$133,000, to Government.

5. The store in Blue Buildings is rented by Government from the Land Investment Company at an annual rental of \$949.20 including taxes.

6. The store at Wanchai on the Reclamation in front of Marine Lots 117 and 118 Praya East, though very small, is undoubtedly the most conveniently situated store we possess, and on this site I would recommend the erection of a suitable permanent building to contain all our stores, and a small residence for a storekeeper with accommodation for our workshops.

7. The present staff employed in connection with our Store Department are as follows:—

|                             |         |             |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Head Storekeeper,.....      | \$60.00 | per mensem. |
| Clerk, .....                | 10.00   | ”           |
| Four Store Coolies,.....    | 33.00   | ”           |
| One Watchman, .....         | 7.00    | ”           |
| Six Do., .....              | 36.00   | ”           |
| One Indian Constable, ..... | 13.50   | ”           |
|                             | —————   | \$159.50    |

or \$1,914.00 per annum.

With all our stores concentrated in one place I would consider the following staff ample:—

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Head Storekeeper (to do clerk's work also),..... | \$70.00 |
| Two Store Coolies \$10 and \$7, .....            | 17.00   |
| Two Watchmen \$7,.....                           | 14.00   |

—————  
\$101.00

or \$1,212.00 per annum.

8. The store at Wanchai is in a convenient position as regards our work; it is within a mile of the Office, has water carriage up to the entrance, and on portion of the site the workshops and small connected store now on No. 2 Tank near Taipingshan can be transferred.

9. I have gone over the existing stores and noted the space now occupied, and what our maximum requirements in that respect are likely to be, and have come to the conclusion that a building 110 feet by 35 feet with 2 floors will be sufficient. There should be also an open shed for non-perishable articles which should, however, be under cover, and a residence for the storekeeper; and I estimate the total cost will not exceed \$18,191.00 as per enclosed particulars.

10. The saving to Government by carrying out this proposal would be as follows:—

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Annual cost of present staff, .....     | \$1,914.00                    |
| Rent paid for Blue Buildings, .....     | 949.20                        |
|   | <u>\$2,863.20</u>             |
| Deduct cost of proposed new staff,..... | 1,212.00                      |
|   | <u>Saving,.....\$1,651.20</u> |

which capitalized may be taken to represent about \$33,000.00.

11. I do not refer to the large sum that is certain to be realized by the sale of Crosby Store and adjoining premises, as I have in another paper proposed devoting the money so realized to the construction of new Public Offices, nor do I refer to the fact that it was at one time proposed to reserve a most valuable site on the new Reclamation opposite the Sailors' Home for Public Works Department Stores, as my proposal seems on its own merits to be so evidently a advantageous and a saving to Government as to warrant its early sanction.

12. In conclusion, I submit for the approval of His Excellency the Governor that I be authorized to lay this proposal before the Public Works Committee, and, if it meets with approval, proceed at once with the work, the necessary funds being provided by a special supplementary vote.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. D. ORMSBY,  
*Director of Public Works.*

The Honourable  
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

HONGKONG PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

| ESTIMATE SPECIFICATION.   | ITEMS OF ESTIMATE.                              | QUANTITY. | RATE.    |        | AMOUNT. |          | TOTAL.             |    |
|---|---|-----------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------------------|----|
|   |   |           | \$       | c.     | \$      | c.       | \$                 | c. |
| This Estimate provides for the construction of a Public Works Department Store at Wanchai, and a Storekeeper's residence with connected Offices, also for covered sheds and a workshop, in accordance with detailed plans and specifications. | No. 1 STORE.                                    |           |          |        |         |          |                    |    |
|   | Excavation for foundations, .....               | 37        | cubes.   | .74    |         | 27.38    |                    |    |
|   | Cement concrete in foundations, .....           | 15.25     | "        | 30.00  |         | 457.50   |                    |    |
|   | Do. in surfacing, .....                         | 34        | squares. | 11.00  |         | 374.00   |                    |    |
|   | Granite masonry, dressed beds and joints, ..... | 15.25     | cubes.   | 65.00  |         | 991.25   |                    |    |
|   | Do. moulded, .....                              | 2.50      | "        | 80.00  |         | 200.00   |                    |    |
|   | Brickwork in lime mortar, .....                 | 80        | "        | 23.00  |         | 1,840.00 |                    |    |
|   | Do. in cement mortar, arches, .....             | 2         | "        | 28.00  |         | 56.00    |                    |    |
|   | Tiled roofing complete, .....                   | 43        | squares. | 20.00  |         | 860.00   |                    |    |
|   | Superficial feet of glazed windows, .....       | 162       | "        | .40    |         | 64.80    |                    |    |
|   | Do. braced and ledged doors, .....              | 520       | "        | .42    |         | 218.40   |                    |    |
|   | Roof trusses complete, .....                    | 10        | "        | 35.00  |         | 350.00   |                    |    |
|   | Planked flooring complete, .....                | 34.25     | "        | 28.50  |         | 976.12   |                    |    |
|   | Allow for staircase, .....                      |           |          |        |         | 60.00    |                    |    |
|   | Steel joists,.....                              | 6.25      | tons.    | 200.00 |         | 1,250.00 |                    |    |
|   | Cast iron gutters, .....                        | 225       | feet.    | .24    |         | 54.00    |                    |    |
|   | Down pipes including c. i. heads,.....          | 100       | "        | .40    |         | 40.00    |                    |    |
|   | Oiling woodwork, .....                          | 39.25     | squares. | 2.00   |         | 78.50    |                    |    |
|   | Painting 3 coats, .....                         | 16.50     | "        | 3.30   |         | 54.45    |                    |    |
|   | Tarring 2 coats, .....                          | 198       | "        | 1.40   |         | 277.20   |                    |    |
| Black-varnishing 2 coats,.....  | 4.50  | "         | 2.00     |        | 9.00    |          |                    |    |
| White-washing 3 coats,.....   | 160   | "         | .30      |        | 48.00   |          |                    |    |
|   |   |           |          |        |         | 8,286.60 |                    |    |
|   |   |           |          |        |         |          | 828.40             |    |
|   |   |           |          |        |         |          | <u>\$ 9,115.00</u> |    |

HONGKONG PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,—Continued.

| ESTIMATE SPECIFICATION.   | ITEMS OF ESTIMATE.                  | QUANTITY.                                       | RATE.          | AMOUNT.      | TOTAL.         |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| This Estimate provides for the construction of a Public Works Department Store at Wanchai, and a Storekeeper's residence with connected Offices, also for covered sheds and a workshop, in accordance with detailed plans and specifications. | <i>Brought forward</i> , .....      |   |                |              | \$9,115.00     |             |
|   | <b>No. 2 STOREKEEPER'S HOUSE.</b>   |   |                |              |                |             |
|   |                                     | Excavation for foundations, .....               | 24.50 cubes.   | \$ c.<br>.74 | \$ c.<br>18.13 |             |
|   |                                     | Cement concrete in foundations, .....           | 12.25 "        | 30.00        | 367.50         |             |
|   |                                     | Do. in flooring of verandah, .....              | 1.25 "         | 32.00        | 40.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Do. in surfacing, .....                         | 13.75 squares. | 11.00        | 151.25         |             |
|   |                                     | Granite masonry, dressed beds and joints, ..... | 7 cubes.       | 65.00        | 455.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Do. moulded, .....                              | 2.50 "         | 80.00        | 200.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Brickwork in lime mortar, .....                 | 60 "           | 23.00        | 1,380.00       |             |
|   |                                     | Do. in cement mortar, .....                     | 5 "            | 28.00        | 140.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Tiled roofing complete, .....                   | 14 squares.    | 20.00        | 280.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Superficial feet of glazed windows, .....       | 120 "          | .42          | 50.40          |             |
|   |                                     | Do. do. with jalousies, .....                   | 135 "          | .80          | 108.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Do. of braced and ledged doors, .....           | 300 "          | .50          | 150.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Roof trusses complete, .....                    | 2 "            | 20.00        | 40.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Planked flooring complete, .....                | 8.50 "         | 35.00        | 297.50         |             |
|   |                                     | Allow for staircase, .....                      | .....          | ...          | 30.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Do. mantle piece, .....                         | .....          | ...          | 25.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Stoneware pipes 9" diameter, .....              | 25 feet.       | 1.20         | 30.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Do. 6" do., .....                               | 100 "          | 1.00         | 100.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Manholes complete, .....                        | 1 "            | 15.00        | 15.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Traps complete, .....                           | 2 "            | 4.00         | 8.00           |             |
|   |                                     | Steel joists, .....                             | 0.50 tons.     | 200.00       | 100.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Verandah railings, .....                        | 1.25 squares.  | 50.00        | 62.50          |             |
|   |                                     | Cast iron eaves gutters, .....                  | 100 feet.      | .24          | 24.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Down pipes including heads, etc., .....         | 150 "          | .40          | 60.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Ceiling, .....                                  | 6.50 squares.  | 12.00        | 78.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Plastering, .....                               | 20.50 "        | 4.00         | 82.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Oiling woodworks, .....                         | 8.50 "         | 2.00         | 17.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Painting 3 coats, .....                         | 22 "           | 3.30         | 72.60          |             |
|   |                                     | Tarring 2 coats, .....                          | 21 "           | 1.40         | 29.40          |             |
|   |                                     | Black-varnishing 2 coats, .....                 | 4 "            | 2.00         | 8.00           |             |
|   |                                     | White-washing 3 coats, .....                    | 37.25 "        | .30          | 11.17          |             |
|   |                                     |   |                |              | 4,430.45       |             |
|   |                                     |   |                |              | 443.55         |             |
|   |                                     | <b>No. 3 SHEDS AND WORKSHOP.</b>                |                |              |                | \$ 4,874.00 |
|   |                                     | Excavation in foundations, .....                | 11.25 cubes.   | .74          | 8.33           |             |
|   |                                     | Cement concrete in foundations, .....           | 3 "            | 30.00        | 90.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Do. in surfacing, .....                         | 33.50 squares. | 11.00        | 368.50         |             |
|   |                                     | Do. channels, .....                             | 900 feet.      | .17½         | 157.50         |             |
|   |                                     | Brickwork in lime mortar, .....                 | 10 cubes.      | 23.00        | 230.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Do. in cement mortar, .....                     | 2 "            | 28.00        | 56.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Granite masonry, moulded, .....                 | 1.50 "         | 80.00        | 120.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Tiled roofing complete, .....                   | 32.50 squares. | 25.00        | 812.50         |             |
|   |                                     | Roof trusses complete, .....                    | 25 "           | 12.00        | 300.00         |             |
|   |                                     | Lead gutters, .....                             | 250 feet.      | .30          | 75.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Cast iron eaves gutters, .....                  | 225 "          | .24          | 54.00          |             |
|   |                                     | Down pipes including heads, etc., .....         | 150 "          | .40          | 60.00          |             |
|   | Tarring 2 coats, .....              | 47 squares.                                     | 1.40           | 65.80        |                |             |
|   | Black-varnishing 2 coats, .....     | 3.50 "  | 2.00           | 7.00         |                |             |
|   | White-washing 3 coats, .....        | 103 "   | .30            | 30.90        |                |             |
|   |                                     |   |                | 2,435.53     |                |             |
|   |                                     |   |                | 243.47       |                |             |
|   | <b>No. 4 YARD.</b>                  |   |                |              | \$ 2,679.00    |             |
|   | Excavation, .....                   | 17.50 cubes.                                    | .74            | 12.95        |                |             |
|   | Cement concrete in surfacing, ..... | 52 squares.                                     | 11.00          | 572.00       |                |             |
|   | Allow for drainage, .....           | .....   | ...            | 800.00       |                |             |
|   |                                     |   |                | 1,384.95     |                |             |
|   |                                     |   |                | 138.05       |                |             |
|   | <b>Contingencies 10 %</b> , .....   |   |                |              | \$ 1,523.00    |             |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b> , .....                |   |                |              | \$ 18,191.00   |             |

R. D. ORMSBY,  
Director of Public Works.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1898.