

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1124

Press

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67-68

Dated

1-9-1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 1st September 1857.

No. 67. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated 13th August 1857, No. 336.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the District Engineer of Bellary, together with a copy of a plan for the Central Prison at that station.

2. It will be observed, that I have arranged the second class cells, intended for occupation by day only, in blocks radial to the centre, this appeared to me a proper measure of economy which will not be attended with any disadvantage.

3. The Bellary Prison is liable to be excessively crowded in years of scarcity, and it is true that the building represented does not provide sufficient accommodation in cells, for these occurrences, but I may remark, 1st, that a very large number of the prisoners in such cases are on security only, others are hardly subjects for severe penal discipline, (indeed as a Judicial Officer I should have been inclined to depart from the ordinary course, and treat such cases with severe flogging and a short imprisonment.) I should be able to provide for such on the emergency, should such ever again occur.

4. I believe the prisoners may, at Bellary, contribute largely to the cost of the building, and I have requested the Engineer's attention to this.

5. The cells at Cuddapah were constructed for 110 Rupees each for large cells. I observed at Bellary that granite slabs were procurable, and I hope that the cost will be moderate.

6. Should the Government approve this plan, I will furnish the same to the Engineer at Trichinopoly, though under existing circumstances, I am disposed to recommend that the present Prison there should be suited to the purpose, which may be done; as I presume the District Engineer will now have leisure, it may be as well that the Government should know the relative cost of building a new Prison or altering the present one.

7. The plan now sent is that I proposed for Vizagapatam.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to the District Engineer of Bellary, dated Ootacamund, 13th August 1857, No. 335.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 22nd Ultimo, requesting instructions as to the Jail proposed for Bellary, and suggesting Gooty as a suitable locality, I have the honor to state that as there must be a Jail at Bellary, it seems undesirable to select Gooty for the purpose, especially as it would involve the necessity for having a distinct medical charge, and it would be placed beyond the reach of the officer in whom the control is at present vested.

2. The Jail is intended to be constructed at Bellary, and should be calculated for 350 prisoners with separate cells for each. The Jail should be capable of extension as experience has shewn, that the demand for Jail accommodation at Bellary is excessive after years of scarcity.

3. The plan which the Government have approved is that which is known as the Panopticon, in which, from a common centre, the action of every individual is under constant observation. The general design of such a building is shewn in the appendix to my report, a copy of which is furnished for your information: you will there see the object with which the Prison is designed. Plans are given of several details. It is of course open to the Engineer Officer to adopt such economical arrangements, in construction, as local circumstances may render desirable, provided they do not interfere with the requisites of the Prison.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 1st September 1857.

4. It might be well in constructing a Prison at Bellary, to use stone for the whole lower story, the roofs being formed of stone slabs covered with "jelly," such cells have been lately formed at Cuddapah, at a cost of I believe 110 Rs. each.

5. I proposed that the larger cells, in which the prisoners are confined day and night, should have a capacity of 840 cubic feet, the smaller cells in which no labor is done, containing about 520 cubic feet.

6. It is essential that the full sized cells should be arranged radial to the common centre. The smaller cells may be more economically placed in a double range, the division-wall being radial to the centre, which will be more economical.

7. The entrance may be conveniently arranged as shewn in the enclosed plan No. 2.

8. It may be well to arrange for defence of the building, by round towers at the alternate angles, with entrances from the inside of the Prison, it would also be as well that the central building and entrance should be suited for defence against an attack from without; with the same object the windows of the guard-room and office at the entrance should be built up to four feet from the floor, this with 2 feet basement, will raise it to 6 feet in height outside.

9. Should the Jail be constructed as I now propose, the three blocks, forming segments of circles, might each contain 50 cells, on two floors, or 150 cells in all, the 2 ranges placed radially, would each contain two cells for every 7 feet in length, two such ranges would then, if 173 feet in length, contain, on one floor, 50 cells each.

10. I do not take into account the cells next the entrance, as they are intended for hospital and insane patients and other occasional inmates.

11. The arrangement of having the building on 2 floors, I have proposed, as the most economical, but should you find that the extension of the area enclosed, permitted the erection of the building, more particularly the ranges of cells placed radially to the centre, on one floor, at no great increase of cost, that arrangement would be preferable, as allowing of a second story being added, should the accommodation be found insufficient.

12. All outer walls should be 16 feet high, and no lower wall acting as a stepping-stone should be placed against them.

13. In the Bellary climate, ventilating bricks on a level with the floor in the back of the cells, might be substituted for the larger ventilators shewn.

14. In the ranges of smaller cells, which have not access at the back to the outer air, pottery pipes or chimneys, 7 inches in diameter with an opening in the roof at the back of the cells, should be arranged, to carry off the foul air. Chimney ventilators should also be fixed at the back of the upper range of small cells. Plans of doors are given in the end of my report; for the Bellary climate, 2½ feet would be sufficient width for the smaller cells, and 3 feet for the larger cells.

15. The rules at the close of my report for construction and repair of Jail buildings, should meet with consideration.

16. In preparing the estimates, the amount which may be saved to my department by employing convict labor, should be stated, the exact work which they might perform, and its cost being specified.

17. I forward a copy of this letter and of the plan to Government, in order that any remarks the Government may make, may be communicated.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 1st September 1857.

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, No. 1124; dated 1st September 1857.

The Inspector of Prisons forwards a plan for the second of the five Central Jails, which is to be erected at Bellary. The plan is the same as that for Vizagapatam; vide Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 719, dated 24th June last. It is approved, and the Inspector will call upon the District Engineer for an estimate of the cost, which, it is observed, will be partly met by Convict labour.

2. Trichinopoly is another of the stations selected for the site of a Central Jail. Mr. Rohde is of opinion that the present Prison there can be turned into a Central Jail on the plan now approved at a less expense than would attend the erection of an entirely new structure. The District Engineer will furnish estimates accordingly for both schemes.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

2nd. F. Cartledge.

*To the Inspector of Prisons
with a plan. Sept 8th
Sub-Master of Jail*

*estimates accordingly for both
schemes. L.R.C. 20-2-57.*

Central Jail
Bellary

Judicial Sep 6

No 1124

E.M.C. D/ 1st Sept^r 1857

Read the following letter } here enter No 336
from the Inspector of Prisons. } D/ 13th August/57.

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D.E. 26-8-57.

To the Inspector of Prisons }
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Dec 22 to Aug 24 D. n.
no 3/9/1857
Dane 58.

Dec 1st 1857
Judicial 1857. Chaparral

No 1124

Dr. Hume Davis

dated 1st Aug 1857
Dr. 932/59
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67468

24 Aug
1857