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M.R.O. 14-5,450-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 117 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 27-1-1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 27th January 1857.

No. 61. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Works Department, dated 12th January 1857.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 5th January 1857, No. 9280.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. H. ATKINSON, Superintending Engineer, Presidency Division; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 22nd December 1856, No. 985.

SIR,

In reply to your Resolution, No. 8582, of the 3rd Instant, appended to the Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 2226, of the 28th Ultimo, I have the honor to state that it is not in my power to name any thing more decided as to the earliest date of completion of the 4 Cells for European Convicts, than what was mentioned in my letter of the 10th Ultimo, viz. that D. V. they should be ready in 4 months' time from that date, which I still adhere to, although the subsequent weather both in last and this month has not permitted much to be done beyond laying the foundation and going on with the timber and iron work, which has been handed over to a respectable Contractor, Mr. Williams of the Mount Road, that it might be executed on the spot without interruption from other works.

2. It is perhaps just as well that there has been this much of delay, as any fresh masonry work exposed to the late rains, would inevitably have been destroyed or rendered useless and in further deprecation of the displeasure of Government at the lapse of time since their first orders for the Cells, I would beg to state that although they were ordered to be built on emergency, yet as no plan was furnished to me, I was obliged to devise one in communication with Colonel Boulderson. And as the Penitentiary buildings were never constructed with this view, and the inner space had become quite destroyed with the new rope walk stretching right across the enclosure besides the former out-buildings, some deliberation was requisite to have a suitable structure for the Cells, and which was not attained at once as no fewer than three plans were prepared and successively approved of by Colonel Boulderson, but to the first of which I was all along opposed, it being in my opinion too much of a makeshift.

3. The 3rd and present one which is under execution consists of an upper building to one of the Native Wards to which there is a Verandah, and of course one below to support it. Which lower one will form a portion of the future Verandah to extend from east to west, which has been for years recommended, there being no shelter from the sun or rain for the Officers of the establishment, in traversing the several hundred feet space from one end to the other.

4. Altogether my object has been to do nothing unadvisedly or without proper consideration, so as to avoid on the one hand wasting public money or on the other the constructing of unsuitable places.

Resolved with reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 2226, dated 28th November 1856, to forward for the information of Government copy of the foregoing letter, No. 985, dated the 22nd Ultimo, from the Superintending Engineer, Presidency Division.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

Ordered to be communicated to the Judicial Department with reference to Extract Minute of Consultation in that Department, dated 17th November last, No. 1251.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 117.

No. 62. Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

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Lt Fifth Cons 27th January 1857.
Judicial 1857 Depart^t

Extract Mins: Cons.
Public Works Depart^t
No 78

Dated 12th
Rec^d 14 January 1857

2 Separate
No 73.

Communicating with ref: to Ex. Mins: Cons: No 125 of 17 Nov^r 56. letter from the Lt Gov Engineer respecting the delay in completing the 4 Cells for European Convicts in the Penitentiary.

No 117
To be Recorded
24 Jan^y 1857