

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 211-212

Press
~~Mis.~~

13-15-

Dated

24-2-1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 24th February 1857.

No. 13. Read the following letter from H. L. ANDERSON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated 31st January 1857, No. 288.

SIR,

Judicial Department. With reference to the 2nd para : of my letter of the 4th November last, No. 3752, I am directed to forward to you copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Prisons of this Presidency, dated 15th Instant, No. 31, furnishing the information required by the Government of Madras, regarding Jails constructed on Panoptican principle.

2nd. I am also desired to forward to you the ground plan, referred to in the third para : of Mr. Bettington's communication, and to state, with reference to the model alluded to, that it has been received, but as it is very bulky, its transmission by Dawk is not practicable. It will, however, should you wish it, be forwarded to you by the Steamer carrying the China Mails.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

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From the Inspector General of Prisons ; to the Judicial Secretary to Government, Bombay, dated Poonah, 15th January 1857, No. 31.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No. 3679 of the 28th October last, I have the honor to inform you, that the Jails at Dhoolia and Rutnagherry, are built on the plan specified in Mr. Chief Secretary Pycroft's letter, viz., a series of cells forming an unbroken circle, with a central post at which a guard is stationed, as however the work-sheds, cooking-sheds, &c., are not included in the circle, in fact as the Prisoners save when locked up at night, are not under observation, I consider that such a building is erroneously designated a Panoptican, besides the defective supervision, it is considered that heat is radiated to a great extent, and it is certain that ventilation is obstructed, in this form of building.

2. The Prison at Poonah, was on the same plan, the Government are aware I have pulled it down, and substituted radiating wards consisting of lines of single cells, and work-sheds, the Prisoners are in these wards always under observation.

3. As the readiest mode of supplying the information desired by the Government of Madras, I have had a model constructed and forwarded herewith, there is a ground plan and elevation with details of dimensions and cost which will be forwarded as soon as finished in a day or two.

4. If as I firmly believe, it does, the radiating principle secures the greatest amount of ventilation, with economy of supervision, and may be applied either to separate or associate wards, the question of its adoption may be deemed of sufficient importance to merit the consideration of the Government of Madras.

5. The alterations in the Poonah Prison have been effected by Prison labour as the Government are aware.

6. Radiating wards exist in England, with upper stories, solitary cells and all the appliances suitable to the climate, there is also a plan of a Prison on the radiating principle in Mr. Woodcock's Report on the Prisons of the North Western Provinces, but this also varies essentially from the present plan, both as regards the wards, which are on the associate system, and work-sheds, which are built in separate blocks.

7. In the present plan, I believe will be found simplicity of structure, economy of material, facility in supervision, and consequent economy of Establishment, required for the maintenance of order and discipline, as regards ventilation, it will be evident that there is nothing to prevent the circulation of air throughout the wards, and the entire area of the Prison, in fact the funnel shape of the wards, is supposed to aid materially in increasing ventilation.

8. In most of the plans which have been hitherto adopted for Prisons in this Country, the circulation of air is impeded by a number of walls of wards, or Court-yards, and although for the latter palisades may be adopted, and have been extensively introduced in this Presidency,

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 24th February 1857.

the arrangement of the wards still remains defective, and I know not how it can be remedied, as long as the principle of building successive blocks of squares is adhered to.

9. As submitted in my letter, No. 1156 of 30th Ultimo, the radiating principle is applicable to small, or large central Prisons, the latter should I think be built in eschelon, with reference to the prevailing winds, with two, three, or more centres of observation, each radius accommodating not more than thirty Prisoners.

(Signed) A. BETTINGTON,
Inspector General of Prisons.

(True copy.)

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, No. 211; dated 20th February 1857.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter, with its enclosures, be furnished to the Inspector of Prisons with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, 24th November 1856, No. 1275. The Bombay Government will be requested to forward the model of the Poonah Jail as also to furnish plans of those at Dhoolia and Rutnagherry.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 15. From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George; to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated 20th February 1857, No. 212.

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 31st January, No. 288 of 1857; and to request that you will be so good as to forward the model of the Prison at Poonah referred to in para 2.

2. The Government would also be glad to have plans of the Jails at Dhoolia and Rutnagherry.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 211

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W. G. M.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter, with its enclosures, be furnished to the Inspector of Prisons with reference to G. M. No. 24 Nov/56 No. 1275. The Bombay Govt will be requested to forward the model of the Poonah Jail as also to furnish plans

of those at Dhoolia and Rutnagherry —
Copy to Inspector of Prisons Dispt. 24th
with origl Plans

J. P.

Desp. 2145

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Judicial Department

N. 2/2

To The Secretary
to the Government of Bombay

Sir,

1. I am directed by the Right
Honble the Governor in Council
to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter of 21st January No 288 of
1857; and to request that you
will be so good as to forward
the model of the Prison at
Poonah referred to in para 2.

2. The Government would
also be glad to have plans of
the Sails at Shoolie and
Rutnagherry.

Fort St George, 2
20th February, 1857

J.P.

No 1156 of 30th William, the Redacting principle
is applicable to small, or large contract
Prisons - the latter should be built
on wooden, with reference to the prevailing
climate, with two, three, or more centuries of
observation, each having recommending not
more than thirty prisoners.

Done
15th January 1857

Done the honorble Secy
to the Govt of Bombay.
Done copy / Secretary Govt of Bombay.

Indubitably

W. G. L.

Resolving the ...
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