

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 295	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
7-8	
Dated	17-3-1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 17th March 1857.

No. 7. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 27th February 1857, No. 77.

SIR,

In reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 20th February 1857, forwarding a copy of Mr. Anderson's letter to your address of the 31st January, enclosing one from Mr. Bettington, I have the honor to state that I am still of opinion that the form of Jail I have proposed is the best for the purpose I have proposed, the plan of the Poona Jail does not afford means for inspecting the interior of the Cells from a common centre. I am well aware that this inspection may be more nominal than real, but the very feeling of being constantly under the eye of a trustworthy superior is one of the ingredients of the system. I should also question the advantages of the construction on the Poona plan for the low country.

2. For Ootacamund I have in view just such a Prison as Mr. Bettington refers to, a Prison in wings radiating from a common centre.

3. The Government will observe that the objections to the circular form hitherto experienced are obviated in my proposition for constructing in *segments* of *circles* having difference of radius.

4. I hope with the sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, to take advantage of the facilities afforded on the Western Coast for visiting one or two of the Bombay Jails, after my next visit to the Jails on that Coast.

5. I would take this opportunity of again repeating my conviction that the solitary and silent systems are impracticable and, that if the Government should at any time construct any building in the hope of either the one or the other succeeding which p. 14 of the review of my Report would imply, the result will be only loss and disappointment, I consider the accumulative mass of evidence and the opinions of those best competent to give them, conclusive on this point.

6. I regret that the Government in their review of my Report have not maintained the principles on which with its sanction I set out, I had provided for the public convenience to the full extent, I consider, compatible with the great object I had in view, this object was not of my seeking, it had been indicated in the Despatches of the Court of Directors, the opinions of this Government, the suggestions of the Prison Committee in 1836, and the review of the Supreme Government on that report. I allude to this point now as the construction of a Prison mainly depends on the system to be pursued in it.

7. I beg to forward a draft of my letter to the Engineer Officer of Madura, relative to the preparation of Plans and Estimates for a new Prison at that Station.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, No. 295; dated 11th March 1857.

The Government approve the communication made by the Inspector of Prisons to the District Engineer of Madura, in respect to the preparation of a Plan for a new Jail at that station.

2. They would wish to know from the Chief Engineer what has been done in his Department towards the revision of the Plan and Estimate for the Central Prison near Madras, under the orders of Government 21st October 1856, No. 1934.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

From,

The Inspector of Prisons
Madras.

To,

The Civil Engineer
Madura.

Sir,

The Government having been pleased to direct that a plan and estimate for a new jail at Madura should be prepared I have the honor to request that you will give the matter your earliest consideration. The present state of the Madura Jail is such as to render the immediate erection of a new jail most important.

2.

The plans I have proposed in all new buildings is that which has been denominated the Panopticon, it provides a series of cells range around a common centre so that every action of every prisoner in a cell is at all times under observation from one point. I have after studying the working of the several systems come to the conclusion that separate confinement at all events by night is necessary to the effectual carrying out of any system and that separate cells are therefore necessary. The perfect circle would have materially impeded ventilation

ventilation I have therefore proposed that the blocks of cells shall form segments of circles of different diameters, the space between the ranges being sufficient to allow of a current of air.

3. The Court of Directors have laid down the rule that less than 500 cubic feet shall not be provided for each prisoner in confinement. In the case of prisoners confined day and night and carrying on their task in cells, I have allowed 1000 cubic feet, while in those cells which are provided for confinement by night only or for prisoners on short terms about 600 cubic feet would seem to be sufficient.

4. In communication with Mr. Gahagan the Civil Engineer at Salem the plan of which I now send a copy was prepared and submitted to Government and has been approved. The plan for the new jail at Madura should I think be similar unless from the nature of the material procurable any change is deemed desirable.

5. I believe granite slabs are procurable within 4 miles of Madura in which case the roof might perhaps be economically formed of such slabs overlaid with "jelly" in the manner of the old chuttrums.

6. The site I propose is that in the vicinity

vicinity of which stands a native building, a pagoda or choultry I suppose, on, what is called, the race-course the highest ground should be selected.

7. I should not propose erecting a larger building than that designed for Salem as prisoners on long sentences will not be detained at the Zillah Stations: as in the case of the proposed Salem Jail the building should be calculated for an upper story if required.

8. Lieutenant Gahagan's plans and specification may possibly be of some assistance to you. The soil of the spot I speak of seemed to me to be gravel and the foundations provided for the Salem Prison will probably be found sufficient at Madura.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant
Signed/ J. Rohde

Inspector of Prisons

(true copy)

J. Rohde

Inspector of Prisons

Madras.
Off. of Inspector of Prisons
24th February 1857.

No 295

A.

The Govt approve the Communi-

A - cation made by the Inspector
of Prisons to the District Engi-
neer of Madras in respect to the
preparation of a plan for a
new Jail at that Station.

They would wish to know
from the Chief Engineer
what has been done in his de-
partment towards the
revision of the plan and estimate
for the Central Prison near Madras

under the orders of Govt. 21st Oct 1856
21 Oct 56
19th Nov 1934
Inspector of Prisons } Dispd. 17th
D.P.O.

Copy of a letter to
the Chief Engineer of
Madras relative to the
construction of a new Jail at
that Station.
1857
No 302

Received 1857
Circular No 1
In a letter from the
Inspector of Prisons dated
17th February 1857
to the Chief Secretary to the
Govt of
Madras
J. H. H. H.

for 13-15
24.20

Quitting the services of the Government by the passage of the Quaker Committee in 1836, and the loss of the influence Government on that reform. To this point now as the construction of a new society depends on the question to be put in it. I beg to forward a draft of my letter to the Engineer Officer of Madras relative to the preparation of plans and estimates for a new prison at that station.

It is a pleasure to you the
State of Madras dated
February 1857
No 97.
The Chief Secretary to the
Govt of
Madras George.

Copy of a letter to
the Chief Engineer of
Madras relative to the
construction of a new prison
at that station.
No 18572
No 362