M.R.O. 1—80,000—16-10-96

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 536 Press ~~Mis.~~

29-30

Dated 12 — 8 — 1907

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 12*th May* 1857.

No. 29. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 4th July 1856, No. 473.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 30th June 1856, enclosing "reply to letter dated the 10th December 1855, No. 41, Madras Penitentiary" from the Honorable Court, and requiring me to state what further steps have been taken in regard to the selection of a site for the new Central Prison and towards preparing a plan for the same.

2. In reply, I beg to state that I prepared a general plan for the main part of the Central Prison according to the brief specification approved by Government, and forwarded it to the Chief Engineer with a letter of the 11th January, copy of which I now submit. The packet was not posted till the 31st January, owing to the time taken in copying. I was at Madras early in March, according to appointment, made in the enclosed letter, and then traced my letter and plan to the Superintending Engineer's Office; finding, that nothing had been done, or, as far as I could see, was likely to be done, for some time at least, about it, I took the plan away and begged the Chief Engineer to help me by having the necessary plans and estimates prepared in his Office, which he kindly undertook to do, and it was referred to Captain Collyer; two of his draftsmen unfortunately were taken ill, but he borrowed a draftsman by whom some progress was made before I left Madras, still I saw that I should be much longer delayed, and left Madras with the intention of visiting two of the most Southern Jails I had not yet seen, and completing my report, accounts and tabular statements for the year. While at Madras, I took occasion to see the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Elliot, I was unable to lay before him the detailed plans, as they had not been prepared, but I may mention, that, having stated the general design, I found it met with his entire approbation. The plans are still in the Engineer's Office.

3. I took the opportunity while in Madras of going to the Red Hills to select a site, Captain Rawlins, Deputy Superintending Engineer, accompanying me; I had already been in communication with the Collector of Chingleput, but I found that a better site than that he proposed was to be found a little higher up the hill to the right of the road leading to the houses of the Europeans, just before coming to some old earthworks.

4. I trust the Honorable Court will excuse my urging that the form originally proposed by me should be adhered to. The expense will be very little, if at all, less, if the building is square, the ventilation will be far less perfect in the rectilinear building and the facilities for supervision greatly less. A block of building no doubt would be cheaper, but I should then be obliged to give up all the advantages peculiar to one of the form proposed, and I fear the heat would be intolerable; the radius I propose is so large that I very much doubt the circular form being at all more expensive, but as the Government are aware, my plan was on the principle of having every individual at every moment under observation from a common centre. I am definitely informed that the printing of my report, plans, &c., will not be delayed beyond the 15th Instant. I trust that on its receipt the Government will find no difficulty in finally deciding on the course to be adopted, in the mean time, I will try to get the plans and estimates of the building from the Engineer's Department.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to Lieutenant Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, dated 11th January 1856, No. 226.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Captain Collyer's letter of the 27th November 1855, and of the plan which accompanied it, the latter does not meet the object intended. I now send a few sketches of details of such a building as would in my opinion suit the purpose; it is my intention that every Prisoner should be confined in a separate cell, in which he would be under constant observation and which he should not, ordinarily, during the first year of his sentence be allowed to quit; smaller cells might be provided for Prisoners working in association, but as it is proposed to build cells for only 250 Prisoners, in the first instance, I propose that the

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 12th May 1857.

inner range of cells should be constructed in sections of a circle, this should consist of first class cells; it may afterwards be decided whether the back range of sections with the same centre should consist of similar cells or merely of cells for occupation by night only; a warder's room in the centre of the building and guard rooms with a surrounding wall at sufficient distance to give room for work yards &c., hospital, store rooms, a visitor's room, prisoners' receiving room, cooking room, would be required within the precincts of the walls. A governor's house, residence for the Medical officer in charge, for the Apothecary, and warders, would also be required, but from the custom of the country inducing a body of servants and other idlers about every house occupied by any person with any thing but the barest means of subsistence, I am averse from having these in communication with the Jail.

2. I have not time to get plans and elevations fully drawn out, but the outline sketch forwarded will, I trust, be sufficient to guide any officer entrusted with the duty in preparing a plan and approximate estimate with sufficient accuracy, to allow of its being canvassed by the Magistrates and ultimately laid for approval before the Government, with the view to the adoption of such plan or modification of it as may on full consideration appear best. I am very anxious that no delay should occur in the completion of this work, my time during this month will be fully occupied with office work, and I hope to be able to meet you and the Chief Magistrate during the month of February, when I hope to get the plan of the building settled and the site fixed, so that the foundations may be laid before this next monsoon.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 30.

ORDER THEREON, No. 536; dated 7th May 1857.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Ad. Ap. to Con. 1st July 1856 No. 26

7 & 8

Jy. Dy. Con. 12 May 1857
Judicial 1856 Department

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From
The Inspector of Prisons
Ootacamund
To
The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of
Fort St. George

Dated 4th
Desp.d 5th
Received 10 } July 1856

No. 473.

No. 1111 A.

F. No. 1575

Enclosures One

With reference to G. O. 6 dated the 30th June 1856 states what further steps have been taken relative to the selection of a site and the preparing of a Plan for the new Central Prison.

29430

No. 536
To be recorded
Fort St. George 7 May 1857