M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 621 Press / ~~Ms.~~

40 . 41

Dated 26—5—~~19~~1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 26th May 1857.

No. 40. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Chicacole, 10th April 1857, No. 126.

SIR,

I have the honer to request that certain points connected with the Jail at this Station, may receive the attention of Government.

Requiring a permanently appointed respectable Dresser.

1st. I find that no Dresser is attached to the Jail, one who was there was removed by the Judge's desire, for conniving at irregularities, and his place was supplied by a man who is described as having been both a drunkard and inefficient. This man, useless as he is stated to be, was required to do the duties of two other Hospitals, at a distance of perhaps three quarters of a mile, he too has been sent back and the Collector has lent his Dresser to the Hospital.

2. I have not elsewhere had occasion to complain of the selection made for Prison Hospitals, and I believe the individual referred to was not selected but sent as being the only man available. I now request that a fit person may be appointed and in reference to such persons I would beg that they may be amenable to the rules of the Jail and that the Officer in charge should in case of mis-conduct, not of a serious nature, have authority to fine them a portion of the allowance which is drawn *by him* for them, this will avoid the necessity for bringing them forward for breaches of Jail rules, as well as such inconvenience as has resulted in the present instance; he might at the same time have authority to confirm and enforce fines to the same limit, suggested by the Surgeon for negligence in Hospital duties.

Bad arrangements in newly built Hospital, and suggesting its enclosure or abandonment to other purposes.

3. The arrangement at this Station of having the Prison Hospital at a distance of 115 yards from the Jail, a high road running between them, is most objectionable. I must, to use the Hospital, enclose it, and have requested the local Civil Engineer to furnish the necessary plan and estimate. For economy in guarding, as well as to afford space for employing the Prisoners within the walls, I propose turning the high-road, which now runs between the Prison and Hospital, and enclosing the whole space. I know of no other plan for making the Hospital available as such without a large additional guard.

Itchapoor Jail needless and expensive.

4. If the Government have any thought of moving the Court, and I believe such a course has been more than once suggested, the better course might be to spend no more money on this Jail, which will soon require extensive repairs, and to take immediate steps for accommodating all long sentenced Prisoners in the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam. I cannot see any use in continuing the Jail at Itchapoor, 2 Prisoners only, properly belonging to it, are confined there; the rest are Agency Prisoners, for whom, it would be much better that the Agent should have his own Jail nearer his Head Quarters. The Sudr Ameen at Itchapoor has no Criminal jurisdiction which the Agent cannot exercise, indeed he has hardly disposed of one Criminal case in a twelve-month, that Jail establishment exclusive of the extra guards for Prisoners at labour consists of:

1	Apothecary	@ 200
1	Jailor	@ 15
1	Naick	@ 6
10	Peons	@ 50
		271 Rupees

Proposing Agency Jail instead.

2. I understand it is the intention of Government to establish a Civil Dispensary in the Collectorate, if this is done, the better course would appear to be to place the whole under one Surgeon, with Dressers in each Hospital. Indeed for so small a Jail a separate Dresser would hardly be needed, if the two buildings were conveniently adjacent.

Inspector has directed trifling alterations and repairs. Will take no further steps without an expression of opinion by Government.

6. A few trifling repairs to keep the building at Chicacole from tumbling down, or to provide the necessary security, I shall request the Judge and Civil Engineer to carry out. About 5,000 Rupees would be required to enclose the Hospital and eventually to renew the roof if the building is retained; a Jailor's and Dresser's house are also needed. If the Hospital had not been built, I think I should not recommend any thing beyond a patchwork repair. Two courses are now open.

1st, to take immediate steps for accommodating all long sentenced Prisoners at or near Vizagapatam, and reduce this Jail to its original dimensions, maintaining it in habitable repair, and giving up the Hospital for a Jailor's residence, and for Europeans* for whom the increasing trade by English ships to Calingapatam require accommodation.

* 16 at one time have been in confinement.

2ndly, enclosing the Hospital at a cost of say 3,000 Rupees, putting the Jail in repair and building a house for Jailor and Dresser. Thus enclosing a large work-yard for the employment of every Prisoner for at least a portion of his sentence within the walls.

7. The Jail is only suited for 153 Prisoners of all classes, this is more room than in ordinary years would be required, were long sentenced Prisoners transferred, but this Prison is liable to be called on to accommodate at times large numbers accused of offences in the hill Zemindaries, and what with work-sheds, store-rooms, &c., it would not be found to contain more space than might be usefully applied. It is of consequence that some provision should immediately be made for long sentenced Prisoners from this Jail and the agency, the enclosure of the space between the Jail and Hospital would be a mere temporary expedient, and would leave no provision for European Prisoners, if the Hospital were used as intended; by doing nothing but repair the Jail and slightly alter the Hospital, about 4000 Rupees will be saved towards the cost of a new division prison; the Jail will do very well for short sentenced Prisoners, the European Jailor and European Prisoners will also be accommodated.

8. I have already with reference to the position of the site and construction of the Vizagapatam Jail, recommended that it be abandoned and given up as required to the Military.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 41. ORDER THEREON, No. 621; dated 26th May 1857.

1. In the above letter, the Inspector of Prisons, writing from *Chicacole*, submits for disposal certain propositions in connection with the Jail at that station.

2. He asks, first, for the appointment of a separate Dresser to the Jail. The two, last appointed, have been returned to the Medical Department, as utterly unfitted, both in point of character and efficiency, to the duties of the place. They were required, besides, to carry on their functions at two other Hospitals in the town. The man at present in the Jail has been lent by the Collector, being that functionary's Cutcherry Dresser.

3. The Medical Board will be requested to take an early opportunity of assigning the services of a Dresser to the Jail Hospital, directing him, at the same time, to devote himself completely to that charge. The Government will defer the consideration of Mr. Rohde's suggestion that the Officer in charge may be permitted to fine subordinates of this class at his discretion, until they learn how far the existing system of control, which is not specified, has failed in the Prisons' Department generally.

4. On the supposition that the Government contemplate moving the Court at *Chicacole* to *Vizagapatam*, the Inspector has proposed that the Sudder Ameen's Jail at *Itchapore* be abolished, the Jail at *Chicacole* retained for the accommodation of Prisoners convicted of minor offences only, and that steps be taken for carrying out all long sentences in the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam.

Ext. Mins. Con. 9th Nov. 1847.

5. There is no intention of removing the Court of the Civil and Session Judge from *Chicacole*. The subject was fully discussed in 1847; and the Government came to the *resolution*, adopted by the Sudder Udalut, whose opinion was called for on the papers, that the change proposed was altogether inexpedient.

Judl. Cons. 10th Feby. 1857.

Para. 7, Construction of Prisons. Report for 1856.

6. Under the general system, approved of by Government in their review of the Prisons Report for 1856, of separating Prisoners sentenced to lengthened periods of punishment from other Convicts, the removal of the former class from the *Chicacole* Jail, "an ill-built, ill-arranged structure," will doubtless be necessary. *Vizagapatam*, the Government observe, is one of the 5 Stations recommended for the establishment of a Central Prison; but the Jail at present situated there is no better fitted for the purpose than that at Chicacole, and no measures have as yet been adopted for the construction of another building; a site alone has been indicated.

Para. 8, as above.

7. Of the several plans proposed, then, by Mr. Rohde, that suggested in the latter part of para. 6, viz., the putting the Jail in efficient repair,* enclosing it and the adjacent Hospital within one compound, and adding separate lodges for the use of the Jailor and Dresser, appears to the Government worthy of adoption. The necessary estimates will be procured through the Public Works Department. Care should be taken to allow for the due accommodation of European Prisoners, stated to have increased in number, of late years, consequent on the development of the shipping trade at *alingapatam*.

* Said to be likely to cost Rupees 5,000.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Judicial Dept

No. 121

Extract Min. Cons. dated 26th May 1857.

Read the following letter from the Inspector of Prisons } Here enter No 128 dated 10th April /57.

1. In the above letter, the Inspector of Prisons, writing from Chicacole, submits for disposal certain propositions in connection with the Jail at that station.

2. He asks, first, for the appointment of a separate Dresser to the Jail. The two, last appointed, have been returned to the Medical Dept, as utterly unfitted, both in point of character & efficiency, to the duties of the place. They were required, besides, to carry on their functions at two other hospitals in the town. The man at present in the Jail has been lent by the Collector, being that functionary's Cutcherry Dresser.

3. The Medical Bd will be requested to take an early opportunity of supplying the services of a Dresser to the Jail Hospital, directing him at the same time to devote himself completely to that charge. The Govt will defer the consideration of

Mr. Rohde's suggestion that the officer in charge may be permitted to fine subordinates of his class at his discretion, until they learn how far the existing system of control, which is not specified, has failed in the Prisons' Dept. generally.

4. On the supposition that the Govt. contemplate moving the Ct. at Chicacole to Vizagapatam, the Inspector has proposed that the Sudder Ameen's Jail at Itchapore be abolished, the Jail at Chicacole retained for the accommodation of prisoners convicted of minor offences only, and that steps be taken for carrying out all long sentences in the neighbourhood of Vizagapatam.

5. There is no intention of removing the Court of the C. & S. Judge from Chicacole. The subject was fully discussed in 1847; and the Govt. came to the resolution, adopted by the Sudder Adalut whose opinion was called for on the papers, that the change proposed was altogether inexpedient.

[illegible] 9th Nov/47.

Judl. Cons. 18th Febr./57.

Para 7. 'Construction of Prisons' Rept. for/56.

Para 8. as above.

x said to be likely to cost Rs 25,000.

6. Under the general system, approved of by Govt. in their review of the Prisons Report for 1856, of separating prisoners sentenced to lengthened periods of punishment from other convicts, the removal of the former class from the Chicacole Jail "an ill built, ill arranged structure", will doubtless be necessary. Vizagapatam, the Govt. observe, is one of the 5 stations recommended for the establishment of a Central Prison, but the Jail at present situated there is no better fitted for the purpose than that at Chicacole; and no measures have as yet been adopted for the construction of another building; a site alone has been indicated.

7. Of the several plans proposed here by Mr. Rohde, that suggested in the latter part of Para 6. viz. the putting the Jail in efficient repair, enclosing it & the adjacent Hospital within one compound, & adding separate lodges for the use of the Jailor & Keeper, appears to the Govt. worthy

of adoption. The necessary estimates will be procured thro' the P. W. Dep^t ~~the Inspection~~ Care sh^d be taken to allow for the due accommodation of the European prisoners, stated to have increased in number, of late years, consequent on the development of the shipping trade at Calingapatam.

D. F. C.
19-5/57.

To the Inspector of Prisons
Medical Board
P. Works Depart } Disp^d 1st

Trans: 26 Decr
Judicial 1857 Depart^t

Judl Ln to Engd d/20 Octr No 26 of 1857. Para 49.

Refd to in No 5 of 1858 P21

No 821

Extract Mins of Cons

D/21st May 1857

~~Fr No 920.~~
~~Fr No 955~~
—"— 982.
—"— 1249/61.

Passing observations on the letter from the Inspector of Prisons bringing to notice certain points relative to the Jail & Jail Hospital at Chicacole — request the Medical Board to take early opportunity of assigning the services of a Dresser to the Jail Hospital directing him at the same time to devote himself completely to that charge the proposition of Mr Rohde for putting the Jail in efficient repair appears to the Govt worthy of adoption the necessary estimates will be procured thro' the Department Public Works.

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