

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	961	Press
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Dated	15	8
		19 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 11th August 1857.

No. 13. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Palmanair, 13th July 1857, No. 257.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No. 778, (6th July 1857,) forwarding for my consideration and report letters from the Sessions Judge of Chicacole and from the Executive Engineer objecting to the plan proposed by me, and selected by Government, for the improvement of the Jail at Chicacole and proposing another plan.

2. I must say that letters are sufficiently unsatisfactory and it appears to me that if the facts stated are correct, some explanation, of the circumstances under which the building was so badly constructed in so objectionable a situation, is due to Government.

3. I have not on my records the correspondence which led to the erection of the new hospital, now condemned by the Judge and Civil Engineer, it was completed just before I took charge of my office and among the papers handed over to me by the Foudaree Udawlut was one

From Session Judge Chicacole to Civil Engineer, 9th Division, 21st February 1855.
From Session Judge Chicacole to Secretary Board of Revenue, Department Public Works, 17th March 1855.
* Bill mislaid.

from Mr. Glass, the present Judge, proposing the enclosure of this very hospital at a cost of (about 1800 Rupees. *) Not a word was then said of the objections now raised to the building, though it is evident from the present correspondence that "this hospital, on the very first slight fall of rain, after it was built, was so damp, or rather so wet, that upwards of an inch of water was found over the floors," some alterations

were made which "in a small measure kept the hospital drier, for a time, but when the monsoon came down, the nullah * * came down and formed (as it does every year) a sheet of water from the road passing the Jail across to the hospital * * and overflowing the hospital, covering the floor to the extent of upwards of a foot of water!" Again the ground is stated to be incapable of drainage because "the ground altogether there and thereabout is so much below the level of the river that instead of getting rid of the water, the back flow would swamp not only the ground and hospital, but the Jail itself, * * if an opening were made in the high banks."

4. Under these circumstances, never alluded to either by the Judge or Engineer on my visiting the buildings with them and the Surgeon, what is proposed? "to give up the hospital," annually overflowed and damp, after the slightest shower, to the European Jailor and Dresser and their families and erect a new building for the Convicts! a consideration well worthy of a liberal Government!

5. As for the defects in the building itself, I will not offer any remarks, it was built by one Engineer Officer hardly three years ago, and is condemned by an Officer in the same department now, while the Judge gives his opinion "that unless for the material, the building will in a very short time be worthless."

6. Mr. Palmer gives the following particulars as to the levels.

7. Top of basement above high water mark in the river 4-6. The ground about it is on a level with the highest water mark in the river which seems within 450 yards of it.

8. Mr. Glass says that Mr. Palmer, not having seen a heavy fall of rain or monsoon, his statements are below the truth.

9. With these statements before the Government, I do not see how I can recommend an outlay of one Rupee on any addition to the Chicacole Jail, and I certainly shall not forward a proposition that a European Jailor and respectable Native Dresser should be put into a building represented to be such as is above described by those who cannot be mistaken.

10. But supposing the Government to overrule this objection, what is proposed is no equivalent to my plan. I required such a space as would enable me to confine the prisoners to hard labor within walls: enclosing an area of $456 \times 320 = 145,920$ feet $= 16,213$ yards, nearly 4 acres, at a cost of Rupees 3,740, including the hospital. Instead of this I am offered an enclosure of 13,432 feet, about a third of an acre, exclusive of the hospital enclosure, at a cost of 638 Rupees.

11. The very large space I proposed would not have been necessary but for the circumstance of the hospital being placed where it is, and that it is desirable to have no separate enclosures. The space proposed by the Engineer would avail but little for any useful purpose.

