

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1269

Press
~~Mis.~~

32-33

Dated 16 — 9 — 19 ~~19~~ *Oct*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 21st September 1858.

No. 32. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Madura, 26th August 1858.

SIR,

The state of this Jail compels me to solicit immediate orders for the erection of a new building. Plans and estimates for which have already been submitted, I believe, by the Department Public Works. The confinement of prisoners in the present building, decidedly the

very worst Jail in the country, is a disgrace to my Department, the buildings I have spoken of repeatedly* as totally unsuited to Jail purposes, unhealthy, ill-situated, insecure, and I may now add ruinous. Nothing but the facility for the transfer of invalid prisoners to Paumbum

*Report, May 1st 1856, Construction of the Prisons, para. 20, and Appendix "Madura."
Letter, 14th October 1856, accompanying Medical Board's Report for 1855.
Inspector's Report for 1856-57, para. 15.
Letter, 17th November 1857, submitting Medical Board's Report paras. 16, 17 and 10.

keeps the mortality, high as it is, within even its high ratio; the building is insufficient for more than half the number of prisoners for which accommodation is required and I have no place to send the surplus to. Twice in the last year did cholera originate in this Goal, thirty-nine was the mortality among an average of prisoners last year and it has already amounted to 26 in this year. I have not my records with me for reference, but I trust that no time may be lost in soliciting from the Supreme Government sanction for this building already included, I believe, in the ordinary Budget.

Although the plan provides for 150 separate cells, these I propose to occupy in part, till I get Central Prisons, by putting three persons in each cell, for which there will be space and air sufficient, so that in reality the new Prisons, costing under Rupees 300, for each cell provided in them, will not cost more than 100 for each man they are capable of accommodating, and on each Convict the saving in extra guards alone exceeds 15 Rupees a year.

In such a building as the present Madura Jail, Prison discipline is hopeless and no sanitary arrangements can remedy its original defects.

As a summary of what I have already given as a description of this building may for convenience be added, I will state that it consists generally of old half-ruined Carnatic buildings, surrounded by a bad wall, (in parts unsafe,) except where the old buildings are on the outside. That the long range of two wards built by the English Government are much out of repair, that most of the floors are below the level of the outer soil; that notwithstanding all that was done after my first visit, the ventilation is very deficient. That access is obtained by several private buildings against the outer walls to its roof, that there is no proper accommodation for any class of prisoners, male or female; the water is salt and unwholesome, the situation in the middle of the Town with no access to water or to a necessary most inconvenient.

I feel assured that nothing but the absolute necessity will induce the Government of India to withhold sanction from this work, and I may add that the most I can hope for from the old building is, its standing till a new building is finished.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, No. 1269; dated 16th September 1858.

Referred, through the Public Works Department, to the Chief Engineer, who will submit the plan and estimate alluded to by the Inspector of Prisons, and in Extract Minutes Consultation 11th March 1857, No. 295, Judicial Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 1269.

Referred, thro' the Public Works
Dept., to the Chief Engineer, who will
submit the Plan and Estimate
alluded to by the Inspector of Prisons
and called for in Gt. Minn. Cons
11th March 1857 No 295. Indl. Dept.

To Mr George,
16 September 58.

J.P.

The enclosed are
sent in reply to
your letter.

Copy to P.W. Dept } Disp'd 18th
" Insp of Prisons }

C. H. Sept 1957 No 42433.

In op. to Com. 21 Sept
Judicial. 1858. kept

From the Inspector of
Prisons. — Madras.

26 Aug 32/59
26 Aug
21 Sept 1858

No 1567.

Under circumstances
stated, solicits imme-
diate orders for the
erection of a new
Jail at Madras.

With an order

C. H. Sept
N/6

32433.