

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1683	Press
	9-11.	~~Mis.~~
Dated	20 - 10 - 1958	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 29th October 1858.

Read the following papers.

No. 9. Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st October 1858, No. 3666.

From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 14th September 1858, No. 155.

SIR,

Para. 1. I have the honor to forward a plan and estimate prepared at my request by Captain Philipps, Executive Engineer, for some very necessary alterations in the public buildings attached to this Cutcherry.

2. Captain Philipps' description of the building used to confine prisoners while awaiting trial or actually under examination, will demonstrate to the Board its utter insecurity even for this purpose, a fact which has been further proved by the escape of a prisoner. The persons who are detained here are many of them prisoners in Sessions cases and as in the case of Dundasena may include individuals who have committed offences against the State and whose capture and safe keeping are of great importance.

3. The insecurity of the place is of course increased by the ingress and egress of strangers visiting the Dispensary—an arrangement so objectionable on every ground that I should not allow its continuance another hour if any other building were available for a Dispensary, even temporarily. A tent as suggested by Captain Philipps, would I think be useless for such a purpose during the monsoon.

4. I hope therefore that the Board will obtain the sanction of Government for the construction of a new Jail. This will obviate the necessity of sending prisoners and civil debtors to Chicacole or Itchapore as is the present practice, and the Itchapore Jailer may in that case be transferred to Chetterpore, the Jail at that place being sold. Should this plan be adopted, the building now used as a Jail, will make a very good Civil Dispensary with the alterations suggested by Captain Philipps.

5. In any case it seems necessary to provide a more secure place of confinement for prisoners under trial, and if the Board think it inexpedient to recommend a new Jail, I hope the arrangement for which the accompanying estimate provides may receive their support.

6. I enclose an Extract from Captain Philipps' letter, the remarks in the 8th and following paras. regarding the Treasury will form the subject of a separate letter in reference to the Board's Circular Order of the 15th July last, No. 2633, regarding the security of the public Treasuries.

Extract from a letter from Captain C. G. PHILIPPS, Executive Engineer; to GORDON FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, dated 7th September 1858, No. 183.

SIR,

In accordance with your request, I do myself the honor to submit the following statement regarding the buildings inspected in company with yourself at Chetterpore on the 4th Instant.

1. The Jail in which 30 prisoners are at present confined, and which no doubt often contains many more, is a room 30 feet long by 14 broad, with walls only 10 feet high, with the gable rise of 5 feet, the cubic contents of air is 5,250 feet, giving only 175 feet per prisoner now incarcerated.

This is exceedingly little for a Jail, and foul air was probably the cause of the out-break of cholera 2 years ago, which induced Mr. Knox to remove Dendo-seena from the Jail to a private house, from which it is well known he escaped, entailing a hill campaign with its attendant expenses now estimated at 3 lacs of Rupees.

2. Under the same roof, and in a wretched little room partitioned off, 12 feet long by 14 broad (apparently intended as a female ward for prisoners,) I found the Civil Dispensary and Hospital established, where Mr. Hanson and his Dresser are daily engaged in relieving sick people from all parts of the country; all these, no matter what their disease, must pass in and out at the same gate in the compound wall as the prisoners and Jail Peons, and mix with them until their turn comes to enter the small Dispensary.

3. The compound wall is merely of mud, through which a prisoner might easily make a hole large enough to escape through with the use of his fingers and a little water to moisten the clay with. But even this exertion is not necessary, as a prisoner could get over the wall only 6½ feet high by stepping on the window sill from which the top of the wall can be reached.

4. To protect this mud wall from the rain it is thatched with straw, the eave extending about 5 feet beyond on the outside of the west face giving cover to the prisoners whilst cooking their rice. This is very objectionable, as by setting fire to it wilfully or if it ignites by accident the prisoners or at least some of them may escape in the confusion that ensues.

5. Under these circumstances, I would strongly recommend that the entire building be given up for a Dispensary and that a new Jail adequate to public necessity be forthwith constructed. By throwing down the compound wall and knocking out a door and windows, a well ventilated Hospital for a small number of patients might be cheaply secured.

6. The new Jail should be built 50 yards north of the Sepoys' barracks, from which it would be well commanded in the event of an out-break amongst the prisoners.

7. In the event of Government not sanctioning a new Jail, it will be absolutely necessary to enclose the present one with a brick wall 10 feet high (enclosing an area of 2,941½ square feet) at a cost of Rupees 340 as per accompanying estimate. It is also most necessary that the Dispensary be removed, the sooner the better, lest outside patients infect the occupants of the Jail. There is no other room available I fear and recourse should be had to tents until one can be built, which is the only alternative in the event of the Jail not being given up for the purpose.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Collector.

From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 17th September 1858, No. 161.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from Captain C. G. Philipps, Executive Engineer, regarding the state of the Itchapore Jail with reference to my letter of the 15th Instant.

The Board will gather from Captain Philipps' description that the transfer of this establishment to Chetterpore could not but be an advantage to the town of Itchapore as well as to the prisoners confined there.

From Captain C. G. PHILIPPS, Executive Engineer; to GORDON FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, dated Berhampore, 15th September 1858, No. 188.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 8th Instant, on the subject of the Jail, &c., at Chetterpore, I have now the honor to report that, on my arrival at Itchapore on the 13th Instant, I found the prisoners of that Jail occupying temporary sheds erected in the Travellers' bungalow compound at a distance of 55 yards from the principal entrance to the house. On enquiry I found the Sudr Ameen had removed them from the Jail directly cholera broke out amongst the prisoners, forty-five in number, of whom 6 were attacked and four died. The same thing was done last year when the disease as usual, commenced in the Jail.

I found the fault here did not lay in over-crowded rooms as there is accommodation for 108 prisoners, giving to each 143 cubic feet of air, whereas only 45 men were incarcerated, but to my great astonishment, I found 2 open privies within the compound and only 15 yards from the sleeping apartments. These occupy two corners of the enclosure and are partitioned off by a masonry wall without however any roof, so that a shower of rain disturbs the accumulated filth and actually poisons the atmosphere.

You will be better able to comprehend the misery of the situation, when I inform you that no sweeper is allowed though repeatedly applied for by all accounts to keep these places clean, and that whatever is deposited from month to month must so remain until dissipated by the elements.

My unfortunate Subordinate Sub-Conductor Hopkins, who resides near this pest house, has just lost his two children from cholera, and his wife is slowly recovering, and this consideration must be my excuse for interfering in the internal management of this Jail, which was only lately visited by the Inspector of Prisons Mr. Rohde.

I may further mention that the Jail is built in the old Fort which is nearly surrounded by a ditch, where many hundreds of the inhabitants resort daily for the purposes of nature rendering the locality a very undesirable one for a Prison.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Collector.

The account given by the Collector and Executive Engineer of the state of the Jails at Chitterpore and Itchapoor is so extremely unsatisfactory, and the necessity of adopting measures for the security and health of the persons confined in them seems so urgent, that the Board resolve to submit the Collector's letters and their enclosures at once for the information and orders of Government.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

No. 10. Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th October 1858, No. 3809.

From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Chetterpore, 24th September 1858, No. 168.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 14th Instant, recommending the construction of a Jail at this place and the transfer of the Jailer &c., from Itchapore, I have further to point out that the sum of Rupees 2,880 annually will be saved to Government by the arrangement, the Apothecary in charge of the Jail at Itchapore would then no longer be required as the Jail would be under Medical charge of the Medical Officer at Chetterpore. Mr. Vanderputt the Apothecary now at Itchapore is I believe about to retire and it would not be necessary to replace him if a proper Jail is built at Chetterpore, and the present building used as a Civil Dispensary.

Submitted for the consideration and orders of Government with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 1st Instant.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, No. 1483; dated 20th October 1858.

Referred to the Inspector of Prisons, who is the medium of communication with Government on the subject of Jails.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Mem
Requested to be returned for immediate
response the Orig^l letters from the Collector
of Junjam dated 14th 17th & 24th Sept^r inst^y &
11th Oct^r/58 respectively relating to the
Sail at Chatterpore submitted to Govt^y
with B^d Pro^o of 1st & 11th Oct^r/58 Nos
3688 & 3809.

W. D. D. Super
Act^y & Registrar
Rev^d B^d Officer
20th June 1860³ To the Manager
Govt^y Office G. Dept^t

Recd Ex: No of the Board of Rev: J^d and
12 Sept/58 MS. 5666. 1. 38. 9

No 1483.

Referred to the Inspector of Prisons,
who is the medium of communication
with Govt. on the subject of Dails.

W. W. Fife St. George,
20 October 1858.

J. P.

Copy to Secy of Revenue

" Inspector of Prisons with } Decd 22nd
a Plan & Estimate }

2 orig^{ls} Encl^d from the Letter of Ganyam returned to the Secy of Rev^y
on Memo 26th June 1860.

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(Here enter nos. 129 and 101.)

The account given by the Collector and Executive Engineer of the state of the Jails at Chittierpoor and Itchapoor is so extremely unsatisfactory, and the necessity of adopting measures for the security and health of the persons confined in them seems so urgent, that the Board resolve to submit the Collector's letters and their enclosures at once for the information and orders of Government.

(A true Extract.)

W. A. M.
Secretary.

To
T. PYCROFT, Esq., *Chief Secretary to Government.*
Copy to Collector of Ganjam.