M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 39	Press ~~Mis.~~
1172	
Dated 9—1—~~19~~ 1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 11. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 11th December 1857, No. 524.

SIR,

In reference to the remark in para. 1 of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 26th November 1857, quoting my statement that the Civil and Military buildings which together with the Jail occupy the Fort of Tellicherry and to Mr. Robinson's remarks on the value of the *Fort itself*, I have the honor to state that I entirely concur in Mr. Robinson's views of the inexpediency of establishing *large* Jails at Treasury Stations and in Colonel Thompson's desire to reserve strong-holds.

2. The Government will remember that I myself pointed out before the present crisis occurred the importance of providing some fortified building in Treasury Stations, the Civil and Military buildings in the Fort are intrinsically of little value and I think my report very fairly represented the true state of the case and by no means encouraged the Government to the adoption of the site as that of a *large* Jail; on the contrary I spoke of the buildings as ill-suited to my purpose; and of the inexpediency continuing the system under which prisoners, Sepoys and strangers mingled together promiscuously; as a temporary resource to meet an existing pressure, I said the whole Fort might be converted into an indifferent Jail.

3. I consider it due to myself to state this as the wording of the Government remarks imply, that I describe the building as of little value in a Military point of view.

4. Cannanore will of course, with reference to the view the Government now express, be the site of the central Prison for the west Coast, and it will be desirable that the Government orders to prepare a plan and estimate for that building should be given.

5. I would suggest that if the Government approve this suggestion, a large body of Convicts be removed to that station to prepare the ground and cut laterite for the building in anticipation of sanction.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, No. 39; dated 9th January 1858.

1. In the above letter the Inspector of Prisons explains with reference to para. 1 of Extract Minutes of Consultation 26th November last, that he did not intend to convey the idea that the Tellicherry Fort buildings were of little value in a Military point of view, or that the site was suited to the purposes of a large Jail. The Government did not understand the Inspector's observations on the buildings within the Fort implying more than that they were intrinsically of little value as public offices or as having reference to the importance of the site, considered in a Military point of view, as being within the wall of a Fort.

2. Tellicherry, it is remarked, was one of the Stations proposed by Mr. Rohde in his report dated 26th April* 1856, for a central Jail, but the Government are clearly of opinion, that it should, as he now suggests, be transferred to Cannanore. The preparation of plans and estimates for all the central Jails were ordered in Extract Minutes Consultation, 24th June 1857, No. 719, para. 3; but it was left to be hereafter decided, on financial and other grounds, whether the construction of these buildings should be commenced at once or at what intervals. It will now be intimated to the Public Works Department that the central Jail for the western Coast will be at Cannanore and not at Tellicherry.

* Head "Increased accommodation and central Prisons" paras. 6 and 7.

The Government cannot accede to Mr. Rohde's suggestion, para. 5, for the removal of a body of Convicts to the station, at least until it be proposed by the Engineers after the plans and estimates have been sent in.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Rxd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial Department.

No. 39

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Dated 9th January 1858.

Read the following Letter from
the Inspector of Prisons
(Vide entry 11th Dec/57, No 524)

Ld

Gl

Mr. M.

Ld the above letter from
Inspector of Prisons enclosing
with reference to Para 1. of Extd.
Mins: of Cons: 26th Nov last, that
he did not intend to convey the
idea that the Ellichery Fort
buildings were of little value
in a Military point of view,
or that the site was suited to
the purposes of a Gaol Jail.

Did not
The Govt. understood and the
Inspector's observation on the

buildings within the Fort & up more than
walls, that they were subordinate
of little value as public offices
or as having
and ~~of~~ reference to the
configuration of the site, - consi-
dered in a Military point of
view, - as being within the
wall of a Fort.

2. Tellicherry, it is remarked
was one of the stations suggested
by Mr Rohde in his Report
dated 25th April 56, for a Central
Gaol, but the Govt. are clearly
of opinion, that it should,
as he now suggests, be trans-
ferred to Cannanore. The
preparation of Plans and
Estimates for all the Central
Gaols were ordered in Govt.
Mins cons: 24th June 57 No
719 para 3; and it was left

"Proposed Provision for the Central Prisons" para 6 &c.

to be hereafter decided, on financial
and other grounds, whether the
construction of these buildings
should be commenced at once
or at what intervals - &
this now be intimated to
the Pro-Dept that the Central
Gaol for the Western Coast
will be at Cannanore &
not at Tellicherry -

The Govt cannot
accede to the Resolution
para 5
suggestion for the removal
of a body of convicts to
the station at least
until it be proposed
by the Engineers after
the plans and esti-
mates have been
sent in -

J.P.

To the Inspector of Prisons
Public Works Dept &c

Dispd 15th

Rec'd by the Govt. 12th January
Judicial 1858 Department

No. 39

Extract Mins. Cons.

Dated 9th January 1858.

C. No. 16-17
1-12-57

11—12

Madras:—Printed at the Government Press.

Ext. Mins. Cons. 9th Jan. 1858