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 4th March 1858, No. 99.

SIR,

I trust I may be excused for pressing on the attention of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the importance of obtaining, without delay, one secure and proper Prison for Europeans, sentenced to penal servitude, and one secure central Prison for such Convicts as it is of *great moment* effectually to secure.

* In the Budget.

2. The small* Prison at Ootacamund was designed by me partly with a view to meet the necessity first alluded to. In regard to the second point, I feel some difficulty in making any suggestion, as the temporary occupation of an unfinished building would necessarily delay its completion. The erection of a small but secure Gaol, at Chingleput, would perhaps be the best course next to that of pushing on the erection of the great central Gaol, a measure which in my opinion cannot be safely deferred.

3. The old Jail of Chingleput is not one that would be retained under a better and more economical system, and a secure Gaol for 150 prisoners, capable of being increased for 300, would be as a temporary expedient, probably the best.

4. There is not at present a single secure Gaol in the country, partly from construction, partly from the impossibility of segregating dangerous offenders from those not necessarily subjected to the same strict imprisonment.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, No. 428; dated 1st April 1858.

In the above letter, the Inspector of Prisons presses on the attention of Government the importance of obtaining without delay, one secure and proper Prison for Europeans, sentenced to penal servitude, and one secure central Prison for such Convicts as it is of great moment effectually to secure.

2. In regard to the first of these objects, it is observed, that an estimate for a general Prison for the confinement of Europeans was called for from the Chief Engineer in Extract Minutes of Consultation 14th September last, and he will now be desired to furnish it with all despatch.

3. Mr. Rohde states, that the small Prison at Ootacamund—attached to what is now the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, but will be hereafter the Court of the Subordinate Judge—was designed by him partly to meet this purpose. The estimate for this Jail, it is remarked, has been included in the Budget of 1858-59. The Supreme Government will be solicited to give it early sanction. The want of some Prison in a suitable climate for the confinement of Europeans, sentenced to penal servitude, is more pressing. A short time since a prisoner whose original sentence of transportation had been changed to one of penal servitude, under Act XXIV, 1855, and who had been imprisoned for more than two years in the Madras Jail and Penitentiary, petitioned that he might be transported according to the terms of his original sentence, but his application could not be complied with. It is clear that Europeans cannot be effectually put to hard labor in the low country, and that to imprison them there for any protracted period, is cruel.

4. With respect to a secure central Prison for Natives, the Government are by no means disposed to approve the erection of a small Jail at Chingleput. It would in their view be far preferable to proceed with the great central Jail. The Government have already, 26th January last, sanctioned the plan of this Prison, it being intended that this work should be carried on gradually and a revised estimate has been called for from the Chief Engineer. On its submission the project will be laid before the Government of India for their special sanction. It will be pointed out to them, that in the opinion of the Inspector there is not a secure Jail in the Madras Presidency, and that the most serious consequences have resulted from this want. Very recently an out-break occurred in the Masulipatam Jail in which two Convicts were killed on the spot, four wounded and eight escaped, of whom two are still at large, all desperate characters. The Judge has also just forwarded three prisoners whom he deems it unsafe to keep in the Masulipatam Jail, by sea to Madras, that they may be made over to the Jail at Chingleput, which Jail itself in Mr. Rohde's judgment is not a secure one.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Govt.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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2. In regard to the first of these objects, it is observed, that an estimate for a general Prison for the confinement of Europeans was called for from the Chief Engineer in Extract Minutes of Consultation 14th September last, and he will now be desired to furnish it with all despatch.

3. Mr. Rohde states, that the small Prison at Ootacamund—attached to what is now the Principal Sudder Ameen's Court, but will be hereafter the Court of the Subordinate Judge—was designed by him partly to meet this purpose. The estimate for this Jail, it is remarked, has been included in the Budget of 1858-59. The Supreme Government will be solicited to give it early sanction. The want of some Prison in a suitable climate for the confinement of Europeans, sentenced to penal servitude, is more pressing. A short time since a prisoner whose original sentence of transportation had been changed to one of penal servitude, under Act XXIV, 1855, and who had been imprisoned for more than two years in the Madras Jail and Penitentiary, petitioned that he might be transported according to the terms of his original sentence, but his application could not be complied with. It is clear that Europeans cannot be effectually put to hard labor in the low country, and that to imprison them there for any protracted period, is cruel.

4. With respect to a secure central Prison for Natives, the Government are by no means disposed to approve the erection of a small Jail at Chingleput. It would in their view be far preferable to proceed with the great central Jail. The Government have already, 26th January last, sanctioned the plan of this Prison, it being intended that this work should be carried on gradually and a revised estimate has been called for from the Chief Engineer. On its submission the project will be laid before the Government of India for their special sanction. It will be pointed out to them, that in the opinion of the Inspector there is not a secure Jail in the Madras Presidency, and that the most serious consequences have resulted from this want. Very recently an out-break occurred in the Masulipatam Jail in which two Convicts were killed on the spot, four wounded and eight escaped, of whom two are still at large, all desperate characters. The Judge has also just forwarded three prisoners whom he deems it unsafe to keep in the Masulipatam Jail, by sea to Madras, that they may be made over to the Jail at Chingleput, which Jail itself in Mr. Rohde's judgment is not a secure one.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Govt.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Item

That in most cases of Misdemeanants
day one decent and proper prison for
Europeans sentenced to penal servitude
unquestionable – Only the other day a
man so sentenced, and who had been
two years in confinement at Madras,
ought to be transported – But it could
not be practised – It is clear that Europeans
must be put to any real hard labour in K
country, and that to imprison them
for any length of time is cruel —
The small prison at Ootacamund
which Mr Robson says might for a while
in the time, has been included in the Budget of

prison for such convicts

Judicial Dept.

No 428.

Extract from the Mins. of Cons. dd 1st April 1858—

Insr Inspector of Prisons 4 March 1858.

In the above letter the Inspector of Prisons presses on the attention of Govt the importance of obtaining without delay, one second and proper prison for Lunatic-paupers sentenced to penal servitude, & on second central prison for such convicts as it is of great moment effectually to secure—

2— In regard to the first of these objects it is observed that an estimate for a general

a Model Prison
Sir— Thos Jones

Pursuant—

6.3.58.

WM

I think the suggestion of employing the Convicts still at Botanic on the proposed Lunatic Asylum is a very good one & to be adopted—

I am opposed to building a second jail at Glasnevin. Inspectors & Commissioners for the Central jail at the Red Mills should be consulted & a decision speedily obtained as soon as practicable—

16 March

F. H. Waller

1858/9 - 2 Mc 1 Dec 1857 - The estimate for
R30000 for the work cannot be commenced
- but until the sanction of the Supreme
Govt has been obtained, and intimation
thereof I understand without the specific
authority of this Govt specifying the proper
site & details restrictive orders -

In fact the general prison for the
confinement of Europeans on the Hills
as at present constituted called for from the
Chief Engineer in 8 Mc 14 Sept last - I
have not yet been furnished -
am not aware that the site is yet
settled but from the Inspector's letter
of 23 Sept 57 it probably will be

Somewhere in the neighbourhood of
Sachatalam

In respect to a Central prison
for the Natives in the low country
it would seem to be better to push on
with the Central prison at the Red Hills
or some similar site, than to build
a small one first at Chingleput or
elsewhere in the plains as shown
Commander. The Central prisoners being
[illegible] for 26 Jan 58 and
the Chief Engineer [illegible]
[illegible] - 6 Feb/58 it
[illegible] that the works
carried on gradually

The estimate when it comes will

prison for the confinement of Europeans was called for from the Chief Inspector in Feb. 14 Sept. Last — and he will now be desired to furnish it with all despatch —

3. Mr Rohde states that the small prison at Ootacamund — attached to which is now the Supreme Court but will be hereafter the Court of the Subordinate Judge — was designed by him partly to meet this purpose — The estimate for this small jail is remarked has been included in the budget of 1858/9 — The Govt Supreme will be solicited to give it early sanction —

The want of a comfortable climate for the confinement of Europeans sentenced to penal servitude is a pressing — & short time since a Prisoner whose original sentence of transportation had been changed to one of penal servitude under Act XXIV. 1855 and who had been imprisoned for two years in the Madras Jail and Penitentiary petitioned that he might be transported according to the terms of his original sentence, but his application could not be complied with — It is clear that

Europeans cannot be effectually put to hard Labor in the low country and that to imprisonment thereby for any protracted period is cruel —

4 — With respect to a secure central prison for natives the Govt am by no means disposed to approve the erection of a strong Jail at Chingleput — It would in their view be far preferable to proceed with the great Central Jail. The Govt have already 26 Jan^y Last sanctioned the plan of this Prison it being intended that the work should be carried on gradually and a revised estimate has been called for by the Chief Engineer — On its submission the project will be laid before the Govt of India for their special sanction. It will be pointed out to them that in the Opinion of the Inspector there is not a secure Jail in the Madras Presidency — & that the most serious consequences have resulted from this want — Very recently an outbreak occurred in the Penitentiary Jail in which ten convicts unarmed four killed on the spot — two wounded — and eight escaped of whom two are still at large — all desperate characters — The Judge

has also just forwarded
Three Prisoners whom
he deems it unsafe to
keep in the Madeira Pata
Jail, he has to Request
that they may be kept
on the H.C. Jail at Chin-
glepet. which Jail
is dep^t in Mr Rohde's
judgment is not a
secure one.

Inspector of Prisons } Dispd 8th
D^p Work } JP

C 24 March
R 31—

Judicial Letter to Govt
7th Sept. No. 13 of 1858.
Para 53.

Rept to in No 1 of 1859.
Para 33.

e. No. 34-35
1/12/57

11472

In reply to Govt. No. 97 April
Judicial 1858 Department

No. 428

Extract Minute of Council
dated 9th April 1858.

Passing observations on the letters from the Inspector of Prisons — pressing on the attention of Govt the importance of obtaining one secure and proper prison for Europeans sentenced to penal servitude, and one secure, central prison for the safety of Convicts.

G.G. No. 83 7. Copy forwarded to Madras

538

M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 628 Press Mis

Dated 1—2—1923

Not to be folded or roughly handled