

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Justice DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 564	Press
36-37	~~Mis~~
Dated 28-6-1912	(S.J.)

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 29th April 1859.

No. 36. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated 6th April 1859, No. 157.

SIR,

* Dated 20th March 1859,
No. 436.

With reference to Extract* from the Minutes of Consultation forwarding for my report copy of a letter from Mr. Glass, Sessions Judge of Chicacole, I have the honor to state that I presume he alludes to a copy of my remarks on his Jail forwarded to him. I have received no estimates and know not what charges the Engineer Officer may propose. Nothing has been done with reference to Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, 14th January 1858, except necessary repairs for the security of the building.

2. I think it likely that the repairs I now consider requisite for the security of the hospital do not require any reference to Government.

3. I annex a copy of my report on this Jail to which Mr. Glass alludes.

Chicacole, 12th & 13th February 1859.

The Prison buildings have since the date of my former visit undergone no alterations. In one ward the roof has been repaired but my precautions to secure ventilation by omitting the flat tiles on either side the ridge have not been attended to.

The ground about the hospital has been raised and is now, as the Jailer informed me, always dry; this raising of the surrounding area has however, in my opinion, been the cause of a settlement in the building, I have observed the same effect elsewhere with apparently the same cause.

The main rooms of the hospital require ties as suggested in my last report; the Sessions Judge is requested to call on the District Engineer to prepare an Estimate for securing the walls against any further injury from the thrust of the roof which appears likely to destroy the building and imperil the inmates if this precaution is not speedily taken.

* This is a mistake, though it was quoted as its price. I was asked 25 and afterwards 30 Rupees, 24 is probably the value, the Arsenal price is 27.

Good Staffordshire iron is now selling at 21⁰ Rupees a catty in Madras and as the span of the building to the outside of the walls will probably be about 21 feet, each tie if of one inch iron, will only weigh half a hundred weight, ten such ties would be sufficient for the whole building. A stout dammer wood plank say 2 inches in thickness should be placed outside the walls on either side the building to support and distribute the pressure of the nuts at the end of the tie rods, and washers should of course be placed under the nuts; care should also be taken to protect the iron tie by a good coat of coal tar, keel or other covering.

To support one corner of the hospital bath room, I observed that a heavy masonry buttress had been erected, the same amount of brick work would have replaced the injured wall, such buttresses are often prejudicial from their tendency, not to support, but, by their weight and settlement to tear asunder the original building, and such appears to have been the case here, these bath room walls must now be removed, at least in part, and rebuilt.

I found the Officiating Zillah Surgeon of the opinion I before expressed, that the better course would be to enclose the present hospital and that an enclosure in the rear of the Gaol for a new hospital would be confined. I must however admit that considering the proximity of the station of Vizagapatam where it is proposed to place a large central Prison, and that this Chicacole Gaol is bad in almost every respect I think it hardly worth doing much to it.

The fastenings to the hospital doors are insecure and should be replaced by others of better construction.

The doorway leading from the large ward of the hospital into that now used as a Surgery must be built up, wholly or in part, in consequence of the crack in the wall over it consequent on the thrust caused by the roof.

A very sufficient cooking shed was wholly occupied by a few prisoners who had been allowed to erect low walls dividing compartments, suited for 10 or 12 Convicts cooking, into 3 or 4 enclosures for as many prisoners, they remonstrated against the removal of these their "bussos"! I gave instructions to clear the whole space and erect a line of fire-places against the partition walls, one such being allotted to each cooking prisoner.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 29th April 1859.

The soil in the Gaol-yard had accumulated so as to be in places higher than the floors of the wards, this should now be lowered and the precaution taken of clearing drains from the openings at the bottom of the Prison walls on the outside.

Another addition to the building that appears desirable is a strong palisade from the outer to the inner gate of the Gaol on either side the way by which the prisoners pass in and out, to prevent a rush upon the arms of the Sepoys on guard; the male Convicts being all lodged in the inner yard have no business in the space between the walls which forms a passage to four separate enclosures, and is open to the guard-rooms.

I observed that although small arm-racks, for two stand of arms each, were provided at the head of the places where the Sepoys lie, yet the arms of the whole guard were piled leaning against the large gate by the side of which the prisoners pass to and from the interior of the Gaol. I mentioned the risk to the Havildar of the guard on the morning of the 13th and the Sessions Judge's attention is now requested to the arrangement.

The Jailer mentioned that the bridge over the drain between the Prison and Hospital is so small as to impede the flow of water: there has been a good deal of correspondence relative to the want of drainage of this space, the Sessions Judge is requested to order the construction of a sufficient drain or bridge.

It appeared to me that ditches unnecessarily deep had been cut from the ground in front of the Gaol towards the river, from their form they will, however, in all probability soon be filled up.

The prisoners seemed in good case, I had no complaints by them worth notice.

Notwithstanding my having about 18 months ago furnished this Gaol with chain, I found the use of bar-irons universal, two sets of chains had been prepared but the welding of the long link gave way on being struck with a hammer, the attention of the Gaoler was called to this.

The Sessions Judge is requested to enforce the rules laid down for the ironing of prisoners, reserving the bar-irons for extreme cases in which the use of chain is inexpedient; care must be taken that the long link is perfectly welded and that the iron of which it is made is not injured by bad work.

No care seemed to be taken to confine the prisoners to the use of prison clothing, cumby hoods were not furnished.

The tools supplied to the prisoners seemed few in number and care was not taken to weld on points to the pick axes before they were so much worn as to render them unserviceable.

There was no entry in the visitors' book since the date of my last inspection, the Sessions Judge and Medical Officer are requested to enter their names whenever they visit the Prison.

The punishment book showed only 3 occasions on which punishment for Prison offences had been resorted to, namely of 4 prisoners on the 17th July 1858, of 3 on the 14th April 1857, and of one on the 15th August 1857.

The Court Register had not been brought down later than June 1858, the General Register of Prisoners however was brought down to date.

I observed several defects in the Registers; one most important one was want of attention in entering the distinguishing features in the description; the Warrants were not regularly numbered nor was any reference to be found to the number of the Warrant in the registers. The General Register contained no entry of the numbers under which the prisoners, when sentenced, would be found in the Register of Convicts; the entry in column 2 of the General Register was not filled in as indicated in the heading.

From the defective entries of the prisoner's description which I find in several Prisons, it appears to me desirable to require that it be prepared by the Jailer with the assistance of the Dresser, in English, on the receipt of a prisoner and that the Medical Officers in charge be requested to check such entries by frequent comparison, certifying the instances in which they have compared the Descriptive Rolls by their initials in that column in the General Register.

I found that notwithstanding my instructions and the previous orders of the Foujdaree Udawlut (14th October 1837) no fewer than six Peons were employed otherwise than as guards,

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of whom three were on duties unconnected with the Gaol. The Sessions Judge is requested to observe the rule laid down on the 24th March 1857, (Circular No. 27.)

Peons on duty as guards over working parties during the day are required to mount guard over the Gaol by night, this will not be necessary when the Peons hitherto withdrawn, return to their proper duty, especially as there is an unusually large Military guard over this Gaol.

Two Peons Appa Nuraimooloo and Mahomed Sadah appeared too infirm for Gaol duty, they should be brought before the Zillah Surgeon with the view to their obtaining certificates for a gratuity on discharge, unless employment requiring less bodily strength and activity can be found for them.

Payment is due by this Gaol for 644 lbs of chain, for which a bill will be sent from the Inspector's office.

The Gaoler seemed intelligent and was able to keep his own books, the General Register being with the exceptions noted above correctly kept by him; he requires some instruction in his duties, he has unfortunately received a severe wound which renders his speech defective, but I have little doubt that with assistance and instruction he will be able to conduct his duties efficiently.

When the restriction to public works, not of a very emergent character, is removed, the question of carrying out the alterations to this Gaol directed by Government, will be brought forward in connection with the establishment of a central prison at Vizagapatam.

A platform weighing machine and 10 pair of hand-cuffs with spring locks, were left by me at Vizagapatam for the use of this Prison.

A copy of these notes was sent to the Sessions Judge of Chicacole from Guntoor on the 22nd February.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector General of Jails.

No. 57.

ORDER THEREON, No. 564; dated 25th April 1859.

The above communication from the Inspector General of Jails does not afford any explanation on the matter of the letter from the Zillah Judge of Chicacole, recorded in Extract Minutes Consultation, 30th Ultimo, No. 436.

2. By Extract Minutes Consultation, 12th February 1858, the proposed new Hospital and wall for the prisoners' work-yard estimated by Lieutenant Palmer at Rupees 4,080, were to lie over for the year 1859-60, being too late for the budget of 1858-59. It has not however been included in the budget for this year.

3. Under these circumstances, resolved that Mr. Rohde's report on the Chicacole Jail, received with the above letter, be referred to the Public Works Department, in view to any of the works, or repairs therein adverted to, as may be absolutely indispensable for the security of the buildings and safe custody of the prisoners (if there are any such required) being executed on emergency.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

11
Judicial Department

N^o 564 -

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Dated 25 April 1859

Read the following letter from
the Inspector General of Mills

[Here enter 6th April 1859 No 107]

The above communi-
cation from the Inspector General
of Mills does not afford any
explanation on the matter of the
letter from the Millale Judge of
Chicacole, recorded in Ex: am:
Cons 30th Minutes at 436.

2. By Ex: am: Cons 12th
Feby 1858, the proposed new
Hospital and wall for the
prisoners' work yard estimated
by Lieut. Palmer at £4080
were to be paid for the year 1857
1858 being late for the budget
of 1858/59. It has not however
been included in the budget
for this year.

3. Under these circumstances
resolved that Mr. Rhodes
report.

17
report on the Chicacole Jail,
received with the above letter,
be referred to the Public Works
Department in view to
any of the works, or repairs
therein adverted to, as may be
absolutely indispensable for
the security of the buildings
and safe custody of the
prisoners if there are any
such required, being executed
on emergency.

J.P.

Fort George
25th Apr. 1839 }

To the P.W. Department.
" Inspector Genl of Sails. } Depd. 5th
" Hillah Judge of Chicacole.

W. Rossack

Sept 20 1893

Judicial 1853 defects

2/13 564

Subtract Minutes from:

11/21.
Apr 25 ⁴ April 1859

F. A.

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adapted in an
= amazing way.