

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	616	Press
		~~Mis.~~
7-8		
Dated	4-8-1949	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
from 4th to 10th May 1859.*

No. 7. Read the following letter from H. FORBES, Esq., Member of the Legislative Council; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 16th April 1859.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 9th Instant, the Honorable Sir Charles Jackson gave notice of his intention to ask the Executive Government what steps had been taken to provide a suitable Jail for Europeans sentenced to penal servitude in India under Act XXIV of 1855.

2. As I was aware that the Jail which it was intended to erect for the confinement of European Convicts was to be erected on the Neilgherry Hills, and I conceived that information upon the subject might be expected from me, I sent a telegraphic message to the Secretary to Government on the 11th Instant, requesting that I might be informed, before the next meeting of the Council on this day, whether a plan and estimate had been prepared and sanctioned, whether the work had been commenced, and when it would probably be finished.

3. No reply has reached me, and on the question of which he had given notice being to-day put by Sir Charles Jackson, it was replied to by the Honorable Mr. Peacock.

4. Mr. Peacock said that the Government of India having, in December 1855, submitted to the Honorable Court of Directors a proposal to erect a central Jail for European Convicts, received, after some intermediate correspondence, sanction for the work, in a Despatch dated January 1857, of which a copy was sent direct to Madras by the Honorable Court. Mr. Peacock added that, in March 1857, the Madras Government were informed that the Government of India would await the submission of a plan and estimate for the building, and that no further correspondence appeared to have passed on the question.

5. It was admitted that, in the Budget for 1858-59, there was entered an item of "a new Jail for Native prisoners at Ootacamund," at an estimated expense of Rupees 30,000, and that subsequent explanation led the Government of India to sanction the building, on the ground that it "had been designed partly as a Prison for Europeans sentenced to penal servitude, until a larger Prison could be constructed solely for their use."

6. Lastly it was said that on sanction for this temporary expedient reaching Madras, doubts had been raised by the Officiating Chief Engineer, as to whether the design submitted was fitted for the reception of Europeans, and a specific Report was called for from the Inspector of Jails.

7. On putting his question, Sir Charles Jackson enlarged upon the cruelty of subjecting Europeans to lengthened periods of penal servitude in the Jails at the Presidency towns, and on the ill consequences which inevitably attended the interference of the Executive Government in granting pardons, an interference which was however unavoidable, as long as there was no Jail available in a climate suitable to Europeans.

8. The Government of India were not able to say that any steps had been taken in Madras to remedy the evils complained of by Sir Charles Jackson, and I regret that I was not in possession of any information that would have enabled me to give any reply to the question that was put.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1859, No. 616.

No. 8.

Madras, 14th April.

"The project of a General Jail for Europeans on the Neilgherries was approved by the Court of Directors and Plan and Estimate have been called for from our Chief Engineer, but none have yet been furnished and nothing has been done." "A small Jail has been sanctioned at Ootacamund, which will accommodate a few Europeans besides Natives. The execution has been entrusted to Rohde who will set about building it forthwith."

It is observed that a reply as per margin was sent by telegraph to the message alluded to in para. 2 of the above letter. The telegraphic communication between Madras and Calcutta was interrupted about that time, and from that cause probably the answer failed to reach Mr. Forbes before the date of his letter.

2. Resolved that the Chief Engineer be requested, through the Department Public Works, to submit as speedily as possible the plan and estimate of the central Jail for Europeans to be erected on the Neilgherry Hills.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
from 4th to 10th May 1859.

3. Resolved also that the Inspector General of Jails be requested to state what measures he has taken towards the construction of the Ootacamund Jail under the orders of Government of the 6th Ultimo, No. 460, when the Jail will probably be finished and how many European prisoners it will accommodate.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Sub Judicial Dept.
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Dated 11th May 1859.

Read letter from the Member for Madras
of the Council of India -
Here enters 18 April 1859.

Madras, April 14th.

"The project of a general jail
for Europeans on the Malabar Coast
was approved by the Court of Directors and Plan and Estimate
have been called for from our
Chief Engineer, but none have
yet been furnished and nothing
has been done."

A small jail has been
sanctioned at Ootacamund
which will accommodate a few
Europeans besides natives. The
execution has been entrusted to
Police who will set about building
it forthwith.

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It is observed that a
reply as per margin was
sent ~~to~~ by Telegraph
to the Member a week
to by per para 2 of the
above letter - Telegraphic
communication between
Madras & Calcutta
was in the state about
that time - and the
from that cause
and ~~therefore~~ probably
the answer failed to
reach the Member before
the date of his letter.

2. Resolved that the
Chief Engineer be
requisitioned through the S.P.O.
to submit as speedily
as possible the plan
and estimate of
the Central Jail for
Europeans to be erected

on K-mulberry Hills
3. Resolved also the
K-Inspector find of
Sail to report on
to state what measure
he has taken to use
the construction of the
overhauled sail
under the order of.
Sail of the 6th Ultimate No. 40
when the sail will
probably be finished
2 how many men
-man Prisoners
it will accommodate

To the P.M. Dept.
a. Ins. Gen. of Sails } Chief

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29/4/1859

Proceedings of the Court

1859

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