

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 508	Press
52-53	Mis.
Dated 24.4.1860	

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
for the month of April 1860.*

No. 52. Read the following Proceedings of Government, in the Public Works Department,
dated 17th April 1860, No. 786.

Communicating copy of a letter from the Chief
Engineer, reporting that a saving of Rupees
6,636 has been effected from the sum sanc-
tioned by Government from time to time for
the improvements to the Penitentiary. } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department,
from 11th to 20th April 1860, Nos. 122 and
123.)

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, 24th April 1860, No. 508.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 2nd April 1860, No. 11,991 :—

1. Adverting to Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 555, dated 26th March 1858, fixing 77,465 Rupees as the limit, within which the improvements sanctioned from time to time to the Penitentiary should be carried out, I have the honor to report, that the Civil Architect, in intimating* their completion, states that a saving of Rupees 6,636-7-4 has been effected, from the omission of the following works which were not required.

Four Small night Guard-rooms	...	Rupees	298	0	0
Iron Gratings in the compound, to admit of the Sentry looking into the Wards...	...	"	177	0	0
General Privy...	...	"	210	0	0
			685	0	0

Add the amount sanctioned by the abandonment of one of the Flanking Towers, and the non-completion of the three others provided for in the Estimate 5,653 0 0

Rupees..... 6,338 0 0

2. Besides the above, there was a saving also effected in the item of plastering, one coat only having been put on, while two were allowed in the Estimate.

3. The Civil Architect having been requested to report, whether any further improvements are likely to be called for upon the Estimates sanctioned by Government, that Officer while replying† in the negative, states that he is now preparing a Plan and Estimate for some improvements to the Hospital Wards (in consequence of the prisoners committed for trial at the Sessions, who were formerly located in the Grand Jail having been transferred to the Penitentiary), and there is another proposition made by the visiting Magistrates to substitute iron for the wooden doors of the European Cells. Both these works are likely to cost about 3,000 Rupees, but Captain Hitchins observes that they have no connection with the works already sanctioned.

4. The whole of the improvements authorized to the Penitentiary have been carried out, with the exception of these noted above, in strict accordance with the Estimates from time to time submitted to Government.

5. With regard to the omission of one coat of plastering from the walls, &c., of the Penitentiary building, the Civil Architect states that the measure is not likely to succeed, and that the walls must be re-plastered, as the wall, however, is not urgently required, Captain Hitchins proposes‡ to submit the Estimate in time to obtain sanction for its execution before the setting in of the next north-east monsoon.

6. I do not agree with the Civil Architect that re-plastering the walls will be a sufficient remedy, and I attribute the failure of the plaster executed by Captain Winscom not to its being limited to one coat, but to the fact that the walls of the building erected in 1817 were not plastered till 1858. Nothing is so adverse to the adhesion of plaster, as delay in its application

ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1860, No. 786.

Ordered to be communicated to the Judicial Department together with copy of the Order of March 26th 1858, No. 555.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department, with Order No. 555.

[Signature]

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Judicial.

No. 555.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 26th March 1858.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer.

Submits an estimate with correspondence for constructing the outer wall round the South and West sides of the Penitentiary, and extending the Guard room at the entrance, &c., &c., and requests early sanction for the disbursement of the sum of Rupees 29,967, the amount still remaining to complete the works connected therewith. (Here enter 18th February 1858, No. 7473.)

Under date the 10th July 1857, the Government of India granted sanction to an estimate of Rupees 41,100, for various additions and alterations to the Penitentiary buildings at Madras, and on the 23rd October following, this Government submitted another set of estimates, amounting in the aggregate to Rupees 36,820 for the following further improvements to the same buildings.

Verandah in front of the Prisoners' Ward on the south side, in addition to the portion under construction...	Rs. 4,270
Verandah on the east and west sides in the lower story of the Jailor's Quarters.....	1,230
Do. on the do. in the upper ... do.	1,400
Alterations in the ground-floor of the two ranges of European Wards for the erection of additional Cells in the upper story.....	1,280
Erecting new Cells for Europeans in the upper story...	6,550
Do. 4 night Guard rooms in rear of the buildings...	298
Providing iron gratings in the compound walls in rear of the buildings ...	177
Contingencies.....	5
Constructing a Flanking Tower with upper and lower story.....	4,370
Do. ... 3 do.	13,110
Sinking, &c., 50 Wells for sub foundation to the south-east and south-west Flanking Towers near the river... ..	1,400
Constructing 2 Guard rooms at the outer gateway 18 x 15 feet... ..	2,730
Grand Total...	36,820

2. In reply to the application above referred to, the Government of India observed that the total proposed expenditure on the Penitentiary was very large, and requested that the outlay might be reduced to within the narrowest possible limits, by abandoning, or postponing, all work not urgently required. The Chief Engineer was accordingly desired, in an order, dated 5th January last, No. 4, to report what works, of those provided for in the estimates of Rupees 36,820, he considered absolutely necessary to render the buildings fit for use.

3. Colonel Faber now forwards a report on the subject from the Superintending Engineer in charge of the Central Circle. Major Lawford observes that the bastioned towers at the angles of the boundary wall will have the effect of diminishing internal security, and recommends that they be not proceeded with. He suggests on the other hand, the extension of the outer wall all around the Jail, the enlargement of the front Guard room and the improvement of the drainage of the Prison. The other works provided for in the estimates in question are considered by that Officer to be necessary, except the long interior Verandah, which he observes might be postponed. The Chief Engineer expresses his full concurrence in the several suggestions made by Major Lawford, and submits an estimate of the cost of the works proposed by that Officer.

4. The amount already expended on the Penitentiary is reported to be Rupees 47,498, to which being added Rupees 29,967, the further sum now required to carry out the suggestions of the Superintending Engineer, the total proposed expenditure will amount to Rupees 77,465 or Rupees 455 less than the aggregate amount of the several estimates* referred to above. The Government of India having already declared† their willingness to sanction an expenditure on these buildings to such extent as will render them fit for use, and as the necessity of the works now recommended and proposed by Major Lawford is affirmed, in strong terms, both by that Officer as well as by the Chief Engineer, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council authorizes, agreeably to Colonel Faber's recommendation, an outlay of Rupees (29,967) twenty-nine thousand, nine hundred and sixty-seven in addition to Rupees 47,498 already expended, on the express understanding that this limit must on no account be exceeded.

* Rupees 41,100
" 38,820
" 77,920

† Letter dated 4th December 1857, communicated with Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 5th January 1858, No. 4.

(A true Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer.

