M.R.O. 3—30,000—16-10-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 303 Press ~~Mis.~~

47-48

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Dated 6. 3. 1861 19 .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 6th March 1861.

No. 47. Read the following :—

COMBACONUM, *15th January* 1861.

1. I visited this Jail with Mr. Beauchamp, the Sessions Judge, Mr. Swinton, the Subordinate Judge in charge of the Prison and Mr. Doyle the Zillah Surgeon, at Mr. Beauchamp's suggestion I directed that all the wells in the Jail should be stopped : the Jail has been somewhat less fatal than usual to those confined in it, but many of the prisoners have been transferred as they sickened. I was struck with Mr. Beauchamp's remark given a year ago to Sir Charles Trevelyan in respect to the unhealthiness of this Jail, that like his fowl house it was "tainted" and that the reason of the mortality in both cases is to be attributed to the same cause. I have on former occasions said all that need be said in regard to this Jail, which I hope will before many months pass be abandoned and the prisoners be transferred to Tanjore.

2. The building had been repaired since my last visit, but from some misconception the Estimates had not been sent to me, and the object I proposed had been lost sight of.

3. The guarding of this Jail is in excess : I wrote to Captain Bafe who had been appointed to the Tanjore Police district, requesting his attention to this on his way from Cuddalore.

4. I think eight of the warders from this Jail, may be immediately transferred to Tanjore the station determined on for the Zillah Court. Their pay will continue to be drawn by the Officer in charge of the Zillah Jail.

5. The debtors were over-crowded, the grain should be immediately removed to the outside of the Jail and the room given up to debtors.

6. In weaving, one warder is kept to purchase thread and superintend the weaving of 2 looms one of which was idle; the difficulty of using the fly shuttle was stated as a reason for not extending this mode of employment; this however is a mere excuse, if prisoners are really taught weaving they will learn to use the fly shuttle quite as readily as the old hand shuttle;—if they are already weavers a few days' practice is all that is needed.

7. In weaving prison cloths the use of fine thread should be avoided, the coarse thread used for tent cloths is that employed in weaving prisoner's cloths in the Northern Division.

8. The Jailor's house, recently built seemed good and well worth the cost.

9. If the Government delay the transfer of the Courts to Tanjore, I should propose to maintain this Jail simply as a Jail properly so called, transferring all convicts to Tanjore or Tranquebar.

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

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1861, No. 303.

The Government see no objection to the Jail at Combaconum being maintained, as proposed by Mr. Rohde. The time for transferring the Tanjore Courts from Combaconum to Tanjore is uncertain.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 303 — 6 March 1861.

The Govt. see no objection to the Sail at Combaconum being maintained, as proposed by Mr. Rohde. The time for transferring the Sanjore Courts from Combaconum to Sanjore is uncertain.

The Inspector Genl. of Sails. Copy 6-3-61.
" Inspector Genl. of