M.R. O. 1—22/09—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 350 Press ~~Misc~~

120-121

Dated 13.3.1861 ~~19~~ .

516

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 120. Read the following Report:—

TRANQUEBAR.

12th January 1861.

1. I visited the citadel, now used as the prison, this morning, with Mr. Clarke, the Session Judge, and Dr. Joseph, the Zillah Surgeon. The upper rooms on the sea face had been taken for the Principal Sudder Ameen's, Sudder Ameen's and Moonsiff Courts: a way to the ramparts from the street to the south, was in course of construction in order to access being had to the Courts without interfering with the part used as a prison.

2. Access to the prison is by the main gate to the north of the fort; on the left of the entrance is a large ward used as a guard room and well suited to the purpose; to the right are two wards used as the Jail hospital; a small ward beyond it is the female hospital ward; the eastern ward on the north side is intended as a granary. The west side of the square is occupied by four lofty tiled rooms protected by a verandah to the east, well suited for the lodging of prisoners, a smaller ward at the north end is also suited to the same purpose. The bombproof rooms forming the south side of the square may be used as cook-rooms, store rooms for tools, &c., but are hardly adapted for wards. On the east side are large low vaulted rooms under those described as in use by the Subordinate Courts; the prisoners seem not to have suffered by confinement in them, though, with the exception of the southern ward of the range, they are ill ventilated on the west side only and very close.

3. I have no recollection of having ever received any plan or estimate for the repair of the building or for the alterations necessary to its occupation as a Jail. I am informed that Government sanctioned three thousand Rupees for *permanent* repairs necessary; that in October or November last, the roof was taken off the range of wards I have described to the west of the square and repaired. I trust the Government will insist on the whole cost being repaired by the Officer who executed these repairs, the whole of the work is scamped, some new wood, very little, has been put in, the tiles are now falling down, the rafters being generally rotten, there is much of the rest of the roof in the same state; I sent a note to Mr. Whish, who I understood was in charge of the range, requesting his attendance, and from him I learned that the work was done by a Mr. Hayes, who received his instructions directly from the District Engineer; he engaged however to send for the accounts and inform me what money had been expended and on what work. The Session Judge complained of the delay in carrying on the work. The separate entrance to the Subordinate Courts not having been completed, all persons attending the Courts continue to pass through the Jail, though a few hours would have sufficed to do all that was needed in providing an entrance to the south; four low walls to prevent access by the ramps to the outer walls from the square and which are urgently needed, had been left unfinished or not commenced, though eight bricklayers and two carpenters might very well have done the work in a week; a grating not having been put over the half of the cook-room well which is open to the ramparts, escape by that opening is easy; much of the other work required was left undone, and, as I have already said what was done, was done badly, the roof repaired in the autumn was rotten, the floors, where new, were badly laid and the delay seems endless.

4. Mr. Clarke tells me that an estimate for about 800 Rs. for a small house for the Jailor has been sent in: I also learn from him that there is a large Government house at Poryar now useless, which would afford all needed accommodation for the Subordinate Courts.

5. It is very desirable to have the Jail distinct from any other buildings; the upper rooms, now used as Courts, open at the back over the prison square, they would not only accommodate the Jailor but give wards for Europeans, which will probably be needed as the trade of Negapatam increases with the opening of the Railway; debtors may also be there lodged, away from the criminals.

6. At present there is no division of the Prison Court, this will hereafter have to be made; means for steeping paddy and preparing rice are also required, the making of palisade and gate at the entrance, of a barred window cutting off access from the guard room to the yard and of an iron gate to the middle ward on the east side I will request the Inspector General of Ordnance to sanction from the Arsenal workshops on payment.

7. The prisoners, most of whom are from Combaconum, are a wretched-looking set, 14 were in hospital out of the 69 in Jail, mostly from the effects of their former prison; Dr. Joseph was satisfied with the salubrity of this Jail, the returns from which for some years present a favorable contrast with those of other southern prisons.

8. I was pleased with what I saw of the Jailor.

9. It is much to be desired that the work going on at this Jail should be brought to a close without delay and that any thing further required should be done by an intelligent maistry and convict labor.

10. The bombproofed wards will require to be pierced at the crown of the arch for ventilation as at Cuddalore.

11. The ramparts, into which the rain water now percolates should be covered with "jelly" with a slope to throw the rain off, in order to secure the wards which are built against them from damp.

12. A gallows should be provided and might be constructed against the south side of the citadel, unless on further consideration the selection of this locality is found offensive to the residents.

13. It will be desirable, before doing much to this building, that the Government should determine whether Tranquebar or Negapatam is to be ultimately the station of the Court.

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

No. 121. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1861, No. 350.

Communicated to the Public Works Department, with reference to Proceedings 5th ultimo, No. 148, in view to paragraphs 3, 9, 10 and 11, being taken into consideration.

2. It is certain that the Courts will be held at Tranquebar for a considerable time. All needful repairs and additions to the Judicial buildings should, therefore, be executed.

3. Before erecting the gallows, the Judge should ascertain from the inhabitants of Tranquebar where a site for it may be selected, so as not to prove an annoyance to them.

4. The Government are not prepared to authorize the removal of the Subordinate Courts to Poryar.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Pro: of Govt: 15th Feby/61 No. 103 & 104.
31st July 1860.
13 Oct " No 10411
5 Feby/61. " 17418.
25 " " 157458
15 Jany/61. No 87.

Prov. Jud. 1861 Dep.t

From

The Inspector Genl of Jails.

No. 352

D/- 12th Jany
Rd. 2nd March } /61.

1 Plan.

No 347.

Reporting upon the Citadel at Tranquebar now used as the Prison which he visited & desiring it to be determined whether Tranquebar or Negapatam is to be ultimately the Station of the Court.

120.

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5 5 -
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Judicial.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read Report of the Inspector General on the Jail at Tranquebar - Inter 12 - Sanny. 61.

Order - 13th March 1861, No 350 -

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3. Before erecting the gallows, the Judge should ascertain from the inhabitants of Tranquebar where a site for it may be selected, so as not to prove an annoyance to them.

4. The Govt. are not prepared to authorise the removal of the subordinate Courts to Porto Novo.

The Inspector Genl. of Jails.
" Court of Sessions Judge of
" Sudder Court. Cuddalore.
" Pub. Wks. Depts. with a Plan

Dept 14-3-61

Prov. Ft. Church.

Undated 1867 Depart.

№ 350.

Proceedings of Court

Feb. 7/15.
1238/65
15/39/61
Sept. 13th Dated 1867.

Communicate to the War Department the report of the Inspector General of Jails upon the Criminal Transactions in prison to paras 8, 9, 10 and 11 of Proceedings 5th Returns № 148 being taken into consideration and state that G.C.M.O. are not prepared to sanction any the removal of the subordinates [illegible] to Europe.

120 & 121.