

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>P35</i>	Press
		<i>M.B.</i>
<i>207-208</i>		
Dated	<i>28.6.186</i>	<i>10</i>

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Not to be folded or roughly handled*P*

28th June 1861.

No. 207. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 14th June 1861, No. 254.

In reference to the proposed addition of 64 cells to this Prison, I have the honor to state that I have been in personal communication with Colonel Horsley on the subject and that he concurs in my view that the addition is practicable, but thinks that the introduction of a body of 100 European and American Convicts into the heart of this sanatorium station is objectionable and that the distance from any Military force is also an objection.

2. I fully agree with Colonel Horsley in thinking that it would be preferable to have the Prison as originally proposed, and that it is better for the discipline of the establishment that it should be isolated. I am willing to admit that the inhabitants are entitled to consideration and that the prejudice against having 100 European Convicts in the heart of a large station to which families resort, is a very reasonable one, though it is one that would not have occurred to myself. I may add that situate, as the building is, in the middle of the station, it would not be desirable that the Convicts should be allowed to pass outside the walls, though at Aranghat they might be so employed in the second stage of their imprisonment. I am averse to Military aid for ordinary Civil purposes, though willing to admit that I should prefer having the opportunity of calling for assistance to the Prison establishment if needed. If however the matter is simply one of saving in first cost, there can be no doubt of the practicability of the enlargement of the present building.

3. With this Prison, as with every thing else, there can be no doubt that efficiency and economy in management will be best provided for by adopting the more perfect plan in the first instance.

4. At Ootacamund the advantages will be a comparatively small first outlay, the presence of a resident Magisterial and Judicial Officer and a single establishment.

5. The disadvantages will be a less perfect building and consequent inconvenience and expense; a less mild climate with necessity for heating the building; difficulty in regard to employment of prisoners, who have passed their first stage, beyond the walls, as well as in regard to controlling the establishment; distance from Military or other aid should it be required and perhaps some temporary inconvenience in adding to an occupied Prison, this however I do not lay much stress on.

6. At Aranghat the greatest disadvantage will be the necessity for having a second establishment with a superior Officer at its head. The distance though sufficient to facilitate the maintenance of discipline among the Warders is not too great to allow of the attendance of the Clergy and Medical men. From Coonoor or Wellington, the distance to the Railway is also less, and it is probable that to some constitutions the climate of a place 200 feet above Wellington will be preferable to that of Ootacamund.

7. The cost of similar buildings will be perhaps 20 per cent. less at Aranghat.

8. I desire to be understood as preferring the Aranghat Prison if the question of first expense is set aside.

9. I should mention that if this Prison is permanently given over for prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, a Court-house must be provided, the old Court being now used as the Native Prison.

No. 208.

ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1861, No. 835.

The Government do not consider the objections alluded to by the Inspector General of Jails, against the addition to the European Jail at Ootacamund, to be entitled to much attention.

2. They do not intend to allow the Prisoners to move beyond the precincts of the Gaol, they therefore cannot annoy the inhabitants. The construction of the Gaol will enable a small number of Warders to exercise complete control over the Prisoners and consequently the presence of a Military force in the neighbourhood of the Jail will not be required.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
28th June 1861.

3. It is not necessary to discuss the comparative healthiness of the two sites. Both are sufficiently healthy.

4. The sole question is as to expence. With two Prisons there must be two Officers at the head and separate establishments beyond all proportion to the number of Prisoners. The annual saving by having only one Prison will far exceed the interest of any additional sum laid out at Ootacamund on account of extra cost of material for the 64 cells that have to be constructed, while such additional sum will be much less than the difference between the expence of building a Prison of 100 cells at Aranghat and that of adding 64 to those already built at Ootacamund.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

The objections of the Proprietor of the additional to the fact at Ootacamund do not appear to me entitled to much attention - it is not the intention of the Gov^t to allow the Prisoners to move beyond the precincts of the Jail they therefore cannot annoy the inhabitants - the construction of the Jail will enable a small number of prisoners to exercise completely out of doors in most required a military force more at hand in most required the comparative healthiness of the sites is not a matter which needs to be enquired into - both are healthy & we are building a Prison out of a Sanatorium - The only question is as to expence with two Prisons there must be two officers at the head - & separate establishments out of all proportion to the number of Prisoners - The annual saving by having only one Prison will far exceed the interest of any additional sum laid out at Ootacamund on account of extra cost of material

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letter from the Inspector
General of jails.

(Here enter signature 10th 20236)

Order thereon 28 June 1861. No 855.

The Government do
not consider the objections
alluded to by the Inspector
General of jails, against
the addition to the European
jail at Botacaman and to
be entitled to much
attention.

3. They do not intend
to allow the prisoners to
murmur beyond the precincts
of the Jail, they therefore
cannot annoy the inhabi-
tants. The construction of
the Jail will enable a
small number of warders
to exercise complete

and consequently the
presence of a military
force in the neighborhood
of the Jail will not
be required.

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healthiness of the two sites.
Both are sufficiently
healthy.

4. The sole question is
as to expense. With two
Prisons there must be two
officers at the head and
separate establishments
beyond all proportion to
the number of Prisoners.
The Annual saving, by
having only one Prison
will far exceed the interest
of any additional sum
laid out at Calcutta
in account of extra cost
of material for the
cells that have to be con-
structed, while such
additional sum will
be much less than the
difference between the

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• Arrangements that of
adding, be to those
already built at
Calcutta

J.P.

• To the Inspector General of Prisons

W. J. P.

Provincial 1861. Department.
No. 835

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS
GOVERNMENT.

File 2164/63

Dated 28 June 1861.

Whereas the Commission
General on Affairs that the
do not consider the objection
alluded to by the said
the addition to the Commission
that the Commission to be
instituted to make a revision
and that the Commission should be
constituted as a Commission
and not as a Commission.