M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 106 Press ~~This~~

160-161

Dated 25-1-1862 ~~19~~

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

9/11/30

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
25th January 1862.

No. 160. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 18th January 1862, No 23.

In acknowledging the Order of Government of the 11th instant, I have the honor to state that the delay in completing the Jail at this station is not attributable to me.

2. The building has long been substantially finished as far as could be done till the heating apparatus was fitted, the delay in obtaining this has been owing to that proposed for Jacatallah having been proposed to me and to my not having been able to decide on its suitability till I received a description of it, and until Colonel Horsley's suggestions in reference to my objections to it had been disposed of; this was on the 11th April, and on the 25th, I forwarded to Colonel Orr drawings with a request that he would assist me in the construction of suitable apparatus in his workshops. In November I went to Madras with the object of seeing it, lest any alterations should be needed, and Colonel Orr's workmen had instructions from that Officer, to complete it and despatch it to me by the 15th, the day fixed for the extension of the Railway Traffic to Sunkerrydroog. The opening of the Railway was delayed and it was towards the end of December that I heard of the apparatus being complete. I happened to be unwell at the time, but a few days afterwards I wrote to Colonel Orr requesting him to send up one set of heating apparatus and one stove, as it is possible that in putting it up some change may be necessary. I have now heard of the apparatus being on its way up and on its being fixed the building will be ready.

3. The Government of India assume that the building has been in progress from May 1859, but, I may remark, that not a brick for the building could be turned out till January 1860; from this time the work steadily progressed and the building may be considered to have been substantially finished in September 1861; the rate of progress was necessarily much slower than it might have been on the plains where labor is abundant and materials may be bought and reliable contracts for bricks, &c., obtained; with the exception of contracts for delivery of lime, sand and 1,00,000 bricks I have had to supply every thing and personally to superintend every little detail; I was deceived in the out-turn of bricks from the Government field and some check may have resulted.

4. I know very well that if the prisoners were admitted before the building was seasoned there would be an outcry and all sorts of faults would be discovered in the building by those who might claim to find fault. It is quite true that I could justify myself by reference to His Excellency the Governor's Minute on his first visit to the Jail, and I did not needlessly push on the finishing of details.

5. The enclosed extracts from my returns to the Department of Public Works for January 1860 and September 1861 will shew the time during which the work has been in progress, and I would submit to His Excellency the Governor in Council whether any culpable delay has taken place and whether, under all the difficulties I have had to contend with, I could, with due regard to economy, have pushed on the work quicker than I have done. It must be remembered that I am not accustomed to large works and that I have not had the assistance of a single experienced or skilled subordinate to direct its progress.

6. I need hardly explain for the consideration of the Government the process by which the plaster of a new building affects the health of those confined in it, and the necessity of allowing time, first, for the mortar to dry, and then, unless a very long period is allowed, of using artificial means for supplying carbonic acid to the sleeping cells, in order to induce the lime to give off, previous to the chamber being occupied, the large quantity of water with which all new plaster is chemically combined, instead of allowing it to be discharged in vapour, as it absorbs the carbonic acid discharged from the lungs and body of the occupant. I can appeal to His Excellency Sir W. Denison to corroborate my statement that towards the end of October the walls of the cells were not dry, I then suggested the necessity of delay in causing the cells to be occupied, and I think His Excellency agreed with me, and expressed himself to the effect that after all the care taken to provide for the prisoners, it would be a pity to subject them to risk from damp walls. I was certainly deceived as to the time the building would take to dry,

and I deceived myself as to the time the Jail would take in the little details in its fittings, &c.

7. If the Government think with me that after the 15th February artificial heat may be dispensed with (in case of any accident to or failure in the heating apparatus) that day might be fixed for receiving half the number of convicts. There will be one American Convict of full blood from a Zilla Jail besides those in the Madras Jail.

8. I cannot of course state with certainty that the heating apparatus will be received uninjured, and that it will work effectively by any particular day, but I hope to get it fixed and in working order before the end of this month, otherwise the building is ready.

9. If the Government of India would direct that each prisoner before leaving Calcutta should be furnished with a suit of *dark* grey cloth without pockets and with 2 pair American drill drawers and 2 shirts, 2 banyans, 2 towels and a comb, it would be convenient, as we cannot very well provide clothing to fit at sight, and the prisoners should be warmly clad before they ascend these hills.

Extracts from Progress reports of the new Jail at Ooctacamund, dated 2nd January 1860.

The work during the monsoon months was confined, 1st, to excavating the site and foundations which involved and still involves heavy blasting of rock; 2nd, the opening of an extensive brick-field, hereafter to be worked by the District Engineer for general purposes, including the formation of about 3 miles of cart road, bridged, for bringing in wood and carting out bricks, the building of Superintendent's house and Store room 47′ × 17′, of Cattle shed 50 feet × 14, of Tile shed about 150 feet × 14, and of hecks for 6 tables with sites excavated for kilns and Pugmills; 3rdly, the erection of Carpenters' sheds and Sawpits and establishment of Smiths' Shop; 4th, purchase of the timber required for the building; 5th, the converting of timber for beams, &c., the construction of door and window frames and sawing planks into lengths to season; 6th, the purchase of Stores, Chunam stone, advances to contractor (Johnston) for hard bricks; 7th, the making 4 Pugmills, 12 brick barrows, 12 wheel barrows, 6 brick tables, brick moulds, stock and pallet boards, and other things required for the brickfield work, furniture for brickfield, Overseer's house, making of Carpenters' benches; 8th, the purchase of 5,477 loads of sand delivered.

2. Contracts concluded with Carpenters for the work and with Chunam Contractor for delivery of 360 paras of chunam monthly from Matepollium, others having agreed to supply Chunam and stone by the Seegore Ghaut; exclusive of Matepollium stone 1,29,450 lbs. already delivered at Arrangât.

Dated 25th October 1861.

Cells finished excepting asphalte, painting iron work and the fittings, 2 yard dividing walls complete with privies to each yard, Carpenters employed on cell fittings.

(True Extracts.)

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

No. 161. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 25th January 1862, No. 106.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 20th ultimo, Home Department, Judicial, No. 2,506, relative to the prison for European convicts at Ootacamund, and in reply to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Jails on the subject. The Government believe that Mr. Rohde has had many obstacles to encounter arising from the difficulty of procuring labor and building materials at Ootacamund and from the climate of the Neilgherries.

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Inspector's letter, this Government I am to state do not consider that the transmission of the Calcutta convicts to Ootacamund need be made

contingent on the success of the heating apparatus, or that the number of convicts to be sent need be restricted to half the entire number for whom provision will have to be made. I am accordingly to request that all the convicts—provided that they do not exceed twenty-eight in number—may be despatched so as to arrive at Madras about the end of next month. The Government would be glad to receive early intimation of the number that will be sent, the vessel on which they will be embarked, with the probable date of departure from Calcutta and arrival at Madras, as also that the actual date of her leaving may be communicated by Telegraph. It is desirable likewise that, if possible, the convicts should be provided with the articles of clothing mentioned by Mr. Rohde in the concluding paragraph of his letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Despd 25th

By Steamer

Federal Office

No 106.

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To the

Secretary of War, Washington — Hon

Dept

I have the honor
to acknowledge
your letter dated
the 20th ultimo from
Dept. Surgt Genl's Office 25th
relative to the pro-
posed Commissioners
at Ottawa council,
and in reply to forward
herewith accompanying
copy of a letter from
the Superintendent of
Indian affairs at Detroit
the proceedings that
Mr Richardson had
many obstacles
~~met with in~~
to encounter arising

from difficulty of procuring labor & building materials & obtaining and from elimination of the Artillery

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Instructions, I beg to state that the commissariat of Calcutta
Committee to obtain-
-ing and provide the Troops with Camels, Bullocks & Carts, will be probably dispensed with from Calcutta & proceed to Madras — as also that part of the

paragraph will be under consideration — I am according to depend that the Committee will be dissolved on the 1st proximo — & I shall communicate a resolution of Government that will be made — & directed to the Commissariat Officer with whom they will be connected — & I shall be enabled to state the number of Camels, Bullocks & Carts that will be required for the Service — & the probable date of dispatching them from Calcutta & Madras — as also that part of the

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dut of the bearing may
h communicated
by Telegraph — I
don't like also stating
to the Commissioner
h proceedings with
articles yet stating
mentioned by Mr
Roberts & Commissioner
Brings plans
etc —

Copy to Mr Roberts — } Despd 24th "
and to Com of Police } JP
& Inspector Ind Police Despd 24th "

Judicial 1862 Dept.

No. 106.

To the Secretary to the
Govt. of India.

Dated 20th January 1862.

Transmitting a letter from Mr
Rhode, dated 18 Jany/62 relative to
the prison for European Convicts at
Cataramund. Observing that the
delay in the completing the building
arose from the difficulty to procure
labor and materials at the Hills.
Requesting that the Convicts not
exceeding 25 in number, may be
sent to Madras so as to arrive by the
end of February and that they may
be provided with the articles of
clothing referred to in the last
para of Mr Rhode's letter.

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