M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2046 Press Mis.

155-156

Dated 16 . 12 . ~~19~~ 1882

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 155. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq, Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 29th November 1862.

In anticipation of the orders of Government, I have the honor to state that after communicating with Mr. Grant, I visited the Choultry at Goodaloor, mid-way between this and Metapolliem, and found the larger Choultry well adapted to the lodging, with some security, of say 80 Convicts. I saw another open Choultry about 3 miles from this into which 30 Convicts might, if a thatched verandah were added, be crowded; but I know of no other lodgings available on the line.

2. A moveable prison suited to 50 Convicts with iron bars and a corrugated galvanized iron roof I estimated at 1,000 Rupees, it could be finished in a month, and would last for many years.

3. I object to thatch for prisoners secured in irons, most serious fatal accidents have occurred from its use.

4. Mr. Grant engages to go out and see if the Goodaloor Choultry can be given up, he may be able to find some shelter at Metapolliem, but I hear of none.

5. From Mr. Hannyington, the Head Assistant, and Mr. Campbell, Assistant Superintendent Police at Paulghat, I find that the buildings in the fort are occupied, but that the old Jail now used as a subsidiary Jail is available for about 70 Convicts.

6. I have told off a gang for Paulghat, consisting of prisoners whose sentence exceeds 2 years, about one-half of which has expired, to be sent as soon as the Police guard can be supplied.

7. For employment on the Metapolliem road I have desired a list to be prepared of prisoners whose sentence exceeds 2 years, two-thirds of whose sentence has expired, and of prisoners under 2 years' sentence, one-half of whose sentence has expired. In regard to this gang, I would recommend that the Assistant District Engineer, Mr. Traill, now in charge of the work, be entrusted with charge of the gang with limited powers extending to the infliction of 24 stripes, the Officer in charge of the Zillah Jail having still full powers under Regulation X of 1832 over the gangs.

8. The Head Assistant at Paulghat or other Officer in charge, being a Magistrate, might be vested with full powers over the gang at that station.

9. I have in communication with Mr. Grant and the District Engineer fixed on a good site for the central prison, it is within 3 miles of the Railway Station, and if the nearest point of the line were taken it would be within 2 miles, the land which is poor is under dry cultivation, and I have requested Mr. Grant to make arrangements for its being made available on the crop being taken.

10. I cannot omit to state that in my opinion the Railway Station is most unnecessarily removed to a locality presenting no one advantage, and every conceivable disadvantage, had it been placed a mile or one and a half mile to the eastward it would have been as near the town with a far better line for communication, much nearer the station, equally near or nearer to the town with a safe and excellent road already made for half the distance with excellent building land on the line of road with no river to cross and with facilities for a cheap, short and excellent road to the Hills. Even now I think a small station might with advantage be placed there, in which case the prison would be about 2 miles from the station, and the distance to the European houses would be reduced from over 4 to under 3 miles, or taking the old public bungalow as the centre from 4½ to 2½ miles.

11. I think there can be no question that any junction by Tram or Railway to Metapolliem or its vicinity, would be brought to, or near to, the spot indicated, and I cannot conceive the object of sticking the station in the midst of paddy fields on the more distant side of the river.

12. If the Railway Superintendent will allow a siding, the earthwork to be done by prisoners, I think it will be no small advantage to the building of the Jail in the carriage of fuel and material for its construction.

Proceedings of th *ras Government, Judicial Department,*

16th December 1862.

No. 156. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1862, No. 2,0

Mr. R vithout delay for working on the Metapolliem road as many prisoners as can be accommodated in the two Choultries referred to. If there should be any accommodation available at Metapolliem Mr. Rohde will detach to that place as ma soners as can be safely lodged there. d Estimate oveable house referred will state by what Department he proposes to have it built.

The Assistant Engineer, Lieutenant Traill, will be invested with the power of punishing the prisoners working on the road under Regulation X of 1832 to th 24 stripes.

3. The Head As lagistrate at Palghaut will be invested with full powers under the regulation in question.

4. The Government are not prepared to discuss the question raised by Mr. Rohde as to the suitability of the site on which the Railway Station near Coimbatore ha rected.

The Governor in Council must request that Mr. Rohde will observe the rule of confining his letters to a single subject.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMootry.

Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

No. 2.7

Proceedings of Government,

Dated

" 2075
" 2615
" 22 6/62.
inviting the Inspector
al. of Jails to arrange
thout delay for working
the Metropolitan Road
as many Prisoners as can be
accommodated in 2 Choultries
Ref. referred to. —

1557