M&R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1957	Press Mis.
131-134		
Dated	16-12-~~19~~ 1863	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
16th December 1863.

Read the following papers :—

No. 131. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails ; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 29th July 1863, No. 108.

In acknowledging the Order of Government of the 25th June relative to the relief of the overcrowded Jails, I have the honor to state that the subject has for years engaged my attention, but that the proper and only satisfactory remedy is, in my opinion, in the erection of Central Jails, that it will be a mere waste of time and money to build temporary sheds ; but that the same time and money spent in pushing on the work-sheds of the permanent Jails sanctioned will provide the necessary accommodation, will facilitate and economize the erection of those Jails, and avoid the objections to locating the prisoners in insecure huts.

2. I have repeatedly urged this on the attention of Government, and I believe the Government will find my suggestions more practical and attended with less loss than any plans suggested by others.

3. The Vellore Mahals would accommodate upwards of 1000 prisoners, but precisely the same objection to this arrangement exists as was urged to the establishment of a Jail at Waltair, and with much greater force, as the situation is far less favorable.

4. The defects in the Salem Jail do not exist in the original design. I long since noticed the change in execution which seemed to have originated in some error in the Madras Offices. I cannot however think that the ventilation is really deficient, except in the hospital cells, which the District Engineer has already been requested to remedy in the first instance.

5. I do not think that the removal of the wall of the Calicut Jail will be of any use ; that Jail is already amply ventilated, the spread of disease in that Jail is, in my opinion, owing to precisely the same causes which render the Vizagapatam and other Jails fatal, and which will sooner or later affect the Cuddalore and Tranquebar Jails. The north wall may be moved a few yards further from the wards ; but in my opinion it will be a waste of money to do so. That Jail would fetch a good price as a store, and the Government long since ordered that it should be given up as a Jail.

Extract Minutes of Consultation, 7th February 1857.

6. From the expressions used by the Financial Minister for India in bringing out his last Budget, I am induced to hope that if the Government are heartily resolved on providing proper Jail accommodation, funds for the purpose will not be wanting.

7. Had the Government carried out my schemes as far as they were approved and adopted by it in 1856, I am confident that there would not have been half the prison accommodation needed that is now necessary, I objected to the continuance of the present Calicut Jail and to the erection of the Salem Jail any where in the neighbourhood of the to wn of Salem. The Government approved of my suggestions and determined to act on them, local interests prevailed however in the case of Salem, and circumstances over which the Government had no control delayed the execution of the design for erecting new Jails with the abandoning of those unsuited to the purpose.

8. I would respectfully but earnestly deprecate all waste of money in patching and altering Jails which are not and never can be proper for the confinement of large bodies of convicts, or in altering detached Forts and Barracks for the purpose.

No. 132. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 22nd August 1863, No. 198.

In my letter of the 29th ultimo, I attributed the omission of the windows in the Salem prison to some error with which I was unaware. I happened to-day to be referring to old plans of the prison which call to mind the circumstances under which the error occurred.

2. The design was originally for a building with arched roof. Captain Gahagan suggested terrace as more economical, when I concurred and added that, as, by leaving space between the joists on the wall open, ample ventilation and light would be secured, the windows would be in this case unnecessary, the building would then have been as shown in the upper story cells in

the plate to my first report, headed "Central Prison No. 4 back of the cells." Subsequently the arched roof was preferred, but the necessity for reverting to the original design in regard to windows, omitted in the sanctioned plan, was forgotten.

3. These facts never recurred to my memory till to-day, and had, I presume also, escaped Captain Gahagan's memory, having occurred in conversation and private correspondence when the plans were under preparation. I merely now allude to them in connection of my letter of the 29th ultimo, No. 108.

Read letter from the Magistrate of Madura, dated 22nd August, recorded in Proceedings of 3rd September 1863, No. 1423.

No. 133. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 12th September 1863, No. 261.

I have the honor to acknowledge the Order of Government relative to Mr. Vans Agnew's letter reporting that the barracks and buildings in the lower Fort at Dindigul are available for the accommodation of Convicts.

2. I do not object to wooden bars if stout and strong and well secured, the repair and preparation of the building now rests with the Engineer; if he makes the buildings secure, I have no objection to urge to their occupation by as many Convicts as they will accommodate at four to five hundred cubic feet of space to each man.

3. From Mr. Levinge's reference to the buildings in the upper Fort only, I conclude that the barracks were not available. Dindigul was, I believe, reported feverish, but I am not aware of its being so to an extent that would induce its rejection under the circumstances and the slope on which the barracks are should be healthy.

No. 134. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1863, No. 1957.

The foregoing letters have reference to the provision of additional Jail accommodation.

2. Mr. Rohde urges that in lieu of resorting to temporary expedients for providing accommodation in buildings ill-adapted for the purpose, every effort should be made to push on the Central Jails. The building of Jails of this description at Coimbatore and Salem has been already sanctioned, and every effort should be made in the Public Works Department to push them on.

3. Meanwhile arrangements have been made for locating 500 prisoners near the Lawrence Asylum works on the Neilgherry Hills, and one block of the upper story of the Salem Jail calculated to hold 54 prisoners will, it is expected, be ready for occupation very shortly.

4. In these circumstances it does not seem necessary to go to any great expense in providing additional temporary accommodation, but if the Barrack at Dindigul can be adapted at a moderate cost, it may be well to move a gang of prisoners into them from the Madura Jail. The Range Officer will be instructed in the Department of Public Works to prepare an estimate of the necessary alterations in communication with the Acting Joint Magistrate.

5. It is understood that Mr. Rohde has recently visited the Salem Jail and has pointed out to the Executive Engineer what alterations are requisite to improve the ventilation—they should be made as soon as possible.

6. The Government do not deem it necessary to order the removal of the wall near the Calicut Jail, but care must be taken that the number of persons confined in this Jail does not again exceed 200.

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

Exd. T. McMootry.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from the Inspector General of Jails.

Read also Letter from the Magistrate of Madura dated 22d Augt. recorded vide Proc. of 3d Septr. (Here enter 29 ult. 108 / 22d August 1863 No. 198 / 3 Sept. 1863 No. 1423) do 12 Septr. 1863 No. 261.
Letter from the Insp. Genl. of Jails

Order thereon 16th December 1863 No. 1957.

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of Public Works to prepare an estimate of the necessary alterations in communication with the Acting Joint Magistrate.

5. His Honour in Council thinks it advisable to [illegible] Inspector of [illegible] an early opportunity of inspecting the Salem Jail [illegible] Company [illegible]

it may [illegible] definitely settled [illegible]

[illegible] Principal [illegible] Medical Department.

[illegible] Jail does not contain Except 200.

Judicial 1863. Department.

No. 1957.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 16th December 1863

Fort St. George 16th December 1863

—"—127—"—

The removal of the wall near Calicut Jail not considered necessary, and Govt. enjoined, that the number of Prisoners confined therein, does not exceed 9.

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