

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1676	Press ~~Mis.~~
¹⁹⁵⁻¹⁹⁶ Dated	22-11-	19-1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department

22nd November 1864.

No. 195. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, dated 15th November 1864, No. 4060.

Directing that the Grand Jail buildings be appropriated as the Central Commissariat Stores. (Vide Proceedings, Military Department, dated 15th Novr. 1864, Nos. 422 & 423.)

No. 196.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1864, No. 1676.

To be recorded.

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

Exd. T. Cartledge.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

From the Commissary General, Madras, dated 10th August 1864, No. 153. } Recorded in Proceedings of Government, No. 3651, dated 13th October 1864. } Read again the paper noted in the margin.

Read also the following paper :—

From the President Sanitary Commission, Madras, 20th October 1864, No. 361 ; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

I received the Proceedings of the Madras Government,* Judicial Department, dated 13th September 1864, when absent from Madras. In order that no time should be lost in complying with the

* With Order, No. 1357.

directions contained in paragraph 16 of the Government Order, that further explanation should be given as to the employment of a portion of the Grand Jail for Stores, I requested Major Shaw Stewart to examine the part of the Grand Jail which will be vacated on the removal of the Convicts.

2. Major Stewart visited the Criminal side of the Grand Jail with Colonel Boileau, the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, and they are both of opinion that there would be very little difficulty in converting the greater portion of the ground floor on this side of the Jail into very good Store-houses, for which indeed the Cells, they state, are much better suited than for places of confinement.

3. In some places walls which were raised to separate prisoners will have to be removed, and various slight alterations will have to be made.

4. These rooms are considered by both Colonel Boileau and Major Stewart strong, well built, and in good repair. There are eleven of these on the ground floor and two large Cells on the upper floor. These are all marked purple in the Plans submitted to Government with my Report on the Grand Jail, dated 13th August 1864, No. 269. There are also three wards and about twenty small rooms upstairs, which I proposed should constitute the Debtors' Prison which will be available for Stores, when the new Debtors' Prison is built. The Hospital (an upstairs Building) would make good Quarters for a Serjeant. The present gallows, condemned and solitary Cells should be removed, and thus free access to all the several blocks would be afforded from the North side.

5. The upper rooms would be available for such articles as cloth, &c., &c., and light Stores generally, while the lower floor would be very suitable for grain, salt provisions, liquor and heavy goods.

6. The removal of the present blocks of out-houses, kitchens, old privies, &c., occupying the centres of the Court-yards to the right and left of the central block running North and South, would allow of the erection of iron-roofed Sheds of considerable size, whereby the capacity of the buildings as Store-houses could be materially augmented. And the enclosure of the compound to the North of the Jail and eventually of that to the South of it, would allow of any required amount of additional building.

7. A second Serjeant or other Non-Commissioned or Warrant Officer, could be accommodated in the present Jailor's house at the South entrance of the building, as soon as the Debtors are removed ; and the rooms on the second floor, commanding a bird's-eye view of the whole building, would form an admirable Office, being light and airy.

8. I may point out that the whole of these buildings are surrounded with a lofty protecting wall, and that this would prove an additional source of security for the valuable Stores likely to be contained in them. Between this wall and the present buildings there is a space varying in width from twenty-five to forty feet, which would allow of the stowage of Goods not likely to suffer from exposure. It would be difficult to find so much available space in any situation in Madras so well situated as regards the *Pier*, Railway and Commissary General's Office, and the erection of a similar amount of accommodation would be exceedingly costly.

9. The entrance to these Stores should be at the Northern side or North-east angle of the compound in front of the present gallows on the Town wall road, so as not to interfere with the entrance to the Civil Debtors' Jail which, until the new Jail can be built, would still continue in the Grand Jail.

10. I am aware that the Commissary General is opposed to the Commissariat Stores being removed from the Beach to the Grand Jail, on the ground chiefly that the distance from the Commissariat Office and from the Sea-shore is too great.

11. I can conceive that the Commissary General would prefer the present site of the "Granary" for his Stores to that which I have proposed; but it should, I think, be remembered that this site is of great value, and that it is admirably suited for public purposes. A site is required for the Electric Telegraph Office, which might with advantage be built on the ground now occupied by the Commissariat. This building with the new Stamp and Post Offices might be made an ornament to this part of the Town, and I submit that this is worthy of consideration in determining whether the Commissariat Stores need occupy the site of the present Granary.

12. The Grand Jail is less than half a mile from the Sea, but it is very little further from the *Pier* than the present site of the Granary, and it is actually nearer to the Commissariat Office than the Granary. It is also much nearer the Railway Terminus, a matter of some importance.

13. On the score of public convenience there is therefore little difference between the Grand Jail and the present Granary as a Commissariat Store, while the selection of the Grand Jail not only sets free an admirable site for a public Building of more importance than Commissariat Godowns, but utilizes a Building which is in good condition, is well suited for what is proposed and can probably be put to no other use.

ORDER, No. 4060, 15th November 1864.

The Governor in Council considers that the foregoing Report from the President of the Sanitary Commission goes far to prove the suitability, in almost every respect, as to site, space, and actual accommodation available of the Grand Jail for a Central Commissariat Depot. It is shown that the distance from the present Commissariat Office is actually less than from the Granary to the Office, and from the Sea it is only half a mile; the Railway Terminus is also nearer to the Jail than the Granary—all points of importance—and under these circumstances, His Excellency considers that the Building in question should, unless some insuperable objections exist, be appropriated as a Commissariat Store; the necessary alterations and additions being carried out in due course.

2. The objection of the Commissary General to the want of a Sea-frontage for the Depot, seems to be fairly met by the arguments advanced in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Mr. Ellis' Report, and further facilities for the conveyance of Stores to the Beach could easily be provided for by Tramway or otherwise.

3. The Commissary General will accordingly carefully examine the entire Premises, and report to Government the exact requirements for their conversion to the purpose above set forth, in view to the whole of the Commissariat Stores, of every description, being accommodated in one spot, and for which purpose it appears to the Governor in Council, from the foregoing report, that the Grand Jail is suitably adapted.

(True Extract.)

Albion Hall
Under Secretary to Government.

To the President Sanitary Commission.

" Commissary General.
" Quarter Master General.
" Judicial Department. *With 10 spare Copies.*
" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Barrack Master,
" Public Works Department, } for information.

No. 13 Sept 1864 - 82 to 83

Int. of 1864

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Justice of the Peace

Recording of 1864
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No 2379

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