M.R.O. 1—52,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1269	**Press Mis.**
63-64	
Dated 8-4-	19 18 85

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 63. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, Madras; dated Coonoor, 18th August 1865, No. 98.

I have the honor to submit, for the information and orders of Government, a report on the Calicut Jail, drawn up by the Committee which assembled according to the instructions of paragraph 5 of G. O., No. 877, of 16th June 1865, Judicial Department.

2. Accompanying is a Survey of the ground selected as a site for the new Jail that will have to be constructed. It seems to consist of a parallelogram, 144 yards by 94, backed by another four sided plot of ground, 80 yards by 66, on the same general level—with a second lower platform, 112 yards in length by about 30 yards in depth. If thought sufficient in extent, the Collector might be instructed to ascertain the amount of compensation which should be paid for it, and for the ground that will be required for the new approach to the site recommended by the Committee. I hope to have an opportunity of inspecting the locality next month.

From H. D. COOK, Esq., Civil and Session Judge of Calicut, Officer in charge of the Jail; R. E. PEARSE, Esq., Civil Surgeon, Malabar, Medical Officer to Calicut Jail; and Acting Deputy Commissary H. BAILEY, Sub-Engineer Malabar, Department Public Works—to Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore; dated Calicut, 4th August 1865. No. 183.

Agreeably to the Orders of Government, No. 877, published in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department dated 16th June 1865, we have the honor to inform you that we assembled at Calicut on the 22nd July 1865, and to submit a Report on the present Jail at this station, and the site of the new one proposed to be erected in its place, as therein required.

2. In the opinion of the Committee quoted at page 25 of Proceedings as above, viz., "that the Calicut Jail should be abandoned," we entirely concur, and for the following reasons:—

(*a*). The ventilation is essentially bad, and can only be improved by one of the two following means, viz., 1st, the removal of the whole outer wall, and its re-erection at a greater distance from the wards, which the proximity of roads renders impossible, or, 2ndly by the removal of the solid upper portion of the wall, say from 6½ feet above the level of the ground, and substituting in its place an open iron railing, with revolving *Chevaux-de-frise*, for purposes of security; this latter proposition, we should add, was long ago brought forward by the Officer in charge of the Jail, subsequently by the Medical officer with the approval of his superior, and lastly by the Inspector General of Hospitals—vide page 79, paragraph 24 of Proceedings as above—but was opposed by the Inspector General of Jails, and hence never carried into effect. Should, however, any considerable delay occur as regards the erection of a new Jail, we would beg strongly to urge the reconsideration of the point, as we deem the measure one easy of execution, and likely to be attended with very great benefit to the general health of the prisoners.

(*b*). The Jail is too close to the Bazaars, causing unnecessary exposure to, and danger of, infection, both while within the building itself and also when going to, or returning from, labor, besides affording improper facilities to the prisoners for obtaining pernicious and forbidden articles of food, &c., from their friends outside—a practice most objectionable, both on disciplinary and sanitary grounds.

(*c*). The Hospital is too far removed from the rest of the Jail, being situated on the beach about one-third of a mile distant, a circumstance giving rise to much unnecessary alarm and annoyance amongst the Towns-people generally in times of epidemic disease, &c.

(d).—The building being but very slightly raised above the level of the sea, there is consequently little or no subsoil drainage, a point of great importance in a humid climate like that of Malabar.

(e).—Lastly, whether due to the causes enumerated above, or to others which have escaped detection, certain it is that experience has proved the Calicut Jail to be one of the most unhealthy and deadly in Southern India.

3. That the sum likely to be realized by the sale of the present buildings, will, as suggested by the Committee at page 25, paragraph 19, of the Proceedings, suffice for the erection of a new Jail, our local acquaintance with the subject would lead us greatly to doubt; at the same time, judging from the very high figure which house property in Calicut has recently brought, no doubt a very handsome sum will accrue from the sale of the property, more especially if the Jailer's house, Hospital, and out-buildings are included in the auction.

4. After careful examination of the environs of Calicut, we have been enabled to discover and fix upon a site for the new Jail, which appears to us unexceptionable in every way, possessing as it does the triple requirements implied in a Jail site, viz., first, being moderately easy of access for judicial and economic purposes; secondly, meeting the sanitary requirements of such a building in the matter of elevation, soil, and drainage; and, thirdly, requiring no great expenditure of time or labor, in order to prepare and level the ground for building purposes.

5. The exact position of the plot of ground selected is shewn in the accompanying plan, and may be briefly summarised as follows:—It is a small Laterite Hill, with a mean elevation of nearly 50 feet above the surrounding country, situated somewhat over half a mile due east of the large bazaar, which does not extend far in this direction (and in our opinion certainly should not be allowed to do so, for reasons already recorded), and overlooking the backwater at a distance of about 120 yards. The soil, as stated above, is unexceptionable, and the natural drainage excellent; the slope of the ground throughout being from the centre towards the circumference of the platform, which on three sides terminates abruptly with a drop of 20 or 30 feet, while on the fourth, the north, side it slopes away gradually into the surrounding country, and, as appears on the plan, there are but three small Native houses which will require to be disturbed. The frontage afforded, taking the western side as the face of the building, will be 433 feet with a mean depth of 291 feet in the northern $\frac{7}{8}$ths of the plot, and of 381 feet in the southern $\frac{1}{8}$ths, in addition to which there is, on the southern face, a second ridge about 10 feet lower than the general platform, and shewn in the plan as occupying the space between the southern side of the Hill and the main road, which could easily be made available for the erection of out-houses, workshops, &c.

6. Lastly, should the site now advocated be adopted, we would suggest the advisability of opening up a road from the North-West angle to meet that coming down from the bungalow, whereby the convicts will be enabled to go to and return from their work, without passing through any of the bazaars—an arrangement, which would no doubt conduce greatly to the maintenance of their general health, and the prevention of epidemic and infectious disease. Wells can be sunk within the Jail walls, and we do not anticipate any difficulty in securing a sufficient supply of good water on the spot.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
22nd August 1865.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secy. to Govt., P. W. D.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1865, No. 1269.

Orders will be issued in the Public Works Department for the preparation of a plan and estimate for the erection of a new Jail, capable of holding 150 prisoners, on the site proposed by the Committee. The Collector will ascertain and inform the Superintending Engineer of the amount which will have to be paid as compen-

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department
8th September 1865.

sation for the ground, and for the approach to the site, and also the probable proceeds of sale of the present Jail and its out-buildings.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with the Survey.
,, Inspector General of Jails.
,, Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

1865 Depo
Judicial
from Brig. Gen. Pope
the Adjt. Engineer's
Dept

Referred to the Judicial Dept
Charles A. Dana
Col. & A.A.G.
Secretary of War
Fort St. Georges
22d August 1865

Publication Dept.

Lieut. Col. & A.A.G.

Respectfully Submitted
Edwin M. Stanton
Secretary of War

Have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the Secretary of War, dated August 22d 1865, enclosing a letter from Brig. Gen. Pope, dated Fort St. Georges, August 22d 1865, and requesting to be informed whether any publication has been made of the Report of Lieut. Col. Comstock, Corps of Engineers, upon the Galveston Harbor.

In reply I have the honor to state that no publication has been made of the Report referred to.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. A. Humphreys
Brig. Gen. & Chief of Engineers

Lieut. Col. C. B. Comstock
Corps of Engineers

Sent to the Secy. of State
D. W. Co.
Chadsey

Dated 18th August 1865
Recd 21
Ans — 4 September
Encls: 2 & Return

No 1884

Forwarded for the Secretary of State's information and return of the enclosures.

By order of the Secretary of War
E. D. Townsend
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

63.

Referred

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division

(Fort St. George 18th August 1865 — No. 1269.)

Order thereon 8th September 1865.

Orders will be issued in the Public Works Department for the preparation of a plan and estimate for the erection of a new Jail capable of holding 150 prisoners on the site proposed by the Committee — The Collector will

ascertain

ascertain and inform the Superintending Engineer of the amount which will have to be paid as compensation for the ground and for the approach to the site, and also the probable proceeds of sale of the present Jail and its outbuildings.

To
The Pub: Works Dept. with the Surveyor
" Inspector Genl. of Jails
" Collector of Malabar

Pub. Dept.

Judicial 1865. Department.

No. 1269.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

F.A. 110/66.
" 253-11
" 1772-1
Dated 8th September 1865.

63-64
78-1