

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Indicail DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1276	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	8 — 9 — 19. 18. 8	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 85. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Acting Inspector General of Jails, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Bangalore, 16th August 1865, No. 9.

With reference to the latter part of paragraph 7 of the Government Order noted in the margin, I have the honor to forward two Reports and two plans from the Local Committee assembled at Vellore to determine upon the site for a Central Jail there.

Judicial Department, 16th June 1865, No 877.

2. Of the sites described, I prefer those exhibited in plan B, as I think the one shown in plan A is somewhat too distant from Vellore, and that the selection of the Fort, even if otherwise desirable, is likely to involve much correspondence and delay, owing to the number of public buildings which it will be necessary to remove.

3. As the Committee deprecated the occupation of the ground colored green on account of its proximity to the Ring Drive and Race Course, I requested that some further particulars might be furnished regarding the site marked a.a.a. in the same plan. These will be found in the Report dated 12th instant, and it would seem that there is little difference between these two sites.

From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate of North Arcot; and Assistant Surgeon C. COOPER, M. D. &c., Vellore—to Colonel W. J. WILSON, Acting Inspector General of Jails; dated Vellore, 31st July 1865.

In accordance with paragraph 7 of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, dated the 16th of June 1865, we have personally inspected the country in the vicinity of Vellore, and have selected three sites suitable for the erection of the proposed Central Jail, the plans of two of these sites are herewith forwarded, marked respectively A and B.

2. The spot selected in plan A is a high lying open plain, bounded on the north by the high road to Bangalore, which connects it with Vellore, distant about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles; there is good water procurable all the year round from wells on the southern side, the soil is gravelly, and, if the distance from Vellore is not considered too great, the site is in every way a most desirable one.

3. The next site (vide B) is nearer Vellore, being only a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and approached by an excellent made carriage road; here too the soil is gravel, and the situation high, and there is an abundant supply of good water from wells. The portion colored in green, and surrounded by a ring road, is the Vellore Race Course, and would (we feel bound to remark) make an excellent site; but as there is plenty of open ground (a.a.a.) north of the road, we think it would be a pity, unless all other sites are considered unsuitable, that it should be appropriated; for the Ring Drive and Race Course are both used by the residents of Vellore.

4. The third site selected is the interior of the Vellore Fort itself, a situation proverbially healthy, but to provide sufficient space all the buildings on the west side of the Fort would have to be knocked down, including the Mahals, Church, Post Office, Pension Office, and certain vacant barracks; but the selection of this spot would save Government the expense of granting compensation for the land taken up, and further the Church, Pension and Post Offices are small buildings which might be removed and replaced by others outside the Fort, without great expense, and the remaining buildings have for the most part been unoccupied for some time, and are in indifferent repair. In this site too a large quantity of building material would be immediately available. The soil is a rich loam, and the situation convenient, and as before observed most healthy.

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

5. The prevailing winds are the same in all these localities—from April to September, west during the day, and either east or south-east during the night; in October and March very variable, and from the beginning of November to the end of February chiefly from the north and north-east.

6. We consider the site A as on the whole the most desirable, if not too distant from Vellore.

MEMO. OF DISSENT.

I beg to express my dissent from the 3rd proposal, viz., the site in the Fort selected by the majority of the Committee, for the following reasons:—

- (1.) The site is too near the town and cantonment.
- (2.) It is only half a mile from the lines.
- (3.) It is too confined.

I may add as minor objections—

(4.) That the erection of other buildings in place of the Church, Post Office, and Pension Pay Office, which would have to be knocked down, would necessitate a larger outlay than the amount saved by not having to purchase the land.

(5.) That this site being selected will render the Small Cause Court, Sub-Collector's Office, Stipend Pay Office, and Taluq Cutcherry, hardly habitable, even as offices; for the west side would be shut in by a huge building.

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Acting Joint Magistrate.

From Colonel A. J. M. BOILFAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate of North Arcot; and Assistant Surgeon C. COOPER, M. D., Vellore—to Colonel W. J. WILSON, Acting Inspector General of Jails; dated Vellore, 12th August 1865.

In reply to your letter, No. 4, dated the 8th instant, we have the honor to return the plan marked B, and to answer your queries in the order mentioned.

1. A square of 1200 feet is available, and the spot is indicated on the plan.
2. The soil is sand and gravel, and drainage would be easy.
3. Good water could be had at a depth of 20 or 25 feet, by sinking wells on the western side.
4. The Nullah would be no impediment. It is a very small one, hardly deserving the name, and could easily be altogether diverted, so as to join other water courses to the east of the spot marked on the plan. The ground falls to the northward and westward about one foot in 50; the direction of the fall has been marked on the plan.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1865, No. 1276.

On further consideration His Excellency the Governor in Council is disposed to question the necessity of building a Central Jail at Vellore. It will be sufficient, he thinks, that Jails of this Class should be provided at Bellary, Cannanore, and Trichinopoly, in addition to those now in course of erection at Rajahmundry and Coimbatore, and the existing Jail at Salem.

2. The project of building a Jail at Vellore may, therefore, be abandoned for the present.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails, with two plans.

„ Jail Committee sitting at Bangalore.

„ Public Works Department.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letter
from the Acting Inspector
General of Jails
(See letter 16 August 1865 No 9)*

Order thereon 8th September 1865 No 1276

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= done

done for the present.

To The Inspector Genl of Jails
" Jail Committee sitting ^{at the Jail} despd 13/9
at Bangalore.
" P. H. Department. —

H. A. L. 2
Enrolled 1864 Department.

No. 1276.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 8th September 1865

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