M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1358 Press Mis.

241-242

Dated 21 — 9 — 1885

4/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 241. 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, 11th September 1865, No. 272.

I have the honor to forward the Report of the Local Committee regarding the site for the Central Jail at Cannanore, together with a plan, and to state that Mr. Ballard, the Collector, objects to give up the Taluq Cutcherry to the Jailer as suggested; but I have ascertained that there is plenty of ground close to the site upon which quarters may be built.

2. The site chosen appears to be good, and the Superintending Engineer has been furnished with a sketch plan of the proposed Jail, for such observations as he may have to offer.

From Surgeon Major C. W. PICKERING, Garrison Surgeon, Cannanore, Major E. N. NORTON, Assistant Engineer, and J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate of Malabar—to J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; dated Cannanore, 29th July 1865, No. 103.

We have the honor to submit our report on the site which we have chosen for the projected Central Jail at this place.

2. Having visited all the most commanding situations in the vicinity of Cannanore, we are unanimously of opinion that the site, of which a plan is herewith forwarded, is by far the best, and most fitting.

3. It is situated on the Mangalore road, about a mile and a half from the Native Infantry Parade Ground, and within three or four hundred yards of the Taluq Cutcherry.

4. The situation is a most commanding one, and is, next to the Cutcherry itself, the highest point within eight or ten miles of Cannanore.

5. On all sides the country is open and undulating, while the site itself commands a view of the sea, and slopes gently downwards from the centre in every direction, and is therefore admirably adapted for being well drained.

6. There will, we believe, be no difficulty in acquiring it from the Cherrakal Rajah, to whom it belongs; while the amount of compensation to be paid to the tenants will be something very small*, as there are no trees on it.

* Estimated by the Tahsildar at Rupees 282.

7. With the exception of a few weavers' huts about half a mile off, there is no village nearer than the Cantonment. The Valliapatnam back-water is two or three miles distant as the crow flies, and is almost entirely concealed from view by a rising ground, and the nearest topes are about half a mile off, and in a valley.

8. What we look upon as one great advantage in this site is that, as it slopes away from the centre, the confining wall of the Jail would be built on a lower level than the Jail itself; and while on that account affording no more chance of escape than if built on the same level, it would admit the sea breeze, to the full influence of which the site is subject, to ventilate the Jail.

9. Again, the Taluq Cutcherry, altered for the purpose, would make excellent quarters for the Superintendent, and as it would completely command the Jail, a gun or two, in position there, could, in the event of any very dangerous *émeute*, be brought to bear with great effect on the convicts.

10. There is one drawback however to this site, but it is one which would be incidental to any other that might be chosen. We allude to the difficulty in getting water.

11. Most of the wells in the neighbourhood dry up during the hot weather unless they are very deep, so that we consider the construction of half a dozen large wells, 60 or 70 feet deep, and from 20 to 25 feet in diameter, to be an indispensable preliminary to the construction of the Jail itself.

12. The prevailing winds here during nine months in the year are westerly, that is, from the sea.

13. The soil of the site is gravelly, with laterite at a depth of about 12 feet, so that the material for building the Jail is in abundance on the spot; and in fact while the wells are being dug, the stones taken out of them can be used to build the enclosing wall.

14. In conclusion, we may add that the Brigadier General Commanding, who has inspected the locality, is of opinion that it is in every way eligible, and is readily accessible to troops.

Originally the selection of sites commanded by the Barracks was approved. This principle having been abandoned, half a mile more or less is of but little consequence.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,

From Major E. N. NORTON, Assistant Engineer, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. WILSON, Acting Inspector General of Jails; dated Cannanore, 18th August 1865, No. 345.

Agreeably to the request contained in your letter, No. 143, dated 7th instant, I have the honor to return you the plan of the site of the proposed Central Jail at Cannanore, with a series of levels taken along 8 radii at a distance of 50 feet from each other.

2. The Local Committee proposed that the wells should be sunk within the walls of the Jail; they can be protected by an iron grating if thought necessary.

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1865, No. 1358.

The Governor in Council sanctions the adoption of the site proposed for the Central Jail to be erected at Cannanore. The Acting Inspector General of Jails will arrange with the Collector for obtaining possession of the site.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Inspector General of Jails.
" Collector of Malabar.
" Public Works Department, with Plan.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Cannanore 29th July 1865.

No. 103/1865.

From

C. W. Pickering Esqre. Garrison Surgeon.
Major Norton. Asst. Engineer.
J. H. Garstin Esqre. Asst. Joint Magte. of Malabar

To,

J. Rohde Esqre.
Inspector General of Jails.

Sir,

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2. Having visited all the most commanding situations in the vicinity of Cannanore we are unanimously of opinion that the site, of which a plan is herewith forwarded, is by far the best, and most fitting.

3. It is situated on the Mangalore road, about a mile and a half from the Native Infantry Parade Ground & within three or four hundred yards of the Tellicherri Racheri.

4. The situation is a most commanding one, & is, next to the Racheri itself, the highest point within 8 or 10 miles of Cannanore.

5.

5. On all sides the country is open and undulating. while the site itself commands a view of the sea and slopes gently downwards from the centre in every direction & is therefore admirably adapted for being well drained.

6. There will, we believe, be no difficulty in acquiring it from the Cherrakal Rajah to whom it belongs. while the amount of compensation to be paid to the tenants will be something very small† as there are no trees on it. †estimated by the Tahsildar at Rs 282.

7. With the exception of a few weavers huts about ½ a mile off. there is no village nearer than the Cantonment. The Vallikpatnam backwater is 2 or 3 miles distant as the crow flies & is almost entirely concealed from view by a rising ground, & the nearest topes are about half a mile off. and in a valley.

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14 In conclusion we may add

that

that the Brigadier General commanding who has inspected the locality, is of opinion that it is in every way eligible and is readily accessible to troops.

We have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedt. Servants

Chas. H. Pickering. Surg.n Major
Garrison Surgeon of Cannanore.

Edward Garstin. Major
Assistant Engineer

J. H. Garstin
Acting Joint. Magistrate
Malabar

Subjoined the selection of site recommended by the Committee now assembled, the Journals having been read.

21st September 1858 No. 1358.

The Governor in Council sanctions the adoption of the site proposed for the Central Jail to be erected at Cannanore. The Acting Inspector General of Jails will arrange with the Collector for obtaining possession of the site.

To the Ag Inspr. Genl. of Jails
--- Collector of Malabar
--- Public Works Deptt. with Plan
} despd 25/9