

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	239	Press ~~Mis.~~
¹¹⁷⁻¹¹⁸ Dated	10-2-	19 1865

9/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

10th February 1865.

No. 117. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department.

Passing orders on certain suggestions of }
the Inspector General of Jails for speedy } (Dated 2nd February 1865, No. 307.)
progress of the Coimbatore Central }
Jail specially, and the two Central and }
District Jails generally.

No. 118. ORDER THEREON, 10th February 1865, No. 239.

On the receipt of the report which the Inspector General of Jails and President of the Sanitary Commission have been directed to furnish as to the measures to be taken for improving the Jail accommodation in this Presidency, and on other points connected with the management of the Jails, an application will be made to the Government of India for a special grant of the funds requisite for the erection of the proposed Jails at Madura and Tanjore, and of any others, the immediate erection of which may be deemed necessary.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.

„ Inspector General of Jails.

„ President, Sanitary Commission.

Exd, J. Tulloch.

No. 47. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, on circuit, 11th January 1865, No. 471 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, having this day visited, after an interval of four months, the new Jail works. The progress is not what I might have expected, had not the repeated changes of Officers in charge tended to hinder the work.

2. Within one year there have been no fewer than five Officers in charge, Mr. Trail, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Lowry, Mr. Smith, and now Mr. Georges; indeed, I think, a sixth between Mr. Lowry and Mr. Smith intervened. Each of these Officers had not this building only, but the Range also to make himself acquainted with. I know not what progress the Government expect under such arrangements, but my own experience would induce the expectation of very slow progress, and this expectation is fully justified by the result.

3. I must not be understood as reflecting on others' arrangements. I believe that, with the exception of the last, every change was unavoidable; but I think that the work may be pushed on now, and, if the Government is determined, it may be completed within twelve months; I say this advisedly having spoken with Mr. Georges on the subject.

4. To any one with merely European experience, or who judges on theory, it may seem unaccountable that a change of Officers should have the effect of retarding the work, as I assert it has done; but there is not an Officer in the country who has had charge of large works, or a planter who does not know that such is the case. It is not the rate of pay, but the treatment the laborers look to: I do not say harsh or lenient supervision, but that system which words can hardly convey an idea of, but which is well understood by those who have experience.

5. Then again with every new superintendent the few local workmen he collects determine "to try it on," if they find they have an experienced hand to deal with this soon ceases, if not, the system is pursued, to the great detriment to the work, for an indefinite period, and as long as it continues, labor will be both scarce and bad.

6. Local knowledge, or what is often better, knowledge of localities on which the superintendent can fall back for what he wants, and thus break down local combinations, is as important as experience in the profession, and where the two are combined with energy, progress may be fairly expected.

7. The Coimbatore local labor has always been bad and dear. I quote Colonel Birdwood with whom I was discussing the rates for this Jail, and there is but one course, in my opinion, to be pursued, namely, to put an Officer in special charge of the work who has experience and the confidence of the class we wish to attract, and, for a time at least, to make the building his sole charge.

8. I have always heard well of Mr. Georges as an Executive Officer, and my communications with him induce me to believe that he is both able and willing to do what, on my questioning him, he says he can do, namely, finish the building by the end of this year, if it is made his sole charge.

9. The first question that occurred to me was whether in point of economy this was justified, and I asked him what the monthly expenditure was on unproductive labor; I found it to be about 350 Rupees monthly: if then the building can be finished in one instead of five years (it will take more at the past rate of progress), there will be a large saving in the arrangement.

10. In making this earnest appeal to Government, I will not deny a personal interest; I desire in my own tenure of office to have some progress to shew. I have done my best to get proper buildings, and the Government has recognized my premises that the erection of proper Jails must be at the basis of any improved system of prison discipline in the Presidency. I

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd February 1865.*

am well assured that the principles on which those new Jails are being constructed are sound, and I feel that credit will attach not only to the Government, but to the individual in charge of my office, on the completion of the works; this credit, under Government, I feel is due to myself. I undertook my office with this object, and but for unforeseen circumstances (for I had the full sanction and support of each successive Government), it would long since have been accomplished. I trust then that the Government will not deny me the favor of so pushing on the works

* Rajahmundry and Coimbatore.
† Madura and Tanjore.

both of the two Central* and the two District† Jails already sanctioned, that I may have the satisfaction, on quitting office, of handing them

over in a forward, if not a complete, state to my successor.

11. The Government may rely on it that the works may be finished, and that so far from expense being entailed by pushing on works, it is economical to do so.

12. I have stated my personal interest in the matter; I have repeatedly shewn the inhumanity of longer confining men in the confined and tainted buildings to be abandoned, to say nothing of the attainment of the end in view, which in our present Jails can never be accomplished.

13. Perhaps I should apologize to Colonel Orr, for commending a special course, or special Officer, in a matter wholly in his Department; but I feel assured that to no Officer could I more safely appeal for the effective pushing on of important works, or for a verification of my statements in regard to the delays necessarily consequent on such a course as has inadvertently been pursued during the past year in respect of the Coimbatore Jail.

Transferred to the Public Works Department.

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

13th January 1865.

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1865, No. 307.

1. In the foregoing letter the Inspector General of Jails brings to notice the slow progress made in the construction of the Central Jail at Coimbatore.

2. Mr. Rohde attributes the delay in the prosecution of the work to repeated changes amongst the Range Officers; and as a means of securing the early completion of the building, he recommends that an Officer of experience be placed in special charge.

3. From Lieutenant-Colonel Walker's letter, No. 153, dated 29th October 1864, the Government observe that that Officer states that two causes have chiefly hindered speedier progress with the building. The first of these is, mismanagement of Lieutenant Trail's successors by undue leniency towards a timber Contractor; and the second, delays in the disposal of certain Indents for iron &c., required for the work.

4. The estimate for the Jail amounts to Rupees 1,80,800, of which Rupees 30,660 were expended in 1863-64. The amount allotted for the work in the current year's Budget is Rupees 60,000, of which Lieutenant-Colonel Walker expects to be able to spend Rupees 50,140 by the 30th April next. The balance of the estimate, viz., Rupees 1,00,000 will be provided in the Budget for the ensuing year, and the Government will rely upon the Superintending Engineer making the best possible arrangements to ensure the completion of the building by the 30th April 1866, at the latest.

5. The Government concur in opinion with Mr. Rohde that delays and difficulties are created by the frequent change of Officers, and they have no doubt that this cause has operated to some extent, in impeding the progress of the work at the Coimbatore Jail. As however existing arrangements are not likely to be disturbed, and as no more money than is already at the Superintending Engineer's disposal can be expended by the 30th April next, the Government are of opinion that the appointment of a special Officer to the charge of the work is unnecessary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd February 1865.*

* Estimate Rupees 1,86,00 0-

6. The computed expenditure on the Central* Jail at Rajahmundry up to the 30th April next is Rupees 1,35,751. The balance of the estimate, viz., Rupees 50,249, will be entered in the Budget for 1865-66.

7. The Government regret that they are unable to make any provision in the out-going Budget for the Jails at Tanjore and Madura.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails:

„ Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
„ Do. do. 6th do.
„ Do. do. 7th do.
„ Do. do. 8th do.
„ Judicial Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

117.
Secretal Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings

of Govt in the Public Works Deptt

Received 2 February 1858 No 38

Order thereon 10 February 1858 No 239

On the receipt of the report which the Inspector General of Jails & President of the Sanitary Commission have been directed to furnish as to the measures to be taken for improving the jail accommodation in this Regt, and on other points connected with the management of the jails, an application will be made to the Govt of India for a special grant of the funds & - quise for the erection of the - posed jails at Bradura & Tanjore and of any other, the immediate erection of which may be deemed necessary.

The Public Works Department

" Inspector General of Jails

" President Sanitary Commission

1858
13/2

not of 21st Feb.

dated 23 Feb 58

504:239

20000

10000

30

10000

10000

10000

any other as certain
the Inspector General
will be opening papers
to Sanitary Commission
will especially of the 2
internal & external
sanitary -

hint of 21. 22. 23.

de 1 1865. Department.

No. 239.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 10 February 1865

List