M.R.O. 1—23,000—16-12-59.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1100 Press Mis.

Dated 13.7 1964

132-138

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 578. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 16th April 1866, No. 1,021.

I have the honor to forward the report of the Committee on the proposed new District Jail at Madura, together with a plan and estimate, sent to me by the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division,* in accordance with the desire of my predecessor, but which agreeably to the orders of Government ought to have been sent to you direct.

* Judicial Department, 16th June 1865, No. 877.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
17*th April* 1866.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails for his remarks.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
20*th April* 1866.

No. 579. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 25th May 1866, No. 16.

1. I have the honor to return the report of the Committee on the proposed new District Jail at Madura, together with the plan and estimate referred to me on the 20th ultimo.

2. Provision has been made for 222 prisoners exclusive of sick, and separate accommodation has been allotted to female convicts, prisoners under trial, and debtors with reference to the average number of each class. The general arrangement appears good, and calls for little remark. Workshop No. 11 seems to be superfluous, gates in the palisading at A A are not necessary, a short palisade at B is required to shut off the convicts from the female ward. It might have been better to place the female ward in an angle of the outer enclosure, but the number of women is so small that it would be scarcely worth while to incur additional expense for a separate building and palisading when the estimate of the cost of the prison is already so large. For the same reason I would not interfere with the position of the work-sheds, especially as the number of men in each barrack is only 42.

3. The question as to the locality of the Jail is re-opened by the Committee, who report that the site approved of by Government is objectionable, owing to the neighbourhood of a tank which becomes partially dry every year, and in that state gives off an unpleasent effluvium, which it is apprehended might prove detrimental to the health of the prisoners. The site on the Dindigul road is viewed very favorably by the Committee, but they do not recommend it on account of the objection made by Mr. Rohde, to the effect that the soil is so porous that it would probably soon become charged with impurities. The site recommended by the Committee as best adapted, is described as the Race Course, and as being very eligible as regards the nature of the soil, which is composed of disintegrated granitic and quartz rock. This, however, is opposed to the received opinion, viz., that ground of this formation

is apt to cause fever. It may be that the disintegration took place at a period so remote that no danger is to be feared, but this is doubtful as the rock is spoken of as cropping up in several places, and as being no where more than a few feet below the surface.

4. Mr. Levinge describes the site on the Dindigul road as alluvial soil, well drained, and some two or three feet higher than the surrounding country; but Mr. Rohde, in addition to the objection before stated, was of opinion that the ground is not sufficiently raised, and has not a sufficient fall. These disadvantages exist in the Madras Penitentiary even to a greater extent, and they do not appear to be so serious as those which attach to the other sites specified.

5. If the Committee are called upon to make a further and more precise report, the distance of the sites from the town ought to be stated, as the extent to which convict labor can be made available in constructing the Jail will depend very much upon the distance of the site from the present Jail. The deduction from the estimate made on this account is only Rupees 1,000, which seems a very small sum considering that the work is supposed to extend over a period of three years. In Oudh and in the North-Western Provinces the labor of convicts in constructing Jails appears to be much more extensively used than it is in this Presidency, possibly owing to the fact that in those Provinces the use of sun-dried bricks, and of cheaper materials generally is common, whereas here it is quite the exception. Taking into consideration the amount of the present estimate contrasted with the small number of prisoners to be confined in the Jail, the opportunity of testing the durability of cheaper materials, and of making a free use of convict labor appears to be favorable. For example, palmyra beams, or wood of a cheaper description might be substituted for wrought teak; and sun-dried bricks might be made use of to some extent both in the enclosing wall, and in the walls of the wards. The work-sheds and latrine might be constructed entirely of cheaper materials.

No. 580. Minute by the Right Honorable the President.
(Here enter 11th June 1866.)

No. 581. Minute by the Honorable H. D. PHILLIPS.
(Here enter 11th June 1866.)

No. 582. ORDER THEREON, 25th June 1866, No. 1,996.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 89.

1. The foregoing letter from the Inspector General of Jails will be communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division, whose attention is drawn to the suggestions in paragraph 2.

2. The estimate for the proposed District Jail appears needlessly high, and, with a view to reduce the cost of the work, the Superintending Engineer will consider to what extent sun-dried bricks may be substituted for stone and brick. In the opinion of Government the outer main wall of the Jail enclosure and the accessory buildings may be built of sun-dried bricks, with foundations of stone in mortar, leaving the store and office, the hospital, and the wards, as also the entrances to be constructed in the more substantial manner which the estimate contemplates. Should there be any objection, from the dampness of the climate or other cause, to the construction of the outer wall entirely of sun-dried brick on a permanent foundation, strong piers of brick or stone in mortar, might perhaps be built at intervals of say 12 or 15 feet, and the interspaces filled up with a wall formed with sun-dried brick in clay.

3. Another item in which it appears considerable saving may be effected is in roofing and palisading. The latter may be entirely constructed with advantage of palmyra, if that wood can be procured of good quality; and if the trusses and brest-summers of the main buildings be made of teak, the Government are of opinion that the common rafters, the joists, and the couples of all the buildings may be of palmyra wood.

4. The Government observe that a sum of Rupees 1,000 only is entered in the estimate as the value of Convict labor to be employed upon the Jail, although it is supposed that the work will extend over a period of three years. The Government of India have forcibly urged on the attention of the Local Government the necessity of Convict labor being systematically and largely employed in the construction of Jails as a measure of economy, and as affording remunerative occupation to prisoners, and the Executive Officer and the Superintendent of the Jail will be informed that His Lordship in Council is determined to enforce the use of such labor to the full extent to which it can be made available either in the preparation of materials or in the actual execution of the work. The Superintending Engineer will therefore, in revising his estimate, take care to make adequate provision for that purpose. The Government hope that by strict adherence to these instructions the Superintending Engineer will be able to show that the cost of the Jail may be reduced to a sum not exceeding Rupees 70,000.

5. The first object should be to house the Convicts, who are capable of useful labor, on the ground, and this being done they will begin by building the enclosure wall and the latrines, and by digging the wells, they will then build the kitchens, the hospital, the store houses, the quarters for the debtors and females, and last of all the wards for convicted prisoners, so that the old Jail may be evacuated and disposed of as soon as possible. If skilled labor of the various kinds required is not to be found among the Convicts at Madura, it will be supplied by drafts from other District Jails.

6. The Superintending Engineer will take the greatest care, in hutting the Convicts, to provide for drainage and cleanliness, and especially for removing excrement and offal and burying them at a distance from the enclosure wall of the Jail.

7. The Medical Officer will be called upon to report whether, with a view to the work on which the Convicts are to be employed, any change of dietary is advisable.

8. The following alterations in the plan of the Jail appear to the Government expedient in addition to those suggested by the Inspector General of Jails.

9. The cells for Lepers and Lunatics should be separated, and built at opposite sides of the hospital corner. A separate well and washing place should be provided for the Lepers.

10. The latrines for the women should be removed from those of the men, and should be constructed on the side of the enclosure next to the female wards near the vegetable garden.

11. A well should be dug in the centre of the radial blocks near the store and office, or in some other convenient place, so that the hospital and the garden may have their wells apart.

12. The external wall should be carried round the great latrines, and the latrines should be masked by only a light fence if any class of the prisoners are allowed to go to the latrines without a guard.

13. Ridge ventilation should be provided for the work-sheds and latrines, as well as for the wards, and there should be apertures at the ends of the wards as well as on the sides for ventilation.

14. The dead-house should be brought within the enclosure and placed in an isolated position against the enclosure wall opposite the Debtor's ward.

15. It appears to the Governor in Council unnecessary to afford Native prisoners the extent of shelter which is provided for in the plan of a fully covered-in latrine. The object to be attained is to protect the seats and the dry earth shed from rain, and if this can be done in some economical way by merely erecting against the inner side of the enclosure wall a lean-to roof of sufficient width to ward off rain from the seats, and by an arrangement for protecting conveniently situated stores of dry earth, considerable saving will be effected.

16. With these remarks the plan and estimate for the proposed Jail will be returned for revision, and the Superintending Engineer will, in anticipation of a special assignment of funds, take steps for proceeding with the work at once on the site near the Dindigul road which does not appear to be exposed to any valid objection. The Government expect that progress to the extent of at least 30,000 Rupees, exclusive of the expense of hutting the Convicts, will be made during the current year, and that the whole of the Jail will be ready for occupation within two years.

17. Captain Prendergast will report what the old buildings would fetch if offered for sale, or to what public purpose they may be usefully applied if they cannot be sold.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.
" Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, with one Plan and three Papers.
" Inspector General of Jails.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.
Principal Inspector Gen.l Jails. Dept.t with reference to para 7.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

This was made over to Colonel Orr by the Hon'ble the Governor 28/1.

Pros. 24 June 1865 to 1502

Dist. 24 July.

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Judicial 1866. Department.

No. 1996

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.
in P.W. Dept

28th July 1866.

Dated 25 June 27 } June 66

Rs 1380.

Passing orders on the Estimate for the Construction of the District Jail at Madura—

13th July 1866 Rs 1100—

Press No. 265, G. M.—14-11-65—500.

137. 138.