M.R.O. 1—29,450—19-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1133 Press Mis.

Dated 21-7- 19 1886

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

21st July 1866.

No. 201. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 30th June 1866, No. 86.

Adverting to the Chief Secretary's endorse on the Inspector General of Jail's letter, dated 28th May last, No. 19, I have the honor to enclose a letter* from the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, by which it will be seen that the room occupied by the Tahsildar is not a suitable place for a Jail ward, in consequence of the proximity of a noxious drain. The drain might probably be turned, however; and if it is determined to retain the present premises as a Jail, I doubt not that, whilst the repairs and alterations, which seem urgently required, are being made, the room now occupied by the Tahsildar could be so improved as to be fit for a convict ward.

* Dated 25th instant, No. 172.

2. But the whole Jail accommodation seems so faulty and out of repair, that I would submit for consideration whether it is desirable to retain the building for Jail purposes at all.

3. If the Tahsildar's room is taken, of course other accommodation will have to be provided for him, but, under any circumstances, this would seem to be the case, or his present accommodation will have to be materially improved, and I will report very shortly again on this part of the question.

From the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, to the Magistrate of Malabar; dated Cochin, 25th June 1866, No. 172.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, giving cover to an Order of Government, under date the 31st ultimo, requesting me to report whether the most convenient arrangement will be for the Tahsildar's present accommodation to be given up to the prisoners and a new office built for the Tahsildar, or for a new barrack to be built for the prisoners.

2. I have the honor to state that, in my opinion, as well as in that of the Civil Surgeon, it would not be advisable to appropriate the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry for the accommodation of prisoners. The Cutcherry has a drain running under it, and leading from the inside of the Jail. The smell from this drain is reported by the Sub-Magistrate to be at times oppressively disagreeable during the day, and obviously, with such exhalations occurring at night, it must prove a most unhealthy dormitory for prisoners.

3. I would, therefore, recommend that preference be given to the alternative proposal of a new barrack. But one consideration prompts my suggesting a postponment of any such scheme, which, in my estimation, would amount to nothing more than a partial improvement of things. I advise this postponment on the ground that the Municipal Act may, at an early date, be introduced in Cochin, in which case there will be no occasion to provide accommodation for more than a very limited number of prisoners, inasmuch as all road repair and town improvement would devolve on the Municipality, and no drafts of convicts from Calicut will consequently be necessary for such local works, as heretofore.

4. My strong recommendation, therefore, is that when the Municipal Act shall become enforced here, the present Jail should be abandoned; and a little outlay over and above what will be necessary for the proposed Barracks might be advantageously laid out in the construction of a new Jail, separate and distinct from the Court House and the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry, and suitable to the requirements of the few prisoners under trial before, and sentenced by, the Sub-Magistrate and myself.

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5. Under any circumstances, I am of opinion that a new Jail would be the best change that could be made and sanctioned. The present building is damp, unwholesome, in a condition of thorough disrepair, and perfectly insecure ; while, at the same time, the amalgamation of Court, Cutcherry, and Jail is, I consider, open to grave objection, and attended with inconvenience and expense on the occurrence of any epidemic in Jail. At such times, the Court servants and suitors take alarm, and, as you are aware, my predecessor last year had to rent a separate building, in which he held Court, at an expense of Rupees 30 a month, to say nothing of the inconvenience of removing the Court furniture and records to and fro. On the above occasion, the convicts were also removed, and temporarily located elsewhere—a similar arrangement having been made at a *previous* time, viz., in September 1864, when Cholera made its appearance in Jail. I will only add that in my condemnation of the existing Jail, I am fortified by the opinion of the Civil Surgeon, in company with whom the whole building was thoroughly scrutinized and examined.

6. I beg to forward a ground plan of the premises, as called for by you.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1866, No. 1133.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails, with reference to his letter of the 28th May last, No. 19.

2. The Government will await the further report promised by Mr. Ballard, which should be furnished as early as possible.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
„ Magistrate of Malabar.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Read letter from the —

21st July 1866 No. 1133-

Communicated to the Inspector Genl. of Jails with reference to his letter of the 28th May last No. 19.

The Government will await the further report promised by Mr Ballard which should be furnished as early as possible.

J. H. B.

&P.

To the Insp. Genl. of Jails
Magt. of Malabar

Desp 24/7