M.R.C. 1—22,000—16-12-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1327 Press Mis.

263-266

Dated 27—8—~~19~~1866

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 232.

No. 263. *Report of the Committee appointed, in paragraph 5 of G. O., No. 877, of 16th June, to inquire into the sufficiency of the suggestions made by the Inspector General of Jails and President of the Sanitary Commission, to meet the requirements of the Cochin Jail.*

These suggestions are comprised in the following words, extracted from paragraph 19 of the Report printed with the Government Order, vide page 25, viz.—

Enclosures 5.

2. "*Cochin.*—This small Jail for short sentenced prisoners will be continued, "all that is required is to put it in thorough repair."

3. And from the Table in paragraph 17, page 22, it is seen that the total number of prisoners for whom accommodation is to be provided, including prisoners under trial and Civil Debtors, is 45.

4. But this number, the Committee are of opinion, cannot be accommodated without extension of the present available space, having due regard to the provision of not less than 36 superficial and 648 cubic feet per men. Of the existing accommodation, as shown by the accompanying plan, Wards Nos. 1 and 2, being on an upper story, 8½ feet above the ground, with boarded floors, and thorough side ventilation, are well adapted to contain 14 and 7 men respectively. No. 3, on the ground, with apertures only in front, is excessively close and damp, and quite unfit for occupation by human beings. No. 4, on the same level, but with two openings on the one side, and one on another, and fitted with a raised guard bed, may not objectionably continue to be occupied by not more than four persons. Nos. 5 and 6 being mere Verandah-rooms, unventilated at the back and sides, must be condemned. So must Nos. 7 to 9, solitary cells, with terraced roof, quite out of repair and untenable; they only occupy space, and their destruction and removal should be sanctioned. Nos. 10 to 17, eight solitary cells in two blocks, if thrown into connection by archways, having recently been put into order and tiled, may be used to accommodate 12 persons in all.

5. Thus 37, and not 45, persons are all that the existing accommodation is really adequate for, which number is as great as the local crime requires provision for; it being understood that henceforth no prisoners under sentence of more than one year will be kept in the Jail, and no short sentence men transfered to it. Should it be desirable to make such transfers, and keep up the strength at a higher figure, the best thing to do will be to build a new Cutcherry and stores for the Tahsildar, and convert the room occupied by him, on the same floor as Wards Nos. 1 and 2, into a Ward or Wards containing 26 prisoners. Thus might a total strength of 63 persons be adequately sheltered.

6. *Classification*—proposed to be carried out as follows, viz.—

Ward No. 1, males under short sentence.
Do. „ 2, males „ trial.
Do. „ 4, Civil debtors.
Do. „ 10 to 13, Hospital.
Do. „ 14 to 17, Females under sentence or trial.

7. *Hospital accommodation*—proposed to be provided in the Wards 10 to 13. Abandoned Ward No. 3 may serve for a Medical Store*. The Verandah Ward, No. 5, is the only apology for a Hospital at present existing. The enclosure wall, immediately in front, should be provided with fixed venetian openings (as approved for Cell ventilation by the Inspector General of Jails), and a front verandah be added.

* Almirahs in the Hospital may suffice.

8. *Latrines.*—The necessity for these has hitherto been obviated by the expedient of marching the prisoners down to a retired part of the sea beach every morning, and of removing fæces, accumulated at other times, to the same place. But it would doubtless be better to introduce the dry earth system fully; and orders are respectfully requested on that head.

9. *Cook-houses.*—Those already in use are unobjectionable, except as to their requiring more frequent white-washing.

10. The *security* of the prisoners is adequately provided for by the enclosure wall as far as it goes; but it should be extended† to include the space in front of the old Bungalow Stables, which should be utilized as a prison garden. The wall is objectionably close to Wards 10 to 13, which it is proposed to obviate by ventilating openings in that fronting the proposed Hospital Wards. Both the Hospital and Female Wards will be separated from the rest of the enclosure by high palisades.

† This has not been estimated for, as involving removal of the Salt Golah and Bungalow Stable.

11. *Ventilation* of Wards Nos. 1 and 2 is satisfactory as regards themselves; but the basement on which they stand contains Cellars, of which two are appropriated for the Tahsildar's stores. These should be evacuated, and their contents transferred to Wards Nos. 5 and 6, after which openings should be made in the walls for thorough ventilation, and secured by iron bars. The ventilation of Nos. 10 to 17 will be improved by the archways throwing four Wards into one, and further benefited by gratings over those and high up in the end walls. All the doors have gratings over them already, and gratings, or simple holes, at the top and bottom of the doors themselves may be added. All the Wards are abundantly well *lighted.*

12. *Drainage* is defective at present, but may very well be provided for by a cut from the North face of the building to the river, to carry off what is now absorbed in the soil of the bungalow compound in front. This drain should be paved, but open, except after it reaches the public road, and daily washed and swept by the convicts themselves.

13. *The water supply* is ample in quantity, derived from the two wells shown in the plan. But its quality, like that of all Cochin water, is doubtful, which may probably be accounted for by the prevalence of cess-pools in the town adjacent, the contents of which must have permeated thoroughly the porous soil whereon it stands. The only remedy is that adopted by the wealthier residents of Cochin, viz., procuring their drinking water from Alwye, for which purpose the convicts themselves might man a boat once a week or so.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th August 1866.

14. The probable cost of carrying out all the improvements suggested in this paper is estimated at Rupees 1726 as per estimate attached.

(Signed) M. C. FURNELL,
Civil Surgeon, Cochin.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Principal Sudder Ameen.

(Signed, and true copy) G. W. WALKER, Lieut. Col., R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

COIMBATORE, 10*th January* 1866.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Col., R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.,
16*th January* 1866.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails, for his remarks.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
31st *March* 1866.

No. 264. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 28th May 1866, No. 19.

I have the honor to return the Report of the Committee upon the Jail at Cochin, together with four plans, and an estimate referred to me for remark.

2. In the Report of Messrs. Rohde and Ellis, published with the Proceedings noted in the margin, the number of prisoners to be confined in this Jail is estimated at 45, for which the existing accommodation was deemed sufficient, and these gentlemen state that, beyond putting the Jail into thorough repair, nothing further is required. The Committee, however, in reviewing the subject, give it as their opinion that several of the Wards and Cells at present occupied by prisoners are quite unfit for the purpose, and ought to be condemned, in which case the remaining Wards, including the Hospital, could not accommodate more than 37 persons, and they, therefore, propose that a room on the same floor with Wards, Nos. 1 and 2, and which is at present used by the Tahsildar, should be converted into a Ward, or Wards, to contain 26 convicts; a new Cutcherry for the Tahsildar to be built elsewhere. The room in question, judging from the dimensions given in the plans, is not capable of containing more than 15 persons, with the regulated allowance of space to each; but even this would be sufficient, as it would bring the number up to 46, exclusive of sick.

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

3. It is very possible, however, that objections may exist to the removal of the Tahsildar's Cutcherry, and, if so, a Barrack for 15 or 20 persons might be built on the spot indicated on the ground plan. The accommodation, exclusive of that for the sick, would then stand thus:—

Ward No. 1 for male convicts	7
,, ,, 2 ,, ,,	14
,, ,, 4, debtors	4
,, ,, 14, 15, 16, and 17 for females	6
Barrack for males	20
Total	51

I have recommended a new Barrack, on the assumption that the number of prisoners will average 45, and I do not think it would be safe to estimate it at a lower figure, although for several months past it has not exceeded 35.

4. The ventilation of the Wards numbered from 10 to 17, inclusive, can easily be improved as pointed out by the Committee, and also that of Wards Nos. 1 and 2, unless there should be any objection to the removal of the Tahsildar's stores.

5. A paved open drain should be constructed as recommended. With regard to Latrines, no definite proposal has been made by the Committee; but I will address the Officer in charge of the Jail on the subject, and report the result.

Referred to the Magistrate of Malabar, for report as to whether the room stated to be occupied by the Tahsildar can be made available for the purpose mentioned in paragraph 2 of this letter.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
31*st May* 1866.

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

No. 265. From G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 16th August 1866, No. 115.

Adverting to paragraph 2 of the G. O., dated 21st July last, No. 1133, and in continuation of my letter of the 30th June last, No. 86, I have the honor to state that, supposing the prisoners removed to a new Jail, the accommodation allowed the Tahsildar for his Cutcherry might be added to and improved, so as to make it a suitable public office.

2. The removal of the prisoners would obviate the inconvenience arising from the drain mentioned before, and would leave available for the use of the Tahsildar two rooms contiguous to, and parallel with, the Cutcherry, and under the same roof. It will only be necessary to open out entrances from the present Cutcherry rooms to the others, and effect a few other minor improvements.

No. 266. ORDER THEREON, 27th August 1866, No. 1327.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Magistrate of Malabar, be communicated to the Inspector General of Jails, in continuation of G. O., 21st ultimo, No. 1133.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Wilson will report whether, with reference to the circumstances stated by Mr. Ballard, it is desirable to retain the present building for Jail purposes, or whether an entirely new building, on a small scale, should be provided.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
,, Magistrate of Malabar.
,, Public Works Department, with four Plans and an Estimate.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From the Supg Engr 7th Dn Hire enter 10th Jany 1866 No 178.
— Inspr Genl of Jails — 28th May — 19.
— Magte of Malabar — 16 Augt — 115.

Order thereon 27 August 1866 No 1327.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Magistrate of Malabar, be communicated to the Inspector General of Jails in continuation of G. O. 21st Ultimo No 1133.

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circumstances stated by Mr Ballard, it is desirable to retain the present building for jail purposes, or whether an entirely new building on a small scale should be provided.

To the Insp. Genl. of Jails.
— Magte of Malabar.
" P.W. Dept. — with 4 Plans & an Estimate
} desp'd 3/9

Judicial 1866. Department.

No. 1527.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated. 27th August 1866.

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