

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1727	Press
		<i>Mis.</i>
Dated	1 - 11 -	~~11~~ 1886

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st November 1866.

No. 5. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 12th October 1866, No. 82.

I have the honor to report that I visited the site chosen for the new District Jail at Madura on the 30th ultimo, and found that considerable progress had

P. W. D., 25th June 1866, No. 1996.

been made in carrying out the Order of Government noted in the margin.

2. A range, consisting of three sheds, sufficient to house a party of 152 Convicts, had been nearly completed; also two cook-rooms, a provision room, and a guard room for the Police. These were all covered in at the time of my visit, but required something further to be done to render the thatch water-tight, and the walls were not quite dry. The walls are of mud, and the roofs of bamboo and palmyra leaves. The flooring is raised one foot, and well rammed. The dimensions are the following:—One shed 200 by 15 by $11\frac{3}{4}$ feet, giving 3000 superficial, and 35,250 cubical feet. The other two sheds measure 117 by 15 by $11\frac{3}{4}$ each, giving 1755 superficial, and 20,621 cubical feet. The first shed will thus accommodate 70 men, at 42 feet of superficial area, and 503 feet of cubical space to each. The other two will hold 41 men each at the same rate. I may here mention that, in a conversation which I had at Trichinopoly with the Honorable Mr. Ellis, regarding the amount of cubical space which was requisite in sheds of this kind, he informed me that, provided the regulated allowance of 36 feet of superficial area was not diminished, he was of opinion that 420 feet of cubical space would be sufficient. There are three doors in the long shed, and one in each of the others. Besides these, there are a number of small round windows at regular intervals (93 in all) which can be enlarged, and the Superintendent of the Jail, who is a Medical Officer, has been requested to cause this to be done if found advisable; but the ventilation appeared to me to be ample, and the Superintendent was of the same opinion. The only alteration which seemed called for was the substitution of tiles for thatch in the cook-rooms; and Mr. Colquhoun, the Range Officer, has promised to see to this. A body of 138 Convicts from the District Jail is already at work on the site, and Mr. Colquhoun informed me that he did not think he could employ more than 150 profitably at present. I have requested the Superintendent of the Jail to locate the men in the sheds as soon as they are thoroughly dry, and I propose to bring a draft from Tinnevely or Trichinopoly, according to circumstances, to occupy such vacant accommodation as may be left in the District Jail at Madura.

3. The accommodation still remaining to be provided is a hut for a Dresser, one for the Deputy Jailer of the District Jail, whom I propose should be in immediate charge of the gang, and one for three Warders on duty at night.

4. The only other points which occur to me at present are the following:—

I. The ground belonging to the site extends no further than 30 feet beyond the enclosing wall. I think it would be advisable to have 30 feet more, making 60 feet clear outside, which will not be too much. The soil is good; and a single or perhaps a double row of mango, tamarind, or other trees might be planted all round with advantage.

Proposed as above

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

1st November 1866.

II. In paragraph 15 of the Government Order quoted above, it was suggested that a privy, with a lean-to roof, might be built against the inner side of the enclosure wall—and when at Madura I was shown a plan containing this alteration—but, as the top of the ventilator comes within 6 feet of the coping of the wall, it might be made use of as a means of escape. If possible, I think the erection of any building against the outer wall of a prison should be avoided.

5. I ascertained from the Deputy Inspector General of Police that he is prepared to furnish the Guard whenever it is called for. I have accordingly instructed the Superintendent of the Jail to make the necessary requisition whenever he is prepared to move out the gang.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 1st November 1866, No. 1727.

The Governor in Council is glad to learn that satisfactory progress has been made in housing the prisoners who are to be employed in building the new District Jail at Madura.

2. The Government approve of Colonel Wilson's proposal to add 30 feet to the site, and to plant the space outside the outer wall with mango or other productive fruit trees. They concur with the Inspector General as to the inexpediency of erecting buildings against the outer wall of the Jail. The necessary orders on this point will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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General of Jails.*

1712 Octr 1866 no 821

Order thereon 1st November 1866 h^o 1727

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No. 1927

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

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Dated 1st Nov 1866.

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