

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Jusial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	692	Press
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Dated	5. 5. 1918	

74-77

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

5th May 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 74. From the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Camp Venkatachellum Chutrum, 8th January 1866, No. 132.

Enclosures.
1 Detailed Estimate.
1 Abstract Estimate.
1 Specification Report.
2 Plans.
1 Committee Report.

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Plans despatched by banghy.

In compliance with the instructions conveyed in G. O., No. 2, dated 2nd December 1865, I have the honor to submit fresh plans, explanatory of the alterations proposed to the Guntoor Jail, and trust that they will be found sufficiently clear for the purpose.

REPORT on alterations required in the Guntoor Jail, by the Committee ordered to assemble in G. O. No. 877, dated 16th June 1865.

The Committee having assembled at the Jail, in pursuance of the order contained in paragraph 5 of Government Proceedings, No. 877, dated 16th June 1865, proceeded to take into consideration the suggestions made by the Inspector General of Jails and the President of the Sanitary Commission, keeping in view the present dilapidated state of the walls of the Jail, which were to a large extent destroyed in the hurricane of 1st November 1864, and the extreme unhealthiness of the convicts during the past year, as exhibited in the return (Appendix A) annexed.

2. The Committee are of opinion that this sickness has in some cases been caused, and in all cases aggravated, 1st, by the over-crowded state of the Jail, owing to which, about 350 Cubic feet of air have only been obtained by each prisoner; 2nd, by the great want of circulation of air in a more than ordinary hot climate, owing to the close proximity of the high walls to the wards; 3rdly, the extremely bad position and want of ventilation in the present hospital.

3. To remedy the first fault, the Inspector General of Jails proposes to reduce the number of convicts from about 350 to 160, and so to give this number 648 cubic feet of air each. He proposes to raise the walls and roofs of the wards 4 feet, and the floors one foot; and in the advisability of this improvement the Committee agree. But as it is impossible to limit the number of convicts exactly, they consider that another ward should be added to the Jail, by abandoning the present Hospital, as shown hereafter, and turning it into an extra ward.

4. To remedy the second evil, the Committee would beg to recommend that, instead of rebuilding the walls, marked with Q. R., destroyed by the hurricane, a wooden palisade should be substituted, as shown in the plan, and the walls marked with A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. M. N. O. P., be built, instead, on the foundations in part of the present existing low compound wall; also, that the wall marked with S. T. should be lowered to 4 feet, the part marked with K. L. being entirely rebuilt to 4 feet in height, except foundations, as it is much injured by the hurricane. The Jail square will then have sides of about 430 feet each, which it is believed may be efficiently guarded by the Police and the enclosure will be roomy and suitable for the climate.

5. As a remedy for the third evil, the Committee would beg to express a strong opinion that the present Hospital should be condemned as quite unsuited, both as to position and ventilation, for the purpose required, and that it be altered as shewn in the plan, and turned into an extra ward for supernumerary prisoners; also, that a new Hospital for 16 patients, with out-houses, be built in positions shown in plan, where the circulation of air will be free, and where the prevailing winds will not blow from the Hospital to the wards, carrying infection with them.

6. The Committee coincide in the recommendation of the Inspector General of Jails, that two more solitary cells should be erected, a good site being available for them in rear of the two existing ones. These cells may, when needed, be used for infectious or loathsome diseased prisoners. They do not consider that further drainage is necessary, excepting that the ground may be raised in the centre longitudinally between the wards and sloped off, so as to lead rain-water, &c., to the sides.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th May 1866.*

7. The Committee would recommend that a permanent shed be erected over the principal privy in the northern corner of the enclosed space, and that another one should also be erected near to it, for the stowage of dry earth for conservancy purposes.

8. They would also beg to point out the defective ventilation of the existing solitary cells, and suggest that ridge ventilators be let into these buildings as shown in plan. The cost of these various alterations and improvements is estimated at Rupees 8680, if the work is done, as ordered in G. O., No. 2802, dated 22nd September 1865, by convicts, bricks, tiles, and wood being supplied by Government, also superintendence.

9. The Committee find that it would be practicable for the convicts to burn the lime needed, but as they have not hitherto been accustomed to the manufacture of bricks and tiles, it would probably cause much delay in the execution of the work to trust to them for those supplies.

10. The Committee have only further to remark that the Jail is now very unsafe, owing to the broken-down state of the walls.

MASULIPATAM, (Signed) G. V. WINSOM, Lieut. Col.,
27th October 1865. Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
(Signed) F. O. BIGG WITHER,
Medical Officer in charge of Guntoor Jail.

Appendix A.

Months.	Average strength.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Remarks.
1865.				
January	346	104		
February	358	116	3	
March	331	142	5	
April	309	78	4	
May	318	34	1	
June	319	17	3	
July	345	24	9	
August	358	15	7	
September	287	14	13	September 11th, 40 convicts transferred to Masulipatam. September 20th, 104 convicts transferred to Rajahmundry.

GUNTOOR, (Signed) F. O. BIGG WITHER,
30th October 1865. Acting Zillah Surgeon.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
16th January 1866. Secy. to Govt., P. W. D.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
31st March 1866. Chief Secretary.

No. 75. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 19th October 1865, No. 2048.

I have the honor to submit, for such orders as Government may see fit, the accompanying correspondence on the subject of the ruined walls of the Jail at Guntoor.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th May 1866.*

From the Acting Deputy Inspector General, Madras Police, to the Inspector General of Police; dated Camp Coovadood, 3rd October 1865.

I have the honor to bring to your notice the state of the Jail walls at Guntoor.

2. As you are aware, portions of three of them, or about one half of the total length, were levelled with the ground by the cyclone of November 1st, 1864. Since then, absolutely nothing has been done towards rebuilding them, beyond making out a plan, and the Jail is in a very insecure state.

3. A few loose bricks have been piled up about 3 feet high to represent a wall, but, as any convict can jump over it, it is quite worthless, and of no assistance to us.

4. To remedy, as far as possible, this state of things, nine extra men have been employed, at a cost to Government for the year of about Rupees 700. One to five is the proportion allowed for insecure Jail buildings, but the wards being strong, it was not considered necessary to employ the whole of the extra 20 men available at this rate.

5. I think the Inspector General of Jails should be requested to take steps to have the walls rebuilt as soon as possible, as no extra guard would be of use in the event of a rush being made at night.

From the Acting Inspector General of Jails, to the Inspector General of Police, Coimbatore; dated Ootacamund, 14th October 1865, No. 335.

The enclosures received with your letter of the 12th instant is herewith returned.

2. On the 19th May 1865, the Superintending Engineer of the Division to which the Kistna District belongs was directed by Government to submit an estimate for the reconstruction of the Jail walls at Guntoor. This estimate was submitted accordingly, but the Government decided, on the 19th ultimo, that they would defer passing any order thereon until the receipt of the report of the local Committee at Rajahmundry, and Colonel Winsom was in the same order requested to expedite the despatch of the Report.

No. 76. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 30th April 1866, No. 1094.

I have the honor to return the Report of the Committee on the District Jail at Guntoor, together with the plans and estimates, referred to me for remarks on the 31st ultimo. The correspondence with the Inspector General of Police regarding the Jail walls is also returned.

2. The alterations specified by Messrs. Rohde and Ellis consist in raising the walls and floors of the present wards, in improving the drainage, and in building two new solitary cells. The Committee go much further, and recommend a considerable extension of the Jail enclosure, on the ground of the very imperfect ventilation as at present existing, and to which they attribute, in a great measure, the unhealthiness of the Prison. The Hospital is represented as being especially defective in this respect. The Committee condemn it as quite unsuited for its present purpose, and recommend the erection of a new Hospital and out-houses, to be placed in an enclosure on the north-west of the Jail, the old outer wall, S. T., on that side to be lowered to the height of four feet. It is also proposed to extend the enclosure towards the north-east; the present outer wall, Q. R. to be replaced by palisading. The area of the Prison will thus be rendered spacious, and a portion of the yard near the cook-room will be available for a work shed. The expense of the walls and palisading is estimated at Rupees 3830, being a large portion of the total estimate of Rupees 8680; but the cost of re-building the old walls, which were blown down during the cyclone of 1864, is included in that sum.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th May 1866.*

3. The Committee propose to build two solitary cells, one measuring 20 by 8, and the other 8 feet square, and it is suggested that, when necessary, these cells may be used for the reception of prisoners afflicted with loathsome or infectious diseases; but I would prefer two solitary cells of the standard dimensions, viz., 10 by 10, to be used for carrying out sentences of solitary confinement. A special ward for contagious diseases may either be added to the new Hospital, or erected near it, with due reference to the direction of the prevailing winds.

4. There is not any distinct mention in the specification of raising the floors of the wards, but it would appear, from the Section O. P. in the small plan, that this has been provided for.

5. The Committee are of opinion that further drainage is not required, provided that the ground between the wards be raised longitudinally in the centre, and sloped towards the sides.

6. I concur with the Committee as to the minor improvements specified, viz., the addition of ridge ventilators, the roofing in of the privy, and the erection near it of a shed for dry earth.

7. It will be observed from the plan that there are sentry boxes on the walls, which are accessible by steps from the outside, and that it is intended to add two more. A section of one of these is given in the small plan, from which it will be seen that the platform for the sentry is supported by a strut on the inner side of the wall. I object to these sentry boxes, as affording facilities for communication from without and for escape from within; and I would remove the flight of steps already existing, and abandon the idea of building others. The Police can do their duty inside the walls.

8. Should Government be pleased to sanction the extension of the Jail area as proposed, I would urge the expediency of proceeding with the outer wall at once, in order to save the expense which is now being incurred for the extra guard which it is necessary to employ on account of the ruinous state of the old wall.

No. 77. ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1866, No. 692.

The Governor in Council approves generally of the recommendations of the Local Committee, as modified by the Inspector General of Jails.

2. The erection of the outer wall, including the extended area recommended by the Committee, should be proceeded with at once.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" " of Police.
" Public Works Department.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letters
From Superintending Surgeon 2^d Division / Recd. 19 January 1866. N^o 132/
From Inspector General of Police — / Recd. 19 October 1865. N^o 2528/
From Inspector General of Jails / Recd. 31 April 1866. N^o 1095/*

Order thereon 5th May 1866 N^o 692.

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*Inspector General of Jails
" " of Police
Public Works Department
with 2 Submits & Plans & 1 Specimen
deep 9/5*

74677.



Indian Affairs Department.

No 692

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

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Dated 5 May 1886.