M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 698 Press ~~Mis~~

87-69

Dated 7 — 5 — 19 1869

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th May 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 87. From the Jail Committee, Chittoor, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Chittoor, 20th January 1866.

In accordance with the Order of Government, dated the 16th June 1865, No. 877, we have the honor to enclose, for submission to His Excellency the Governor in Council, our Report on the improvements requisite, in our opinion, to the Jail at Chittoor.

2. Plans and Estimates of the proposed additions and alterations have been forwarded, with a copy of our Report, to the Superintending Engineer.

The Committee, consisting of the Civil and Sessions Judge of Chittoor, the Executive Engineer, and the Civil Surgeon, met at the Jail on the 17th July 1865. Colonel Boileau, R. E., being in Chittoor at the time, the Committee availed themselves of the opportunity of taking his opinion on the requirements of the Jail drainage.

The Jail being built on gravely soil, and surrounded by a dry ditch, the ground falling rapidly to the east, meets all the requirements under this head. The cell floorings are always dry, and the rainfall does not lodge inside or outside the Jail. The drain from the bottom of the dry ditch, after it passes the outer enclosure of the Jail, is merely an open ditch with slight fall, and much choked by vegetation; as the refuse of the cook-room, &c., is carried down by this drain, it is imperatively necessary to line the drain with stone masonry, and to provide a better outfall.

HOSPITAL.

The conditions of the Hospital drainage are the same as have been remarked upon as to the Main Jail, with the exceptions of the dry ditch, the Committee are therefore of opinion that nothing further is necessary under this head than the two granite platforms required for washing purposes, and the cookroom, provided for in the estimate.

VENTILATION.

Jail.—open iron (barred) doors are allowed for, in estimate, in lieu of the present batten doors.

The windows are already furnished with iron bars, and it is only necessary to insist upon the present wooden shutters being kept open (except during inclement weather.)

It is also recommended that openings should be made on the tops of the cell walls, which may be done without danger of disturbing the safety of the wall or roof.

The Committee remarked that on their visit and inspection of the male cells at 6 A. M. there was no unpleasant effluvium perceptible. A window is required in cell No. 7.

The external rampart wall of the Jail stands at a distance of but 22 feet from the cell walls. The Civil Surgeon is strongly in favor of this rampart wall being entirely removed, a new wall being first constructed at a distance of 80 feet from the cells on all but the front side. Colonel Boileau, R. E., was also in favor of the rampart wall being removed; the Civil and Sessions Judge and the Executive Engineer are of opinion that although such a change would be advantageous, they do not regard it as of sufficient importance to justify the heavy outlay it would entail; this opinion is, they consider, confirmed by the general sanitary condition of the Jail, and the proposed relief to be afforded by the erection of the new Central Jail at Vellore. *Female Cells*: these are especially crowded and ill-adapted for prison cells, they were originally store rooms, and are constructed with a lean-to-roof against the rampart wall; should this rampart wall be removed, as suggested above, these cells must come down, and a new female prison be provided. For the present, the estimate allows for fitting open iron-barred doors in lieu of battens, and for grated openings being broken out in the rampart wall immediately under the roof.

Hospital.—Mr. Roberts and Captain Chrystie are of opinion that no improvement is required in the ventilation. The Civil Surgeon considers it most desirable, indeed very necessary, that the outerwall which surrounds the hospital should be at least reduced in height to the extent of five feet. The reduced wall to be surmounted by iron railing to admit of a free access of fresh air:

LATRINES.

The Committee recommend the erection of buildings for the dry earth system, sufficient to accommodate the reduced number of prisoners to be hereafter confined in the District Jail for male and female prisoners.

HOSPITAL.

The Committee are of opinion that if the estimates already submitted for the approval of the Inspector General of Jails are carried out the requirements of the sick will be met.

These privies can be worked on the dry earth system.

COOK HOUSES.

That at the main Jail requires neither addition nor improvement ; that attached to the Hospital requires a chimney.

FACILITY FOR ESCAPE.

The Committee observe no objection to the Jail on this score.

CLASSIFICATION AND SEPARATION OF PRISONERS.

With the present number of prisoners in Jail, such classification has been found impracticable ; but so soon as the proposed reduction of prisoners takes place, the existing number of wards will afford sufficient opportunity for carrying out this object.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Committee are of opinion that the present Hospital accommodation is ample for the reduced number of prisoners.

JAILER'S HOUSE.

The foundations of this building have been laid, and the work should be completed as early as practicable. Plan and Estimates for erecting the superstructure forwarded.

NIGHT ACCOMMODATION.

The system at present is that each prisoner takes a small chatty with him for necessary purposes. The Committee are of opinion that this practice must be stopped, as being seriously opposed to every sanitary improvement now contemplated. Two of their number recommend that a privy, on the plan adopted for the new Subsidiary Jail, shall be attached to every ward both of the Jail and Hospital. Plan and Estimate accompany the Report.

Dr. de Fabeck is of opinion that instead of placing the above night privies close to the walls, and communicating immediately by a door with the cells (a door which in his opinion it is probable would seldom, if ever, be shut) the buckets should be placed at the bottom of the ditch, and the seats of the privies supported on pillars on arches, according to plan, the communication with each cell being effected by a covered passage across the breadth of the present walk in rear of the cells. Dr. de Fabeck is of opinion that a door leading from the cell into the passage would be unnecessary for the reason above stated. To afford any communication that may very occasionally be required with the portions of the walk between the various covered passage referred to, stairs might be made leading up to them from the ditch. This suggestion and plan are submitted at Dr. de Fabeck's request, as he is of opinion that Privies on the plan of the Subsidiary Jail are scarcely an improvement on the present system of chatties.

GALLOWS.

Independent of the Proceedings of the Committee, the Executive Engineer has been requested to prepare an Estimate for removing the present Gallows and for erecting a new Gallows on pillars in front of the main entrance of the Jail, a position of which the Committee fully approve.

(Signed) C. A. ROBERTS,
Civil and Session Judge.
(Signed) W. CHRYSTIE, Capt., R. E.,
Executive Engineer, Chittoor.
(Signed) W. F. DE FABECK,
Civil Surgeon.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
31*st March* 1866.

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

From the Executive Engineer, Chittore Range of North Arcot, to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division ; dated Chittore, 27th January 1866, No. 856.

In forwarding the estimate for the improvements to the Jail here, which the Committee, convinced under G. O., No. 877, dated 16th June 1865, recommend, I have the honor to report that the Civil Surgeon urged so strongly the advantages of the night accommodation privies, proposed by him, over those recommended by the majority of the Committee, that I have thought it desirable to show them on the Plan in yellow, and to enter their details in the estimate in red ink.

2. I would also remark that the cost of pulling down and re-building the rampart, as proposed by the Civil Surgeon, would be Rupees 10,300, independent of the cost of a new female prison, which would be thereby rendered necessary, and which would of course depend on the Plan which might be adopted.

3. All the suggestions of the Committee have been attended to in the estimate, with the exception of providing a new outfall from the drain leading from the main cook-room. This drain, after a course of 120 feet beyond the Jail enclosure (which will be laid with stone and covered), falls into the irrigation channel from the Gunganary-yary, which waters the Judge's garden, and the outfall level could not be altered without interfering with this water-supply. The length of this irrigation channel is 976 yards, in which it has a fall of 18·64 feet. As it is flushed daily for several months of the year by the tank water, I think there can be no doubt that with this fall, and occasional attention to keeping it clear from silt and vegetation, it will not be offensive.

4. The Plan will be forwarded by to-morrow's banghy.

No. 4716.

Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order No. 1855, dated 3rd July 1865.

ENCLOSURES.
1 Letter. 1 Estimate.
1 Report. 7 Plans.

2. Provision has been made in the Estimate, Rupees 7400 (herewith submitted), for all the requirements considered necessary by the majority of the Committee, with the exception of a new outfall to the Jail drain, which the Executive Engineer shows on paragraph 3 of his letter, entered above, to be unnecessary.

3. Application for funds from the Reserve of Budget 1866-67, head, Civil Buildings will be made after the 1st May next.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
4TH DIVISION, MADRAS,
28*th March* 1866.

(Signed) A. BOILEAU, Col., R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
4*th April* 1866.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
5*th April* 1866.

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

No. 88. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 13th April 1866, No. 1014.

I have the honor to return the Report of the Committee on the District Jail at Chittoor, together with the plans and estimates referred to me on the 5th instant.

2. The estimate amounts to Rupees 7400, of which Rupees 2257-14-1 are for the Jailer's quarters; Rupees 2073-10-9 for a Latrine; and the balance, viz., Rupees 3068-7-2, for the alterations and improvements recommended by the Committee.

3. Quarters for the Jailer being required, I have no remark to make on that point.

4. The design for a Latrine appears very good; but as the Government of India have recently forwarded to this Government, a description of a cheap and inexpensive Privy, recommended by the Sanitary Commission in Bengal, it may be advisable to procure an estimate of the expense of constructing such a Privy before coming to a decision.

No. 130, C., Public Works Department, 7th February 1866.

5. With regard to the other improvements proposed, I will follow the order observed in the Report.

Drain from Dry Ditch.—I would adopt the course suggested by Captain Chrystie in his covering letter of the 27th January, viz., to lay with stone and cover the drain to a point 120 feet outside the Jail enclosure, beyond which point it may be kept clean by convict labor.

Granite Platforms at the Hospital.—These are required.

Ventilation.—I would put up doors with iron bars as proposed, but also retain the wooden doors to be used in bad weather, or as occasion may require. I am informed that there is nothing in their construction to prevent this. The tops of the walls of the cells should be pierced and protected by grating. A window may be opened in cell No. 7.

Rampart.—The removal of this, and the substitution of a wall, would involve an expense of Rupees 10,000 or more, for which reason I cannot recommend such a step.

Female Wards.—The alteration suggested do not meet the exigencies of the case. These wards are barely sufficient to accommodate 14 persons, according to the regulated standard; whereas the number of females in the Jail, on the 1st March last, amounted to 39, which is about the average. About two-thirds of this number are of the class which it is intended to confine in the Central Jails; but for the meantime, something ought to be done to extend the accommodation, and I therefore propose that the space to the north of the present wards be enclosed by a wall, as shewn in pencil in the large plan, and that the buildings marked W be converted into additional wards to be ventilated by openings into the path between the rampart walls, as proposed by the Committee for the present cells, and also by lateral apertures, as indicated in pencil. The wall enclosing the existing yard should be allowed to stand, as it may be required hereafter. By these alterations the accommodation can be nearly doubled at a small expense.

Hospital.—The Medical Officer recommends that the wall of the hospital enclosure should be reduced some five feet in height, and be surmounted by an iron railing. The other members are of opinion that this is unnecessary. No estimate of the cost is given; but as the wall is about 123 by 112 feet, the expense would not be inconsiderable, for which reason I do not support the recommendation.

Latrines.—The general latrine, which it is proposed should be outside the Jail, has already been noticed. The five privies required at the Hospital may be constructed as per estimate.

Cook-rooms.—Nothing is required except a chimney for the Hospital Cook-room, which has been provided for.

Night Accommodation:—The Members of the Committee do not agree as to the kind of privy to be attached to the cells or wards for use at night. Two are of opinion that it would be sufficient to have them on the berm running behind the cells; whereas the Medical Officer would carry the covered passage right across the berm, so that the seat should be over the ditch. This latter plan is more expensive than the other by upwards of 1500 Rupees, and would obstruct the passage round the berm. The cost of the seven privies, recommended by the other Members, amounts to Rupees 618, for which reason, under existing circumstances, I prefer their plan.

6 The item of Rupees 358, for irrigating the Jail garden, does not appear to be alluded to in the Report; but it has been entered with reference to making a Jail garden, as recommended by Messrs. Rohde and Ellis in their Report to Government, published with the Proceedings noted in the margin.

Judicial Department, 16th June 1865, No. 877, page 24.

7. The plan and estimate for the erection of gallows may be submitted separately, as it does not belong to the subject under discussion.

No. 89. ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1866, No. 698.

The Governor in Council concurs in the opinion of the Inspector General of Jails on the several points noticed in his letter of the 13th ultimo, which will be communicated to the Public Works Department, in order that the necessary Orders may be issued for the improvement of the Jail.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with 7 Plans and an Estimate.
„ Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From Jail Committee Clitton. Dated 20th Jany 1866
— Insp. Genl. of Jails — — 28 March — 1716.
— Insp. Genl. of Jails — — 13 April — 1014.

Order thereon 7th May 1866 No. 698.

The Governor in Council concurs in the opinion of the Inspector General of Jails on the several points noticed in his letter of the 13th ~~instant~~ ult. which will be communicated to the Public Works Department in order that the necessary orders may be issued for the improvement of the Jail.

To Pub. Works Dept. with 7 sheets
— Insp. Genl. of Jails — 3 sheets