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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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

Read the following papers:—

No. 91. From the Session Judge of Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 22nd July 1865, No. 171.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, dated 16th June 1865, and as enjoined in paragraph 5 thereof, I have the honor to report the result arrived at by the Committee at this station, relative to the improvements required to be carried into effect in the Jail at Trichinopoly.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel T. Greenaway, was, with the entire approval of the Superintending Engineer, associated with me on the occasion, as also Surgeon Major J. L. Ranking, the Acting Garrison Surgeon, and I gladly availed myself of this Officer's offer to draw up the Report, as there can be no question his remarks and observations in matters of this kind are entitled to far more consideration and attention than any that I could suggest.

3. Plans and Estimates, prepared in due form, will be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer, for submission direct to Government.

PROCEEDINGS of a Committee assembled under Orders of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department, No. 877, of the 16th June 1865, to report how far the suggestions made by the Inspector General of Jails and the President of the Sanitary Commission are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Jail at Trichinopoly.

President.—T. I. P. Harris, Esq., Civil and Session Judge.

Members. {Lieutenant-Colonel T. Greenaway, Executive Engineer.
{Surgeon-Major J. L. Ranking, Acting Garrison Surgeon.

Trichinopoly, 19th July 1865.

The Committee, President, and Members all present, after careful inspection of the Jail, proceed to record their opinion upon the subjects noted at page 24 of the Orders above referred to.

Drainage—Subsoil.—The Committee support the opinion expressed by the Executive Engineer in the Specification appended, that subsoil drainage is scarcely necessary. Steps were taken by the Committee to ascertain the condition of the subsoil in two localities within the Jail area by excavating pits, and the soil was found perfectly dry at a depth of six feet when rock was reached, and the Committee consider that when the surface drainage is improved there will be no sub-soil moisture by percolation.

Surface Drainage—This is capable of being very much improved, and this the Committee consider will best be effected by draining each quadrangle separately.

The gradients and outfall are favorable to this, and the system will enable the deep drains in the northern quadrangle to be filled up, and shallow saucer-shaped drains substituted.

For further information on this head, the Committee refer to the opinion of the Executive Engineer in the "Specification" already referred to.

Ventilation of the Jail Area generally.—The Committee strongly recommend that all interior walls be removed (including those excepted by the Inspector General of Jails) and strong palisades substituted.

The only exception the Committee are disposed to make is the wall enclosing the area devoted to the women.

The retention of the "dwarf" walls at the end of the courts between the wards, and the division wall, separating the Hospital from the wards, the Committee consider objectionable, since they materially interfere with the due circulation of air within the intramural space, and seriously affect the ventilation of the wards, while they in no way contribute to security or safe custody.

These walls should be re-placed by strong palisades.

The ventilation of the intramural space, the Committee further consider would be much improved by the lofty circumferential wall being pierced by narrow arrow-slit openings, extending from near the top of the wall to within seven feet of the base, a small grated opening being also made at the base of the wall, as represented in the marginal sketch. The mouth of these openings to be on the outerside of the wall, and the openings themselves to be restricted to the southern and western walls.

(Here enter Sketch.)

Wards or Cells.—The ventilation of the wards is capable of much improvement, and the Committee recommend the following measures.

1. Removal of the partition walls which now divide each block into two compartments.

The walls alluded to extend between the pillars supporting the roof, and are only 7½ feet high. They do not consequently at all conduce to safe custody or security, in fact they rather facilitate escape, since a prisoner standing upon the wall can readily remove the tiles from the roof.

These walls in fact only encroach upon space, and impede ventilation.

2. It is recommended that two (2) ridge ventilators be applied to each block of cells, and that openings be made at intervals along the floor, such openings to be provided with shutters, half of each shutter to be furnished with wire gauze, so as to break and distribute more equally the entering current of air; the other half to be of wood, so as to admit of the openings being closed altogether when necessary.

If to these improvements could be added (3rdly) raised sleeping places for the prisoners, the accommodation would be as good as it is capable of being made.

The Committee further suggest that the window shutters, which now close in the interior of the wards, and are consequently at the command of the prisoners, be removed and fixed outside.

Water Supply.—The water supply is indifferent. It consists of two (2) wells, one inside, the other outside the Jail enclosure.

The one inside is a mere reservoir filled from the Wyacondah canal.

The other is also partly thus supplied, and partly from natural springs, which do not, however, yield sufficient to be independent of the supply derived from the Wyacondah channel.

The supply from the latter source flows for some distance along an open channel, and is used for all purposes by the inhabitants of houses and villages by which it flows, acquiring many impurities; and as received into the reservoir is a muddy foul stream.

The Committee therefore propose to provide the mouth of the conduit, when it enters the reservoir, with a filter-cistern packed with gravel sand and charcoal, and to tunnel over a portion of the channel itself, the bed of which, as it passes a hamlet near the Jail, is constantly fouled.

Further, as it is from this well that the Jail is furnished with water for drinking and culinary purposes, the Committee think it very desirable to deepen the well, so that the supply of water may, if possible, be derived wholly from springs; though they scarcely contemplate that it can be made altogether independent of the Wyacondah channel.

Latrines.—The latrines should be altered so as to be adapted to the dry earth system.

The present latrine consists of a number of brick-in-chunam trenches within a low walled enclosure in the northern quadrangle.

It is proposed to close all but three of these trenches, and to cover them over with a pent-roof with ridge ventilation; with a store-room for dry earth at one end, and provisions for ablution, as practiced by natives, at the other.

Into these trenches, partly filled with dry earth, the prisoners will void both fluid and solid excrement, which should be constantly mixed with the earth by convict Toties by means of properly constructed rakes.

The contents of the trenches, or as much of the surface earth as may be necessary, should be removed daily, and "poudrette" stored in a properly constructed pit, duly covered in to protect it from wet, to be utilized in the garden, or sold.

Hospital Latrines.—These latrines will also be required to be similarly constructed and provided.

Solitary Cells.—Two Solitary Cells, affording a cubic capacity of 1000 feet, and duly ventilated, are needed.

Dead House.—A Dead House is required, which the Committee would locate in the northern quadrangle, instead of in the Hospital enclosure, which is limited in space.

A "Specification," with estimated cost of all these proposed alterations, additions, and improvements is appended to these Proceedings.

(Signed) T. I. P. HARRIS, *Session Judge.* } *President of Committee.*
(Signed) T. GREENAWAY, Lieut. Col., *Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly.* } *Members.*
(Signed) J. L. RANKING, Surgeon Major, *Acting Garrison Surgeon.* }

Specification of proposed alterations and improvements to the Jail at Trichinopoly.

Approximate estimate, Rupees... 2530.

1. Constructing latrine on the dry sewage system.

The latrine to be 85' 6" in length by 30 feet broad, to consist of a tiled roof with ridge ventilation in centre 40' long, the roof supported on masonry pillars, the sides open, except for a low wall three feet high.

Three troughs for earth run longitudinally through the building, no interior partitions, as they would interfere with surveillance, a shed for cart and dry earth at one end of the building affording room for 12 cubic yards, or about 35,700 lbs. of earth, as monsoon provision, being about enough for 100 men for two months. A washing trough will be added in the northern end of the building, with a cistern outside.

Estimate, Rupees... 230.

2. Constructing poudrette shed for ditto.

It is proposed to have this building distinct, and to place it in the garden. It is to be 15' × 13' with a pent tiled roof, and will contain 12 cubic yards of poudrette.

Masonry has been preferred to iron, in the construction of these buildings, as being very much cheaper.

Estimate, Rupees... 69.

3. Filling in trenches in the old open latrine platform.

Estimate, Rupees... 410.

4. Tunneling over supply channel from Weyacondan to square Bowlee.

This channel passes among poor houses, and is made a cess-pool by the inhabitants. It supplies the most of the water used in the Jail.

5. Constructing filtering cistern in the Bowlee; this is to purify the Weyacondan water for drinking purposes, the said water being very foul irrespective of its pollution aforesaid; the cistern to consist of a cut stone head, built in the Bowlee, at the discharge vent of the tunnel, and consisting of a small well with exit partitioned off by teak shutters pierced with numerous holes into three compartments, of which the inner and outer will be filled with broken stone or coarse gravel, and the centre one with charcoal; the shutters to be moveable for convenience of clearance.

Estimate, Rupees... 270.

6. Altering the drains in the latrine, or workyard, and in the quadrangles.

Estimate, Rupees... 1606.

It is proposed to substitute broad shallow drains composed of fort stone in chunam, well pointed, for the present narrow and deep ones. This will involve the construction of an entirely new drain at the south end of the main quadrangle; but if the present deep drain in the work yard is allowed to remain as it is, to which I see no objection, as after the latrines are altered, it will have only rain water to carry off, and has a good fall, the expense would be reduced by 400 Rupees.

I do not consider sub-soil drainage advisable, for the following reasons.

The surface-fall is every where good, the ground is hard, the immediate sub-stratum to a depth of 2' 10" very dense, there is little chance of water percolating, as, owing to the good fall, it could not lodge.

The stratum of decomposed granite, which intervenes between this and the Rock, and is the only objectionable feature, is only 2' 8" thick.

Sub-soil drainage to be of any use would be very expensive, the Lines requiring to be very numerous, and it is by no means certain that in the event of high floods they might not rather serve to admit moisture into the sub-soil instead of draining it off. I would prefer to trust to the good surface drainage and natural density of the soil rather than disturb the substrata.

Arrow-slits, or loop holes and air holes, at foot in the wall enclosing the buildings on the west and south sides only, omitting that next the road; the sills of the loop holes to be 7" above ground. Interior width 4" and exterior 12".

Estimate, Rupees... 670.

The air holes near the ground to be 9" × 6" closed with strong iron wire, netting, and ceiled with heavy stone to prevent the masonry being picked away.

Estimate, Rupees... 2240.

8. Altering cells.

The alteration to consist of the removal of the central party walls, the formation of vent holes in the lower portions of the side walls, each 9" × 6", protected with iron net work, and furnished with moveable shutters to close it well.

Removing the window shutters from in to outside, and adding ridge ventilators. Adding sleeping chabootras in the centre.

Estimate, Rupees... 3180.

9. Removing all walls between cell quadrangle and yards, except those screening Female ward, and substituting palisades, 13 feet high.

Estimate, Rupees... 500.

10. Constructing a Dead House 16' × 12' interior dimensions.

Estimate, Rupees... 200.

11. Roofing in and arranging the Hospital Female Ward and Debtor's Latrines on the dry sewage principle as the other.

Estimate, Rupees... 780.

12. Constructing two Solitary cells, each 1000 cubic feet interior dimensions, with small privy closet attached.

Total cost... 12,779

TRICHINOPOLY, *20th July* 1865.

(Signed) W. GREENAWAY, Lieut. Colonel,
Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly.

No. 92. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 23rd April 1866, No. 1061.

I have the honor to return the Report of the Committee, upon the District Jail at Trichinopoly, together with two plans and an estimate, referred to me on the 19th instant.

2. On the 1st March last, 332 prisoners of all classes were confined in this Jail, viz:—

Convicts...	325
Security Prisoners....	1
Prisoners under trial...	5
Debtors...	1

; but it has been determined to build a Central Prison at this station, and the number of short sentence Convicts, Prisoners under trial, and Debtors for whom accommodation is to be provided in the District Jail, is calculated at 83, which is very small. Taking this into consideration, and bearing in mind the fact almost every Jail in the Presidency calls for improvement, I would endeavour, in the first instance, to meet the more urgent requirements, leaving the others to be carried out hereafter, as fund may become available; and I believe that the Jail now in question may be considerably improved at half the cost of the present estimate, which exceeds 13,000 Rupees after a deduction of 1650 Rupees on account of Convict labor.

3. I proceed to notice the various proposals in the order observed by the Committee in their Report.

Drainage.—I concur with the Committee in the opinion that sub-soil Drainage is not required. Surface Drainage within the Jail appears to be necessary.

Ventilation of the Jail Area generally.—It is proposed to knock down the inner walls, and to replace them by palisading, also to make arrow-slits in the outer wall, and square openings at the foot of the same.

The cost of these two items amounts to Rupees 3700, an outlay which I do not advise, as the wards will be well ventilated by the adoption of the means specified in the succeeding paragraph.

Wards.—These consist of long double tiled sheds, divided lengthwise by pillars and a connecting wall, into two separate wards each. The front is closed by a wall three feet high, above which are iron bars fixed in frames, on which the eaves of the roof rest, so that the air may find free access along the entire length of the building. It is now proposed to remove the central dividing wall, to provide ridge and floor ventilation, and to alter the position of the shutters. If these measures are carried out, the removal of the other walls, and the substitution of palisading may be dispensed with for the present.

Water-supply.—The improvements recommended, consist in covering the channel between the Wyacondah Canal and the Bowlee; in providing the mouth of the conduit with a fitter cistern, and in deepening the well. These appear to be necessary.

Latrines.—The cost of the large latrine is estimated at Rupees 2470. The plan has, I presume, been prepared with reference to the number of prisoners now in confinement. A latrine of a smaller size may be built when a plan has been approved of.

The same remarks apply to the shed for storing poudrette.

Hospital Latrines.—These may be constructed.

Solitary Cells.—Two cells of this description are required. The dimensions shown in the plan are those approved of by the Government of India, with regard to the mode of ventilation; that which is shown in the plan received from

Tranquebar, and which was returned with my letter of this date, No. 1058, appears to me preferable.

4. One charge is shown in the estimate of which no particular mention is made in the Report. This item, which exceeds Rupees 2500, is for making a drain outside of the Jail. It would appear from the plan that the drain is already made up to a point some 600 feet beyond the walls, and it is now proposed to prolong it as far as the Wyacondah canal, being an additional distance of about 1300 feet. I cannot recommend that this expense be incurred until the necessity, or expediency thereof, is more clearly shown.

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1866, No. 699.

The Governor in Council is of opinion that the improvements proposed by the Local Committee, to be made to the District Jail at Trichinopoly, as modified by the Inspector General of Jails, in his letter of the 23rd ultimo, should be carried out.

2. The great delay which occurred in the submission of the plans should be noticed in the Department of Public Works.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with two Plans, one Sketch, and one Estimate.
" Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Superintending Judge of Trichinopoly, dated 22 July 65 No. 171

— Inspr Genl of Jails — 25 April 66 No. 1067.

Order thereon 7th May 1866 No. 699.

The Governor in Council is of opinion that the improvements proposed by the Local Committee to be made to the District Jail at Trichinopoly, as modified by the Inspector General of Jails in his letter of the 23d ~~instant~~, should be carried out.

2. The great delay which occurred in the submission of the plans should be noticed in the Department of Public Works.

To the P. W. Dept with 2 Plans, 1 Sketch & 1 Estimate
— Inspr Genl of Jails — dated 11/5

Judicial 1866. Department.

No 699.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

F.S. 1084-2195-

Dated 7th May 1866.

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12 May