

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Indicail DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>945</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>19-6</i>	<i>19-1886</i>

149-15

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

19th June 1866.

No. 149. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 14th June 1866, No. 1874.

Passing orders on a Memorandum submitted by the Chief Secretary to Government on the Central Jail at Coimbatore. } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Dept., dated 14th June 1866, Nos. 316 & 317.)

No. 150. ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1866, No. 945.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th June 1866.

No. 316. Read the following Memorandum from the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, dated 7th June 1866:—

1. I visited the Central Jail at Coimbatore on the 4th instant. It is a most substantial building, or rather range of buildings built, the greater part of it, of stone, of which there is abundance in the neighbourhood; but a good deal of it, I should say, is needlessly substantial, and therefore more costly than it need have been. Each of the yards, in which the ranges of wards and cells stand, is divided from the next yard by a thick partition wall 12 feet in height, 3 feet of which, I fancy, might have been dispensed with.

2. Very little use comparatively has been made of Convict labor. Out of 337 prisoners now in Jail, 182 are employed in work connected with it, viz., 100 in the brickfield, and 82 on the well and in cleaning out the yards, &c. None are employed in actual building, though there is much of the building work which might be and might have been done by prisoners, under the superintendence of trained Maistries. I asked why no Convicts had been employed in building, and was told that it had not been possible so to employ them, owing to the building having been done by contract; but that there were plenty of Convicts in the Jail who might be very usefully employed in this way. My informants were the Superintendent of the Jail and the Jailer. The Engineer Officer in charge of the work was not present, having gone to Madras on leave; but whether the reason assigned was the real one which has induced the Officers of the Public Works Department to dispense with Convict labor in the erection of these buildings, or whether the non-employment of the Convicts is attributable to some other cause, there can be no question that, with a considerable number of Convicts in the Jail for some months past, the erection of the buildings has been carried out entirely by free laborers, and at a very heavy cost. The number of Convicts employed in the brickfield, viz., 100, is considerable, and as the greater part of the Jail is built of stone, it is difficult to understand how so many prisoners can be profitably employed in the manufacture of bricks. If the matter were carefully looked into, it would probably be found that many of those employed in the brickfield might be more effectively utilized in replacing free laborers on the actual building work. The buildings

Hospital.
Office and Stores.
Latrines.

noted in the margin have not yet been commenced. If any of them have not yet been given out on contract there is

no apparent reason why Convict labor should not be largely employed on them, and a considerable saving thereby effected in their cost.

3. The number of Convicts in the Jail might at once be largely increased, for there is accommodation already available for 574 prisoners, exclusive of two wards which have been set apart for use as a temporary Hospital.

4. And there ought to be no difficulty in raising the aggregate number of prisoners to 958, in the course of a month or two; for there are two large unfinished ranges, each containing eight wards, (each ward, being calculated to hold 24 prisoners), which are built up to the roof; and the roofing of which ought to be carried out with as little delay as possible. On enquiring why these ranges could

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th June 1866.*

not be roofed in at once, I was told that there was a difficulty about wood, but this would probably disappear if the Executive Engineer put a proper pressure upon the Contractor, who I presume is tied down in some measure in regard to time. It is very desirable that this Jail should be finished speedily, and with this view I think it would be well that the Government should impress the urgency of the case upon the Superintending and Executive Engineers and also should re-call their attention to the positive orders of the Government of India that the labor of Convicts should be utilized as largely as possible in the erection of Jails.

5. I rather think (but on this point I am not certain) that the plan and estimate contain no provision for the erection of quarters for an Apothecary; with so large a body of prisoners it seems very necessary that there should be an Apothecary residing on the premises.

6. Another matter of pressing importance, is the speedy completion of the batten doors and venetians which are being made for the purpose of being affixed to the iron barred openings, which serve as windows to the wards, but which at present are altogether unprotected from the weather. In a climate like Coimbatore, where during the south-west monsoon there is a strong wind night and day, the principle of "perflation" may be carried out to a very unsanitary extent; the Superintendent should be instructed to protect the iron barred openings by mats or by some other temporary expedient, until the wooden doors are ready.

No. 317. ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1866, No. 1,874.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 54.

1. In ordering a copy of this Memorandum by the Chief Secretary of his inspection of the Central Jail in course of construction at Coimbatore to be communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to call upon Colonel Walker to make arrangements for pressing on the work as rapidly as possible, and especially for the completion of the two blocks which Mr. Arbuthnot shows to be so nearly finished as only to require roofing. Every exertion should be made for preparing and fixing to all the iron barred openings, the batten and venetian shutters which are necessary to shelter the inmates of the buildings, and should there be any delay in supplying these defences against the weather, the Executive Officer should be directed to give his assistance to the Jail authorities in putting up mats or other temporary substitutes.

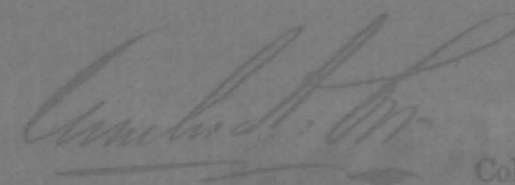
2. Colonel Walker's particular attention is drawn to Mr. Arbuthnot's remarks regarding a larger employment of Convict labor in the erection of the buildings, and he will endeavour to make such arrangements as will permit of the prisoners being employed, not only in the preparation of materials, but also in every description of labor connected with the actual construction of the Jail; as, by this means, it is believed that the progress of the work may be hastened, as well as its cost diminished.

3. Some saving might have been effected by making the radial divisional walls less in height and perhaps of less thickness, and although it is too late now to remedy this at Coimbatore, Colonel Walker will not fail to bear it in mind in

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th June 1866.*

designing the other Central Jail which it is proposed shall be erected in his Division at Caunanore.

(True Extract.)



Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Received 1866 Sept 14

Per Good P. H. Sept 14
No 1872

28th 1866 June 1866

Feb 23 66/69.

No 1313-

Referring notice on a
Bonds by the City of
to good on the Principal
Central Jail-

19 June 1866 No 9405
Communicated to the
Inspector of Jail.

Ans

To the Hon. Secy of the Treasury
Received copy of the above letter 24