

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1741	Press
		~~Miss~~
Dated	2 - 11 - 1918	67

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
2nd November 1867.*

No. 6. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 14th October 1867, No. 112.

With reference to the Order noted in the margin, communicating the Proceedings of Government in the Department of Public Works, dated 21st September 1867, regarding the main drainage of

Ootacamund, I have the honor to report that Colonel Walker not being present at this station he deputed Major Farewell, the Executive Engineer, to discuss with me the arrangements for housing the additional gang of convicts required.

2. Major Farewell proposes to commence by employing a gang of 64 men in making bricks at a spot adjoining the new road to Pykara, and about three miles from the Jail. As this distance is too far to admit of the prisoners being marched thither and back daily, and at the same time doing a fair amount of work, it is proposed to house them in a moveable Jail, constructed according to the plan, herewith forwarded, which was sent to me in August last, with reference to the employment of convicts on public roads at a distance from Jails, should such a measure become expedient hereafter.

3. Another gang of similar strength will be required for the excavation and other labor at the head of the lake, but before the actual work of reclamation can be commenced, it will be necessary to prepare a survey of the swamp, and also a plan and estimate, which will take some time. The District Jail contains about 80 male convicts, most of whom are at present employed upon the Jail buildings, but Major Farewell states that, if sufficient funds are allotted, he could complete the new hospital and the enclosing wall within six months, and it seems very desirable that this should be done; for the convicts in the District Jail would, in that case, be available for labor at the head of the lake without any additional expense, and the completion of the hospital would remove the necessity for providing any accommodation of that nature at the moveable Jail, as the sick might easily be sent in to Ootacamund for treatment, and their places supplied by healthy men.

4. I herewith forward the correspondence noted in the margin, on the subject of moveable Jails, together with the estimate. The allowance of space, viz., 40 superficial, and 450 cubic feet per man will, I believe, be quite sufficient in this

From Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, dated 28th June 1867, No. 66.
From Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, dated 2nd August 1867, No. 89, with two enclosures.

climate. I have not thought it requisite to return the estimate for modification, but if Government should be pleased to entertain the proposal, a fresh estimate can be prepared, in which the cost of the Hospital, Medical Store-room, and Dresser's quarters may be deducted.

5. Major Farewell's suggestion regarding an extra complete portable Jail seems also worthy of favorable consideration. It will be necessary to move the brick-field gang to some distance when the clay on the site of the first location becomes exhausted, which it is anticipated will be the case, and although the gang might possibly be distributed amongst the different Jails on the Hills while the portable building is being set up in a new place, such a proceeding would be inconvenient. An extra moveable Jail may be turned to good account, if, as I understand, it is in con-

temptation to construct a reservoir in this neighbourhood in connection with the scheme of water supply. Such a Jail will also be found useful, if any of the public works mentioned by Colonel Walker and Major Farewell in the accompanying correspondence should be undertaken. The first cost of thatched huts with mud walls would be less, but such huts are liable to danger from fire, and would be worth next to nothing when no longer wanted, whereas it is expected that the proposed structures would fetch a good price.

6. The undermentioned establishment will be required for a gang of 64 men, viz. :—

1 Jailer at Rupees 30..... 30
3 Warders at Rupees 12 each. 36

I propose that Major Farewell be entrusted with the executive charge, with the usual powers of punishment. The clerical work can be done in his office. The cost of the establishment, and all other extra charges, should be debited to the Department of Public Works. I will communicate with the Inspector General of Police respecting the guard, when the orders of Government have been passed upon this report.

Regulation X. of 1832, and I. of 1833.

7. In conclusion, I beg to state that, although I believe that Major Farewell is the fittest person for the charge of the gang in question, I do not concur with Colonel Walker in the opinion expressed in the concluding part of his letter, No. 66, to the effect that convict labor is of little or no value to the Public Works Department, unless when the convicts "are in the Magisterial charge of the Public Works Officer of the Range, or that the Jail Superintendent has been formerly in the Public Works Department, and accustomed to such operations." On the contrary, I am convinced that convict labor may be turned to excellent account under the Superintendents of Jails, provided that the Officers of the Public Works Department co-operate heartily, and render their advice and assistance. At the Madras Jail there were in July last upwards of 120 skilled convict laborers, not one of whom knew anything when they came there, but who were trained entirely by the Sub-Engineer, Mr. Colquhoun. Although that officer is not vested with Magisterial powers, he is quite satisfied with the convicts. I believe it is only necessary that they should be well looked after, and that a full day's task be exacted from every man fit to labor.

From Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Coimbatore, 28th June 1867, No. 66.

In reply to your letter, No. 673 of 26th June, I have the honor to inform you that there are several roads on the Neilgherries, and the Burghoor ghauts in Coimbatore, on which convicts might be usefully employed for some years to come, especially in the latter locality, which would form not a bad penal settlement for a short term of years. But the Public Works allotments, under the head of "Communications," are so small as to preclude the idea of our incurring the expense of permanent or moveable barracks for convicts and their guards. Otherwise, I should be glad to receive orders for the construction at Burghoor of a temporary barrack for 300 men, like that built at Cannanore, one-third the number being sent to put it up under the supervision of a party of 30 Sappers; the whole being in tents till they could place themselves under cover. On the Neilgherries Major Farewell could work two parties of 60 men each, shifting them according to the seasons, if his road allotments were raised, and the original cost of the moveable barracks

which he would design, were not charged against them. And, with reference to temporary or moveable barracks, I shall feel obliged by your letting me know the minimum allotments of superficial and cubic space that can be allowed in such buildings on the Hills, and in the plains.

2. As to buildings, the Calicut and Cannanore Jails will in time advance sufficiently to admit of more and more convicts being accommodated in them and employed in their extension; at present no more can be taken. But I must frankly tell you that, under existing regulations, convict labor on such works is of little or no value to this Department, except when the men are in the Magisterial charge of the Public Works Officer of the Range, or that the Jail Superintendent has been formerly in the Public Works Department, and accustomed to such operations.

From Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Inspector General of Jails, Ootacamund; dated Coonoor, 2nd August 1867, No. 89.

In continuation of my letter, No. 66 of 28th June, I have the honor, herewith, to forward a plan and estimate of a moveable Jail, with subsidiary buildings to accommodate a gang of 64 prisoners, prepared by Major Farewell, whose original explanatory letter I also forward as

ENCLOSURES.

1. Major Farewell's letter, No. 43 of 2nd July 1867.
2. Plan.
3. Estimate No. 16, Rupees 17,290.

fully noting on every point connected with the subject of finding additional work for convicts on these Hills. The number of persons actually accommodated, including families of attendant guards, will be at least double that of the convicts alone, of whom it is proposed to employ 192 on the Neilgherries in addition to the 500 at Lovedale, 50 at Neddiwuttum, and 40 at Pykara. The same number could be employed on the Burghoor Hills, if such location be approved of.

From Major W. FAREWELL, Executive Engineer, to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, Coimbatore; dated Ootacamund, 2nd July 1867, No. 43.

With reference to our frequent conversation regarding the advantage of employing convict labor on the different outlying works on the Neilgherries, I have the honor to submit a plan for a temporary Jail for the accommodation of 64 convicts, including Hospital, Police guard-room, Surgery, and Jail store, with Cook-room and quarters for Jailer, Warders, Dresser, Police, &c., complete, the accommodation being as follows:—

- 2 Wards each for 32 Convicts.
- 1 Hospital Ward for 4 Convicts.
- 1 Jail store.
- 1 Police guard-room.
- 1 Surgery.
- 19 Quarters for Police, Dresser, Jailer, and Warders.
- 1 Cook-room divided in the centre.

On the plan marked A in red ink is shown the mode in which it is proposed to distribute the buildings; the exact measurements of all the buildings, showing area, cubic contents, &c., are given in a tabulated form on the plan; the cost of the whole building amounts to Rupees 17,290, or about Rupees 270 per convict; for this number of men, 13 Police men, 1 Jailer, 3 Warders, and a Dresser would be necessary; at first it appeared to me that temporary huts for the Police, and a Dresser would be necessary; but on re-considering the question, I think it have been sufficiently good accommodation for them, but on re-considering the question, I think it preferable that portable huts should be provided of the same description of material as that proposed to be used for the construction of the Jail, and thus remove every legitimate source of complaint that might otherwise be made by the Police authorities, preventing them for a moment imagining that we have taken more trouble to house the convicts than their men.

2. You will observe that the whole of the buildings are constructed of oak-wood and corrugated iron, so arranged as to allow of the building being easily taken to pieces, and its site as frequently changed as required.

3. The reason of my adopting the number of 64 convicts is that, allowing for a due proportion of sick, cooks, Jail servants, &c., the actual number of men who will go out to work every day will not average less than 50, which is a handy number to employ on road work, and can easily be guarded.

4. Just as I was about to forward the plan and estimate, I received a letter (copy of which I enclose) from the Inspector General of Jails, calling upon me for any suggestion I might have to offer, with reference to putting convicts for employment on public works. I, therefore, took the plan and estimate to the Inspector General of Jails, who, I am glad to say, appears thoroughly to approve of the same. With reference to employing convicts as above noted, I made the following suggestions to him, which also met with his approval.

5. The following are the outlying works on which convicts might with advantage be employed in my range :—

- 2 Gangs of 128 Convicts on the Kotagerry road for four months in the year.
- 1 Gang of 64 Convicts on the road from Kartairy to Mailoor for four months in the year.
- 2 Gangs of 128 Convicts on the road to the Koondahs, via Yeddagadoo, and on the construction of the proposed embankment across the Nunjanad valley for eight months in the year.
- 1 Gang of 64 Convicts at Hamilton's Saddle, on the new road to the head of the Goodaloor Ghaut, for eight months in the year.

During the monsoon, I am afraid it would be impossible, with due reference to the health of the men, to employ them on the Neddiwuttum or Koondah roads, the monsoon in these localities generally commences about the 1st of June, lasting till the 1st of September; during these four months, I would recommend that the three gangs proposed to be employed here be moved to the Kotagerry and Mailoor roads.

6. To allow of the removal of the gangs as above-mentioned, it would be necessary to have one extra complete portable Jail, with quarters for Police, &c. For instance, the extra Jail, &c., might be set up on the Kotagerry road, and the convicts employed on the Neddiwuttum road withdrawn and marched to the extra Jail, &c., their Jail, &c., being pulled down and re-constructed along-side of the extra Jail on the Kotagerry road, into which one of the gangs employed on the Koondah roads might be marched, and again their vacated Jail, &c., taken down and set up at a convenient site on the Kartairy and Mailoor road, and the other gang from the Koondah road marched into it, while the last vacated Jail, &c., might be removed and re-constructed on a more suitable site for working on the Koondah line to be ready by the time the working season in that direction commences again, and *vice versa*.

7. The question of the necessary Jail establishment, &c., will of course rest with the Inspector General of Jails to fix and decide.

8. Lastly, I would beg particularly to note that the cost of constructing these Jails, &c., even according to the most economical principle on which they have been designed, is far too great to be borne by the estimates for the works on which the men are to be employed. I therefore, in submitting the project, think it advisable to point out that the cost of the Jail, &c., should be treated as an Imperial charge in the Judicial Department, the Public Works Department being at the most only debited with the cost of removing and setting up the Jail, &c., in the different localities on which the men may be employed. Should these buildings cease to be required, the materials used in their construction are of such a durable nature that they would undoubtedly fetch a good price, even if sold by auction.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 2nd November 1867, No. 1741.

Paragraphs 2 to 5 of the foregoing letter will be considered in the Public Works Department.

2. The establishment required for a gang of 64 men, viz., one Jailer on Rupees 30, and three Warders on Rupees 12 each per mensem, is sanctioned. The charge will be debited to the Public Works Department.

3. Under the provisions of Regulation I. of 1833, the Governor in Council authorizes Major W. Farewell, Executive Engineer, while in charge of the gang of convicts referred to, to exercise the powers of punishment created by Regulation X. of 1832.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with plan and estimate.
" Inspector General of Jails.
" Accountant General.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Inspector General of Jails.

Recd letter 14th Oct. 1867 No 112.

Order thereon 2nd Nov^r 1867 No 1741.

Paragraphs 2 to 5 of
the foregoing letter will be
considered in the Public
Works Department.

2. The establishment
required for a gang of 64
men, viz, one jailor on No 30
and three Wardens on No 12
each, per mensem, is sanc-
tioned. The charge will be
debited to the Public Works
Department.

3. Under the provisions of
Regulation I of 1833, the
Governor in Council authorizes
Major W. Farnell, Executive
Engineer, while in charge
of

W. F. J.
These movable Jails will
be of great use on the hills.
N.

of the gang of convicts referred
to, to exercise the powers of
punishment created by
Regulation X of 1832.

[Large handwritten flourish or signature]

To the Public Works Department.
— ^{with plan to collocate} Inspector Genl. of Genl. }
— Accountant General } 7-11-3

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[Handwritten initials]

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Oct. 1867 Department.

No. 1741

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Vol. 2507
Dated 22nd November 1867

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