

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1898	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated 22 <i>U.</i> 10 1867	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd November 1867.*

No. 278. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 6th November 1867, No. 128.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order noted in the margin, regarding the provision of quarantine wards in Jails, which was communicated to me on the 29th ultimo for remark.

Public Works Department, 19th October 1867, No. 3241.

2. The question seems to have arisen with regard to Central Jails, but the principle is approved of for all Jails, and indeed it would appear that quarantine wards are as much required in District as in Central Jails; but there will be considerable difficulty and expense in carrying out the measure in this Presidency at present in the Jails first mentioned, many of which do not possess adequate separate accommodation for the different classes of healthy prisoners. If it is the desire of Government to provide quarantine wards in District Jails, it will be necessary to call for a special report regarding each Jail, but the alterations or additions will be made more easily and cheaply if postponed until after the Central Jails have been occupied.

3. Convicts received in Central Jails come from the District Jails where they were confined when under trial. They are under medical observation in those Jails, and will not be transferred therefrom, unless free from contagious or infectious disease. The only danger of infection, therefore, is that which may be incurred while marching between the District and Central Jail, and if that risk is held to be sufficient to require the provision of quarantine wards in the latter, the undermentioned arrangement is that which I would recommend.

4. The accommodation for male convicts in the new Central Jails, now in course of construction at Vellore and Trichinopoly, is to consist of barracks in separate compartments. Each barrack, with the exception of one which is designed for the reception of convicts sentenced to transportation, or men of desperate character, is to contain six wards, each to hold 21 prisoners. To give up an entire compartment for the purposes of quarantine would be too great a sacrifice of space and accommodation. I therefore propose that a barrack of two wards should be built in a corner of the quadrangle, and be enclosed by a palisading in the same manner as the hospital. A small cook-room, work-shed, and bathing cistern should be built in the enclosure. The prisoners may, I think, be marched to the general latrine after the other men have left it, but should this be considered objectionable a privy must be built in the yard. This arrangement will cause little extra expense, as one of the barracks may be reduced by two wards, and the cook-room and workshop belonging thereto may be diminished in proportion. I enclose a sketch showing an arrangement by which the outer end of a compartment may be taken for the quarantine ward, but I prefer that given above.

5. The foregoing proposal refers exclusively to the two Central Jails above specified. The area of the Jail at Cannanore being smaller, and the design somewhat different, I have requested the Superintending Engineer to send me the plan for reference before making any report thereon. The Central Jails at Coimbatore and Salem are already built, and that at Rajahmundry is very far advanced. None of these are on one plan, and I have, therefore, placed myself in communication with the Superintendents as to the most convenient method of providing quarantine wards in those Jails.

6. I have not proposed any separate ward for women. There is no space in the angle containing the barrack for females. One of the wards might be divided into two rooms, one to contain twelve, and the other eight persons, which last would be ample for new arrivals, but no separate yard could be provided. The only way of securing separate accommodation for women which occurs to me is to take a portion of one of the compartments opposite the barrack for females, and to build therein a ward for six or eight persons with out-houses, but I doubt whether there is any necessity for going to this expense.

7. There is no record in this office to enable me to say what number of prisoners are sentenced monthly in each District for terms exceeding one year, and in naming two wards as the extent of accommodation required, I have no positive data to go upon, nor would it be easy to procure any that would be of any practical use. For example, the District Jails in the circle of Trichinopoly are those at Tinnevely, Madura, Tanjore, Tranquebar, and Trichinopoly. The Magistrates of those Districts, and such of their Assistants as may be vested with full powers, will commit from time to time at uncertain periods. The Judges will commit at the close of each Sessions, but the time may vary. The distances between the different District Jails and the Central Jail also vary. Moreover, the despatch of the convicts must depend in some degree on the Police, consequently it is not possible to make any accurate calculation as to the number of convicts likely to be in the quarantine ward at one time, more especially as the period for which the surveillance will continue is not likely to exceed ten days in each individual case.

8. There is one point regarding which I request you will favor me with the views of Government as early as convenient, in order that I may be guided thereby when considering how reception wards are to be provided in the other Central Jails above specified. In one part of the order of the Government of India mention is made of a quarantine ward of separate cells, while in another it is proposed to isolate one or more barracks. A ward of the dimensions sanctioned for our Central Jails, viz., $49 \times 18 \times 16\frac{1}{2}$, might be divided into three rooms to contain six persons each, but if each man is to have a separate cell the dimensions are not suitable and must be revised. I believe that a barrack of six wards, such as those approved of by the Committee on Subsidiary Jails, measuring $16 \times 15 \times 18$, and to contain six men, with an allowance of 40 superficial and 600 cubic feet to each, would answer the purpose. I take it for granted that any convict showing symptoms of infectious disease will be at once removed to one of the special wards in the hospital.

No. 279. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1867, No. 1898.

The Governor in Council approves, generally, of the proposal made by the Inspector General of Jails for providing accommodation for prisoners newly admitted into Central Jails at Vellore and Trichinopoly, and requiring to be kept for a short period under quarantine observation.

2. With reference to paragraph 4, the quarantine wards should be provided with a separate cook-house and latrine, so as to secure the inmates from communication with other prisoners.

3. The arrangement for quarantine wards for females, detailed in paragraph 6, seems sufficient.

4. It does not appear necessary to provide separate cells for prisoners in quarantine, and the arrangement proposed in paragraph 8 of the letter above recorded will secure, at a moderate cost, the object contemplated by the separation of prisoners.

5. The Inspector General will submit proposals regarding quarantine wards for the remaining Central Jails as soon as he has obtained the necessary information.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

" Public Works Department, with sketch.

" Inspector General, Medical Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from
the Insp^r General of Jails:

Recd letter 6th Nov 1867 No 128.

Order thereon 22 Nov: 1867 No: 4858.

The Governor in
Council approves generally
of the proposal made
by the Inspector General
of Jails for providing
accommodation ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~which~~ ^{admitted}
prisoners newly ~~introduced~~
into central jails at Vellore
and Trichinopoly ^{requiring to} ~~may be~~
kept for a short period
under quarantine observa-
tion.

2. With reference to
para 4, the quarantine
wards

Judicial Dept
No 1598.
Proceedings of the
Madr^s Government
Dated 22nd Nov 1867.

W.D.

by R.

N.

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3. The arrangement for quarantine wards for females detailed in para 6 seems sufficient.

4. It does not appear necessary to provide separate cells for prisoners in quarantine, and the ^{arrangement} ~~provision~~ proposed in para 8 of the letter above recorded will secure at a moderate cost the object contemplated by the separation of prisoners.

5. The Inspector General will submit proposals regarding quarantine wards for the remaining Central jails as soon as

4. 5.
as he has obtained the necessary information.

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The Inspr Genl. of Jails
- H. D. Gupta }
- Inspr Genl. Madras } despatch 27/11

Chas. F.
1867. Department.

No. 1898

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

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Dated *22nd Nov 1869*

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