

(1) Number of pages 22(2) Date of repair May 86(3) Initials of the Referencer (cw)

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	261	Press.
B.P.-No.		Mis.
Dated	18-2-1868 197.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GZ

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
18th February 1868.

No. 206. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 31st January 1868, No. 20.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from my Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, suggesting certain improvements to the existing Subsidiary Jail at Sattimungalam, constructed under the sanction of Government noted in the margin. Mr. Galton is of opinion that

19th November 1866, No. 1324.

reapers should be fixed on the cross beams, through the whole length of the building, so as to render the Jail more secure. He further proposes the division of the building into three wards, the removal of the present solid door, and the substitution in its stead of one with iron bars. He also proposes to fix a ventilator to improve the ventilation. All these improvements seem necessary, and I accordingly recommend them for the approval of Government.

2. An estimate on this account is herewith forwarded.

From C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Magistrate of Coimbatore; dated Sattimungalam, 15th June 1867, No. 21.

I have the honor to submit my report on the Subsidiary Jail at this station, accompanied with a form containing the information called for by the Inspector General of Jails, copy of which was forwarded to me with your letter of the 11th May, No. 32. I have drawn up a form as being the most convenient mode of embodying the information for purposes of reference.

2. The building at present used as a Subsidiary Jail is nothing but a space 14 feet in breadth, and 16 feet in depth, and 8 feet in height within the Taluq Cutcherry, separated from the rest of the building by wooden bars reaching from the roof to the ground; these bars are about 6 inches apart, and transverse bars cross them at intervals. A wall separates this space into two wards, one set apart for males and the other for females.

3. The male ward is 14 feet by 11 feet, and contains 1232 feet of cubical space; the female ward is 14 feet by 5 feet, and contains 560 feet of cubical space; accordingly there is accommodation in the former for two prisoners, and in the latter for one only.

4. On Friday, 7th instant, the date of inspection, I found only two prisoners in confinement, they were both convicted males; there were no under-trial prisoners, and no females.

5. Since the date of my inspection, however, a gang of dacoits has been brought in, numbering 15 persons, and 16 prisoners have been sentenced by the Sub-Magistrate to imprisonment in another case.

6. The consequence is that many of them have to be kept under guard outside the wards, it being utterly impossible to accommodate so many in so small a space.

7. With regard to the means of ventilation, there is only one small window 1½ feet square in the outer wall of the female ward; in the male ward there is no opening of any sort in the wall, consequently there can be no current of air; the inmates of the wards are dependent for light and air solely on the space between the wooden bars which separate them from the Taluq Cutcherry; accordingly the only air they get is the hot air from the Cutcherry.

8. The wards appeared to be clean, but as a natural consequence of imprisoning human beings day after day within confined limits through which a free current of air never passes, a strong odour pervaded the place. I found a chatty containing urine in a corner of the male ward, the presence of which must necessarily create an unpleasant odour. As the space is so confined, I think the prisoners should invariably be taken outside the Jail during the day for all purposes of nature.

9. The convicts appeared to be in good health, they had only been in confinement a few days at the date of inspection.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
18th February 1863.*

10. Having now noticed in detail all the points connected with the wards at present used as a Subsidiary Jail, which call for special mention, I will proceed to report upon the building which has recently been erected in accordance with instructions received from the late Acting Magistrate in his letter dated 4th December 1866, No. 251.

11. The building in question consists of one long room, measuring 72 feet long, 9 feet broad, and 12½ feet in height, and its cubical contents are 6963 feet. It is composed of thick mud walls 9 feet in height, 2 feet in thickness, with a thatched roof, and a small verandah 4½ feet broad in front; there is one door in the centre of strong wood, and two windows secured with iron bars are let into the front wall, measuring 2 feet by 1½ feet; allowing 36 feet for each prisoner, the superficial area suffices for 18 prisoners, and allowing 500 feet of space to each, there will be accommodation for 14. Rupees 250 have been expended in constructing this building.

12. I regret to have to state that, notwithstanding this large expenditure, the building as it at present stands is utterly unfit for the purpose for which it was constructed. It would have been far more satisfactory if a plan had first been submitted for sanction, but the work was emergent and the Tahsildar was directed to construct huts at once if he could not rent a suitable building.

13. The first great fault is entire absence of ventilation, the only means of ventilation are the two windows measuring 2 feet by 1½ feet; as there is no opening on the other side of the building, no free current of air can pass through. The door being of solid wood, no air is admitted that way, the natural consequence is that the building is insufferably hot, in fact even more so than the wards in the Taluk Cutcherry.

14. Secondly, there is no separation of classes or sexes, the whole building consisting of only one large room.

15. Thirdly, there is a want of security. The roof is an ordinary thatched one, and the beams which support it are exposed to view inside, a prisoner could easily, with the help of a companion, mount on one of these cross beams, and from there quietly cut through the roof at night.

16. The Superintendent of Police, who was with me at the time, most strongly urges this objection to the building. I am sure a prisoner determined on escaping would make his way out through the roof with very little difficulty, and easily make good his escape unless the guard happened to be on the alert.

17. I think the building might be made suitable for the confinement of prisoners by a considerable additional expenditure, and the remedies for the defects, which I beg to suggest, are as follows.

18. I would remove the solid door and substitute an open door secured by iron bars. I would also put up two additional doors of a similar kind, and erect two cross walls inside so as to form three wards, with a separate door for each. I would divide the length of the building into unequal portions, the ward allowed to under-trial males being 36 feet by 9 feet so as to accommodate 9 prisoners, the ward for convicted males being 28 by 9 feet so as to accommodate 7 prisoners, and the female ward being 8 feet by 9 so as to accommodate 2 prisoners.

19. The two windows which at present exist I would remove and insert them in the gables one at each end of the building, the two additional doors taking the place of the windows. I would further improve the ventilation by inserting into the wall, opposite the doors, a ventilator, secured by iron bars 8 feet in length and 10 inches in depth, so as to allow of a free current of air passing through the wards. The windows and ventilator should, of course, be placed so high up as to be out of reach of the inmates of the Jail.

20. The adoption of these improvements would, I think, provide a sufficient remedy for the first two defects noticed.

21. With a view to increasing the security of the Jail, the Superintendent of Police suggests that palmirah or jungle wood reapers should be fixed firmly on the cross beams through the whole length of the building, at intervals of about a span, so as to prevent the prisoners from mounting on the cross beams and effecting their escape through the roof.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
18th February 1868.*

22. This would not interfere with the ventilation, whilst at the same time it would render the building far more suitable as a place of confinement for prisoners.

23. I forward herewith two estimates for Rupees 380, the expenditure which it will be necessary to incur if my suggestions are approved of; unless a considerable sum is expended on the building it cannot be rendered fit for use as a Subsidiary Jail.

No. 207. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1868, No. 261.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council sanctions the further outlay of Rupees (380) three hundred and eighty, for rendering the Subsidiary Jail, built last year at Sattimungalam, temporarily suitable for the confinement of prisoners.

2. Mr. Grant will furnish to Government an explanation of the delay that has occurred in disposing of this matter, which was of an emergent character. It is observed that the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate Mr. Galton's letter to the District Magistrate Mr. P. Grant is dated the 15th June 1867, and that no action was taken thereon until the 8th January 1868.

3. The construction of the Subsidiary Jail at Sattimungalam seems to have been left entirely to the Tahsildar by the late Acting Magistrate of the District, and there is nothing to show that any proper instructions were issued by that Officer to the Tahsildar, or that there was any plan sanctioned for this building.

4. As there appears to be a considerable number of prisoners of all classes passing through this Subsidiary Jail, it is very desirable that no further time should be lost in framing plans and estimates for a permanent building.

5. The papers above recorded will be forwarded to the Subsidiary Jail Committee, with a request that they will, in communication with the Magistrate of the Coimbatore District, report to Government as to the extent and nature of the Subsidiary Jail accommodation required at Sattimungalam.

6. Orders will be issued in the Public Works Department for the provision of the necessary funds for the alterations required in the existing building.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Coimbatore.

Subsidiary Jail Committee.

Public Works Department, with estimate.

Exd. J. Talloch.

Subsidiary Jail at Lathum.

-galam, seems to have been

left entirely to the Subordinate by the late Acting Magistrate of the District.

and there is nothing to show

that any proper instructions

were issued by the ~~Magistrate~~

~~by the District~~ to the Officer

or that there was any plan

sanctioned for this building.

4. As there appears to be

a considerable number of

prisoners of all classes passing

through this Subsidiary Jail,

it is very desirable that no further

time should be lost in

forming plans and estimates

for a permanent building.

5. These papers will be

forwarded to the Subsidiary

Jail Committee with a

request that they will, in

communication with

the Magistrate of the District,

report to Government

as to the extent and nature

of the Subsidiary Jail

accommodation required

at Lathumgalam.

6. Orders will be issued

in the Public Works Department

for the provision of the funds

required for the alterations

required.

required in the existing building.

11

11

Subordinate

20 1846

To the Magistrate of Lathumgalam.

- Subsidiary Jail Committee

- P. W. Department with estimate

Dec 21/2

To. Coimbatore Magistrate's Office.
Coimbatore 31st January 1868.

From. P. Grant Esq.,
Magistrate of Coimbatore.

To. The Honorable R. S. Ellis. C. S.
Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from my acting Head Assistant Magistrate, suggesting certain improvements to the existing Subsidary Jail at Sullimangalam, constructed under the sanction of Government noted in the margin. Mr. Yellon is of opinion that reapers should be fixed on the roof beams, through the whole length of the building, so as to render the Jail more secure. He further proposes the division of the building into three wards, the removal of the present solid door, and the substitution in its stead of one with iron bars. He also proposes to fix a ventilator to improve the ventilation. All these improvements seem very necessary and I accordingly recommend them for the approval of Government.

An Estimate on this account is herewith

19th November 1866
No. 1824.

Recd. 1868. Department.

No. 261.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

27/1/68.

Dated 18th February 1868.

20.1.207

Forwar. d. d.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

R. Hunt

Magistrate.

No. 21

2

Hear Shikomb Magistrate Office
Kotimangalam

15th June 1867.

From C. A. Galton Esq.

Atty. Genl. Magistrate
of Coimbatore

To P. Grant Esq.
Magistrate of Coimbatore

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my
Report on the Subsidiary Jail at this Station
accompanied with a form containing the informa-
tions called for by the Inspector General of
Jails, copy of which was forwarded to me
with your letter of the 11 May 1862. I have
drawn up a form as being the most convenient
mode of embodying the information for purposes
of reference.

2. The building at present used as a
Subsidiary Jail is nothing but a space 16 feet
in breadth and 16 feet in depth and 8 feet
in height within the Taluk Cutchery, separated
from the rest of the building by wooden bars
reaching from the roof to the ground; these bars
are about 12 inches apart and transverse bars

Cash

For 19th Nov 1866 Chy 19-190

1868 June 2

From Mr. Grant

of Coimbatore

Mr. Grant Esq.

Magistrate

Coimbatore

1868 June 2

Mr. Grant Esq.

Magistrate

Coimbatore

206

crop them at intervals. It also separates the space into two wards one set apart for Males and the other for Females.

3. The Male ward is 14 feet by 11 feet and contains 1232 feet of Cubical Space, the Female ward is 14 feet by 5 feet and contains 560 feet of Cubical Space; accordingly there is accommodation in the former for two prisoners and in the latter for one only.

4. On Friday 7th without the date of inspection I found only two prisoners in confinement; they were both convicted males; there were no untried prisoners and no females.

5. Since the date of my inspection however a gang of 24 convicts has been brought in, numbering 15 persons and 10 prisoners have been sentenced by the Sub-Magistrate to imprisonment in another case.

6. The consequence is that many of them have to be kept under guard outside the wards, it being utterly impossible to accommodate so many in so small a space.

7. As to the means of Ventilation - there is only one small window 1 1/2 feet square in the outer walls of the Female ward; in the Male ward there is no opening of any sort in the walls, - consequently there can be no current of air; the

the inmates of the wards are dependent for light and air solely on the space between the wooden bars which separate them from the Jail Catechum; accordingly the only air they get is the hot air from the Catechum.

8. The wards appeared to be clean, but as a natural consequence of imprisoning humans beings day after day within confined limits through which a free current of air never passes, a strong odour pervaded the place. I found a Chatty containing urine in a corner of the Male ward, the presence of which must necessarily create an unpleasant odour. As the space is so confined, I think the prisoners should invariably be taken outside the Jails during the day for all purposes of nature.

9. The Convicts appeared to be in good health, they had only been in confinement a few days at the date of inspection.

10. I have now noticed in detail all the points connected with the wards at present used as a Subsidiary Jail which calls for special mention, I will now proceed to report upon the building which has recently been erected on

across

accordance with instructions received from the late acting Magistrate in his letter dated 10 December 1866 No 251.

11. The building in question consists of one large Room measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long 9 feet broad and $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height and its Cubical Contents are 6960 feet. This comprises of thick mud walls, 9 feet in height, 2 feet in thickness with a thatched roof and a small Verandah $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad in front; there is one door in the Centre of the verandah and two windows, ~~one each on the front wall~~ ^{one each on the front wall} measuring 2 feet by $1\frac{3}{4}$ feet allowing 36 feet for each prisoner the superficial Area suffices for 18 Prisoners and allowing 500 feet of space to each, there will be accommodations for 110. Rupees 250 have been expended in constructing this building.

12. I regret to have to state that notwithstanding this large expenditure the building as it at present stands is utterly unfit for the purpose for which it was constructed. It would have been

been far more satisfactory if at least had first been submitted for sanction, but the work was urgent and the Tahildar was directed to construct that at once if he could not rent a suitable building.

13. The first great fault is entire absence of Ventilation, the only means of Ventilation, are the two windows measuring 2 feet by $1\frac{3}{4}$ feet; as there is no opening on the other side of the building no free current of air can pass through. The door being of solid wood, no air is admitted that way, the natural consequence is that the building is insufferably hot, in fact even more so than the wards in the Taluk Cutchery.

14. Secondly there is no separation of Claps or Series, the whole building consisting of only one large room.

15. Thirdly there is a want of security. The roof is an ordinary thatched one, and the beams which support it are exposed to view inside, a prisoner could easily with the help of a companion mount on one of these cross beams, and from there quietly cut through the roof at night.

16. The Superintendent of Police who

who was with me at the time most strongly
regards this objection to the building. I am sure
a prisoner, determined on escaping, would
make his way out through the roof with very
little difficulty and easily make good
his escape unless the guard happened
to be on the alert.

17. I think the building might be
made suitable for the confinement of
prisoners by a considerable additional
expenditure, and the remedies for the
defects, which I suggest, are
as follows.

18. I would remove the solid door
and substitute an open door secured by iron
bars. I would also put up two additional
doors of a similar kind, one in each two
cross walls inside, so as to form three
wards with a separate door for each.
I would divide the length of the building
into unequal portions, the ward allowed
to men & trials males being 30 feet by
9 feet, so as to accommodate 9 prisoners,
the ward for convicted males being
28 by 9 feet so as to accommodate 7
prisoners, and the female ward being 8 feet
by 9 so as to accommodate 2 prisoners.

19. The two windows which
at present exist I would remove and
insert them in the gables one at each
end of the building, the two additional
doors taking the place of these windows.
I would further improve the ventilation
by inserting into the walls opposite the
doors a Ventilator secured by iron bars
18 feet in length and 10 inches in depth,
so as to allow of a free current of air
passing through the wards. The windows
and Ventilator should of course be placed
so high up as to be out of reach of the
prisoners.

20. The adoption of these improvements
would I think provide a sufficient remedy
for the first two defects noticed.

21. With a view to increasing the
security of the jail, the Superintendent
of Police suggests that pal-mira or jungle
wood beams should be fixed firmly
on the cross beams through the whole length
of the building at intervals of about a span
so as to prevent the prisoners from mounting
on the cross beams and effecting their
escape through the roof.

22. This would not interfere with the
Ventilation

ventilation whilst at the same time it would
render the building far more suitable as a
place of confinement for prisoners.

23. I forward herewith two
Estimates for Rupees 380 the expensiture
which it will be necessary to incur if
my suggestions are approved of; unless
a considerable sum is expended on the
building it cannot be rendered fit for use
as a Subsidary Jail.

10 I have the honor to be Dear

1 Signed to: A. Gallions.

See also H. H. Magistrate

10 June 1941

Geo. W. ...
 Geo. W. ...
 Geo. W. ...

24. Manganese for

Magistrate.

182

1

To Her Grace
the Duchess of
St Albans
at 87 Pall Mall
W. 1888

There

the first stage.

Wm. L. G. L.

Mr. Dwyer

Heinrich

See page 24

rec'd from

Alfred Kerkhofs

David A. Deethman

John

WZ

Nov. 18 - Dec. 1, 1882. ad. 206.

278680

120243