M.
00-8-8-96.

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Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 896 M

DATED 27th May 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Ootacamund Lake.

Declining to alter the arrangements sanctioned in G.O. No.563 M., dated 27th March 1896 regarding the location of coolies employed on filling in the ---- and requesting the Public Works Department to take all the sanitary precautions necessary for the health of the coolies.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Already the I have my

[Form No. (4)—250—4-1-95.]

CURRENT No. 1997

No. 2577

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, MADRAS,

Dated Ootacamund, the 29th April 1896.

From

A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A.,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS,
MADRAS,

To

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. F. Price C.S.I.
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

SIR,

Enclosures.

I have the honour to address the Government on the subject of the proposed location of coolies for the Lake Reclamation scheme in a portion of the old District Jail buildings in which this office is situated

G.O. No 563 M
27.3.96.

2. Although I have not been favoured by His Excellency the Governor in Council with a copy of the orders which have been passed on the subject, the proximity of my office gives me an interest in the subject which will be a sufficient excuse, I trust, for my troubling Government.

3. It is proposed, I understand, to locate a body of 400 coolies, for a period which will extend to several months, in the outside yard of the old District Jail. The yard measures roughly 220 feet by 60 feet. It is surrounded by a wall 12 feet high. It has one entrance at one end, and it contains a single long low building divided into 3 rooms. The measurements of these three

rooms

rooms are approximately as follow:—

N^o. I Room — $60\frac{1}{2}' \times 20\frac{1}{2}' \times 9'$
N^o. II Room — $58\frac{1}{2}' \times 20\frac{1}{2}' \times 11'$
N^o. III Room — $59\frac{1}{2}' \times 20\frac{1}{2}' \times 12\frac{1}{2}'$
Total — $178\frac{1}{2}' \times 20\frac{1}{2}' \times 11'$

The total superficial area is $3659\frac{1}{4}$ square feet and the cubic area 40,252 Cubic feet.

4. In the absence of all copies of correspondence I write subject to correction, but I am informed on good authority that the Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division who seems to be responsible for the scheme, proposed in the first instance that 1000 coolies should live for some months in this yard. The matter was then referred to the Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, who has given it as his opinion that the number should be limited to 400 coolies.

5. Both these officials belong to highly scientific professions, accustomed to deal with such — matters as the measurement of buildings and the calculation of areas for human habitation. Although it might seem doubtful whether these professional advisers of Government could have satisfied themselves by actual measurement and inspection that there was room in the yard mentioned for 1000 and for 400 coolies respectively yet it is impossible to presume the contrary. Their reports, which Government has perused, may contain information as to how their recommendations are intended to be carried out. As I have not seen them, however, I venture to invite attention to the following facts.

6. If the proposal of the first professional authority

authority, the Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division, had been adopted, each cooly would have had just over $3\frac{1}{2}$ square feet in which to live. He would, of course have been unable to lie down in this space, but with careful arrangement the whole 1000 coolies might possibly have squatted down. The second professional authority, the Civil Surgeon Ootacamund, has taken a much more liberal view of the space a cooly needs. According to his proposal, which it is understood the Government has sanctioned, each cooly would have as much as nine square feet to himself. With a little cramping he could thus lie down, if he were not a very broad man and if he could confine his limbs within a space 4 feet by two.

7. The forgoing calculations relate to the area of the covered rooms, as it is presumed that it is not proposed that during the coming monsoon the Coolies should live in the open yard.

8. A free cooly, coming up to a distant place, necessarily brings with him various belongings, such as wives, old women, children, pots and bundles of miscellaneous household goods. Already there are such additional items in the yard. With 400 coolies, the aggregate of these items will certainly be considerable. They also will have to go into the nine square feet allowed per head

9. Surgeon Major H. King in his Manual of Hygiene, para 552, states that at hill stations the minimum space required for natives of India is 42 Superficial feet and 600 cubic feet per head. Surgeon Major M^c. Nally at page 90 of his sanitary Handbook writes that 40 square feet

per head

per head must be regarded as the smallest superficial space allowable with regard to health. The Madras Jail Code in Rule 771 lays down that not less than 40 superficial and 600 cubic feet or 36 superficial and 648 cubic feet of breathing space shall be allowed per head. On these calculations not more than about 80 persons could be placed in the three rooms in question.

10. It will thus be seen that there is a considerable discrepancy between the space which the published authorities last quoted lay down as the minimum necessary per head, and that allowed under the recommendations of the Executive Engineer Nilgiris and the Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund. When Doctors differ, it is proverbially hard to decide, but the discrepancy is so considerable that it seems to need investigation. The Surgeon General or the Sanitary Commissioner could easily advise Government how many persons could safely be put into rooms containing 3659 superficial and 40 252 cubic feet, with very imperfect means of ventilation and I respectfully suggest that a reference be made to one or both of those experienced officials, before 400 coolies are placed in the rooms.

11. It is possible that Mr Ashpitel and Dr. Cook's recommendations have been influenced by a tradition, which they appear to have believed, that in the time of the Famine of 1876-78, 1100 prisoners were kept in these rooms. It will be evident that, if that were so, the prisoners could have had only standing room, but the tradition in question appears to be purely mythical. The Annual Jail Reports show conclusively that the largest number of prisoners confined in the whole of the buildings

of the

of the District Jail Ootacamund on any day during the years 1876-78 was 215. The outer yard could not have held more than about 80.

12. The yard contains two tatty latrines each with 6 seats. Assuming that one Latrine is intended for each sex, it will be seen that the Latrine accommodation at present is limited. The Latrines can be reached only from the one door to the yard, so that the toties must traverse the whole length of the yard to clean them. In the middle of the yard is a water tap for purposes of ablution. The water from this tap runs into an earth-drain, the level of which does not enable the water to run off. It therefore sinks into the ground. The high wall round the yard greatly restricts ventilation. No arrangements of any kind for cooking exist and the coolies who are now in the yard cook inside the rooms.

13. I submit that unless these conditions are materially altered before 400 or even 100, coolies are placed in the yard, they will produce a considerable nuisance. Already the ground near the tatty latrines is fouled with excreta. I have myself seen coolies by day urinating into the earth drain in front of the sleeping rooms and at night this practice will doubtless be universal. The least measures that seem to be necessary are —

(1) the provision of latrines outside the yard on the open ground at the back and the removal of those inside.

(2) the construction of a pucka drain to carry off the ablution water and whatever else falls into it.

(3) the entertainment of a regular scavenger establishment to keep the yard and the Latrines clean.

(4 the opening of fresh doors into the yard to promote ventilation

14. Lest the Government should suppose that I am interfering in what does not concern me I would add that my office is separated by a space of 20 feet only from the yard, and that in my opinion, my health and that of the subordinates of my office will be exposed to serious risk, if things remain as they are. A more important consideration may be found in the fact that St. Bartholomew's hospital is a few yards below. An outbreak of typhoid or cholera among the coolies would be prejudicial to that institution. If the Government feels any doubt regarding the necessity of my recommendations I would again suggest that the opinion of the Surgeon General or the Sanitary Commissioner be taken.

15. In conclusion, I invite the attention of Government to the fact that though my office is situated in the District Jail buildings and though the Jail Department is debited in the books of the Public Works Department with the cost of all repairs to these buildings, the Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division, gave me no opportunity of remarking on the unusual proposals for using these buildings which he submitted to Government. If I had been accorded such an opportunity, I might have drawn attention to the extraordinary divergence between the views of necessary accommodation put forward by Mr. Ashpital and Dr. Cook and those of published authorities, and might have thus saved correspondence

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Most obdt. Servt.
A. G. Cardew
Inspr. Genl. of Prisons

VS

CURRENT No. 1997

JUDICIAL.

JAIL (1896) DEPARTMENT.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1342 M

From

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS,

Madras,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

CHIEF SECRETARY
30 APR. 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Dated 29th
Despatched
Received 30
} april, 1896.

Regd 1st May. No. 2577

Enclos —

ENCLOSURES. nil

Subject.

Regarding the proposed location of the P. W. Coolies in the District Jail buildings at Ootacamund.

---

563 Mh 27-8-96

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1342 M

Endorsement No. 936

Transferred to the Local & Municipal Dept.

W. Francis

Ag. Under Secretary.

1/5/96

Ootacamund
2nd May 1896

To The Local & Munl. Dept.

9/5

...e place in this yard, ...
...ce. Already the ground ...
...t excreta. I have ...
... the earth ...

Enclosure
C. No. Letter no R.C.
1353 M
536 of 96
11 MAY 96
D/ 4-5-96
Ack 11/5

...t from Sanitary Commis-
... dated 26th Novr. 1893.

... average superficial space ... tents per head of 10 houses, ...an beings) it is found that ...al and 180.6 cubic feet ...able per head; but, in one instance, the total available superficial space per head was only 8.7 feet, there being 12 souls crowded in one room. These dens are owned by natives in good circumstances and are literally lodgings for which heavy rent is charged during the 'season'."

Sd/ W. G. King M.B. C.M. D.P.H.
Ag. Sanit: Commr.

True copy

H. Bull

1/1363 M of 96

40

Extract from letter of Mr. A. G. Cardew Inspector General of prisoners:

"I have had the 3 rooms in the Temporary Jail remeasured & append the results. The figure I named in writing to Ashpitel was wrong.

Room No. 1 — 60½' × 20½' × 9'

Room No. 2 — 58½' × 20½' × 11'

Room No. 3 — 59½' × 20½' × 11'

Total — 178½' × 20½' × 11'

Total superficial area — 3659½ Sq. ft.

Total cubic area — 40252 C. ft.

The allowance per head for Convicts is as follows:

40 Superfl. & 600 cubic feet

36 Superfl. & or 648 cubic feet

You will see that there is thus space only for between 80 and 90 prisoners."

28.4.96 (True Extract) Sd/ A. G. Cardew.

Very urgent

Ootacamund 4th May 1896

From

Surg. Lt Colonel H. D. Cook M.B.
Civil Surgeon, Ooty.

To

The Collector of Nilgiris
Ootacamund

Sir

With reference to your endorsement No. 534/96 dated the 22nd April '96 upon letter from the Sub Division Officer No. 274 of the same date, I have the honor to give it, as my definite opinion that perhaps 200 coolies should be the "maximum" number to locate in the vacant "buildings" of the jail premises; but if the jail hill can be used & further accommodation provided, 400 coolies could easily be located. Sanitary arrangements must however be more perfect than what at present exists for the 200 coolies. But I am

2/B03 Wespat

informed that Sanitary arrangements were suspended, owing to a protest being sent to Govt. by the Municipal Council, as to any location whatever of coolies in the jail buildings or jail hill. – As now Govt. have considered that the jail premises is the best place for coolies, it has only to be stated what is the number that should be located, and I say as above, 200 in the vacant "buildings".

I forward an extract of a letter received from Mr Carden, Inspector General of Prisons, who states that "80 or 90" prisoners could be located in the vacant buildings. You are well aware that prisoners are allowed far & away, more space than ordinary coolies, or servants in any private house.

I also forward an extract from the Sanitary Commissioner's Notes by which you will see what space ordinary people have in the Ooty bazaars.

If you will inform me if 200 coolies are to be located in the vacant jail buildings, I will inform you what latrine accommodation & other Sanitary arrangements, I think, should be provided.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt. Servant
H. D. [illegible]
Surg: Lt. Colonel
Civil Surgeon

11 MAY. 96

3/1363 M0748

place in this yard, they

april?

Copy of Letter No. 2577 dated 29th ~~March~~ 1896
to the Chief Secretary to Government.

I have the honour to address the Govt. on the subject of the proposed location of coolies for the Lake Reclamation Scheme in a portion of the old District Jail buildings in which this office is situated.

2. Although I have not been favoured by His Excellency the Governor in Council with a copy of the orders which have been passed on the subject, the proximity of my office gives me an interest in the subject which will be a sufficient excuse, I trust, for my troubling Government.

3. It is proposed I understand, to locate a body of 400 coolies, for a period which will extend to several months, in the outside yard of the old District Jail. The yard measures roughly 220 feet by 60 feet. It is surrounded by a wall 12 feet high. It has one entrance at one end and it contains a single long low building divided into 3 rooms. The measurements of these three rooms are approximately as follow:—

No. I Room — 60½' × 20½' × 9'
No. II Room — 58½' × 20½' × 11'
No. III Room — 59½' × 20½' × 12½'
Total 178½' × 20½' × 11'

The total superficial area is 3659¼ sq. ft. and the cubic area 40252 cubic feet.

4. In the absence of all copies of correspondence I write subject to correction, but I am [illegible] authority that the Executive Engr.

yard. The matter was then referred to the Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, who has given it as his opinion that the No. should be limited to 400 coolies.

5. Both these officials belong to highly scientific professions, accustomed to deal with such matters as the measurement of buildings and the calculation of areas for human habitation. Although it might seem doubtful whether these professional advisers of Government could have satisfied them-selves by actual measurement and inspection that there was room in the yard mentioned for 1000 and for 400 coolies respectively yet it is impossible to presume the contrary. Their reports which Government has perused, may contain information as to how their recommendations are intended to be carried out. As I have not seen them, however, I venture to invite attention to the following facts.

6. If the proposal of the first professional authority, the Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division had been adopted, each cooly would have had just over 3½ sq. ft. in which to live. He would of course, have been unable to lie down in this space, but with careful arrangement the whole 1000 coolies might possibly have squatted down. The second professional authority, the Civil Surgeon Ootacamund has taken a much more liberal view of the space a cooly needs. According to his proposal which it is understood the Government has sanctioned, each cooly would have as much as nine square feet to himself. With a little cramping he could thus lie down [illegible] il he could were not a very br[illegible]

MAY. 36

to the area of the covered rooms, as it is presumed that it is not proposed that during the coming monsoon the coolies should live in the open yard.

8. A free cooly, coming up to a distant place, necessarily brings with him various belongings, such as wives, old women, children, pots and bundles of miscellaneous household goods. Already there are such additional items in the yard. With 400 coolies, the aggregate of these items will certainly be considerable. They also will have to go into the nine sq. ft. allowed per head.

9. Surgeon Major H. King in his Manual of Hygiene, para 552, states that at hill stations the mini-mum space required for natives of India is 42 super-ficial feet and 600 cubic feet per head. Surgeon Major McNally at page 90 of his Sanitary Handbook writes that 40 square feet per head must be regarded as the smallest superficial space allowable with regard to health. The Madras Jail Code in Rule 771 lays down that not less than 40 superficial and 600 cubic feet, or 36 superficial and 648 cubic feet of breathing space shall be allowed per head. On these calculations not more than about 80 persons could be placed in the three rooms in question.

10. It will thus be seen that there is a considerable discrepancy between the space which the published authorities last quoted lay down as the minimum necessary per head, and that allowed under the recommendations of the Executive Engineer N[illegible] the Civil Surgeon Ootacamund. When

Commissioner could easily advise Government how many persons could safely be put into rooms containing 3659 superficial and 40,262 cubic feet, with very imperfect means of ventilation, and I respectfully suggest that a reference be made to one or both of those experienced officials, before 400 coolies are placed in the rooms.

11. It is possible that Mr Ashpitel and Dr Cook's recommendations have been influenced by a tradition, which they appear to have believed, that in the time of the famine of 1876-78, 1100 prisoners were kept in these rooms. It will be evident that, if that were so, the prisoners could have had only standing room, but the tradition in question appears to be purely mythical. The Annual Jail Reports show conclusively that the largest number of prisoners confined in the whole of the buildings of the District Jail Ootacamund on any day during the years 1876-78 was 215. The outer yard could not have held more than about 80.

12. The yard contains two tatty latrines, each with 6 seats. Assuming that one Latrine is intended for each sex, it will be seen that the Latrine accommodation at present is limited. The Latrines can be reached only from the one door to the yard, so that the toties must traverse the whole length of the yard to clean them. In the middle of the yard is a water tap for purposes of ablution. The water from this tap runs into an earth-drain, the level of which does not enable the water to run off. It therefore sinks into the ground. The high wall round the yard greatly restricts ventilation. No arrangements of any kind for cooking exist, and the coolies who are now in the yard cook

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(1) the provision of latrines outside the yard
on the open ground at the back and the
removal of those inside.

(2) the construction of a pucka drain to carry
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falls into it.

(3) the entertainment of a regular scavengers
Establishment to keep the yard and the
Latrines clean

(4) the opening of fresh doors into the yard
promote ventilation.

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General or the Sanitary Commissioner

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MAY. 36

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ation put forward by Mr. Ashpitel and Dr. Cook
d those of published authorities, and might thus
e saved correspondence.

(True Copy).

A G Cardew
Inspr. Genl. of Prisons.

[Form No. 1.—2,000—4-1-95].

No. 2578

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, MADRAS,

dated, Ootacamund, 29th April — 1896.

It is requested that the reply to this letter may be addressed to Ootacamund.

From

A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A.,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, MADRAS,

To

THE Collector of Nilgiris,
Ootacamund,

SIR,

Enclosures.

I have the honour to enclose for yo
information copy of a Letter No. 2577 of this date
which I have addressed to Government on the
subject of the proposed location of Public Works
Coolies in the District Jail buildings.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant.

JAIL (1896) DEPARTMENT.

From

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS,

Madras,

To

THE Collector of
Nilgiris
Ooty

Dated 29th
Despatched
Received 30th
April 1896.

No. 2578

ENCLOSURES. One

Subject.

Forwards a copy of Lr No. $\frac{2577}{29.4.96}$
…th regarding the proposed location
… Coolies in the District Jail
…ings.

…lation…

…gist, a…

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534 / 1896

Nilgiri Collector's Office.
Ooty. 4th May 1896.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1363 M

From

The Honorable J. D. Rees C. I. E.
Collector of Nilgiris

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Stone House Hill.

Sir,

I have been favored by the Inspector-General of Prisons with a copy of his letter to your address No. 2577 dated 29th April 1896. This matter has never been officially before me but, while inspecting the sub-jail on the 14th ultimo, I arrived at the conclusion, so far as one who is no expert could, that 400 Coolies cannot well be housed with their belongings in the space proposed to be allotted to them in the old jail buildings. The chairman, Ootacamund Municipal

Council, informs me the housing of Coolies only was contemplated, but they will be freemen though lodged in a jail, and it seems not unlikely that women and children will appear on the scene. I then communicated with the Civil Surgeon and also obtained from the Chairman, Ootacamund Municipal Council, a copy of the representation of the Municipal Council, and of the Order of Government thereon, I have subsequently again inspected the Quarters in company with the Inspector General of Prisons, and the Civil Surgeon and it still appeared to me again very doubtful whether as many as 400 could be located in the place. ~~Surgn~~ Col. Cook, in answer to a letter which I wrote to him, on this subject, reports "that perhaps 200 Coolies should be the maximum number to locate in the vacant buildings of the jail premises but that on the jail Hill 400 could easily be located." In the opinion Dr Cook now

now expresses I agree. It is observed that sanitary arrangements for 200 have not been made but only for the small number who have arrived.

2. The drain, as the Inspector-General says, will need slight alteration. I doubt if entrance will have to be provided through the wall for scavengers as all latrines should, in my opinion, be outside the buildings on the Hill. Arrangements will have to be made and can easily be made for cooking. I do not think more doors are needed, as the place is pretty airy and coolies on the Hills suffer more from cold than from want of air.

3. To-day, intimation has been received from the Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division, that "150 Coolies will arrive in Ootacamund in about a fortnight, that he proposes to locate them in the existing buildings available on jail

Hill, that 200 more Coolies will come eventually and that he proposes to erect huts along the outside of the South wall of the jail yard to whatever extent the District medical officer may consider necessary; that he has instructed the Sub Divisional Officer, Ootacamund, to put up as many latrines as the District Medical Officer may consider necessary and in such places as he may approve."

4. I can see no sufficient objection to these proposed arrangements, and have forwarded Mr. Ashpitel's letter to Mr. Hamnett through Dr Cook with a request that the last named Officer will intimate exactly to Mr. Hamnett, what the sanitary requirements are, as the matter is one of public importance. No objection exists to jail Hill, that could not be urged against other sites. Indeed it is exceptionally open and airy. I do not think that the more liberal requirements in the way of cubic contents of space need be, or well can be, enforced in the case of free labourers.

Not received.

Dr. Cook's letter of this date on this subject is also forwarded. I beg that this letter and Mr. Carden's may be returned when no longer required.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedient servant

5/5

for Collector.

copied by [illegible]

28/8

563 [illegible] 27-3-96

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1363 M

From

The Collector of ~~Coimbatore~~ Nilgiris.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government.
Stone House Hill

Dated 4 }
Despd 5 } May 1896
Recd }

7 MAY 96

Reference No 534 M / 96

Subject

Regarding the proposed ~~Location of~~ P.W. ~~Coolies in the Jail Hill~~. District Jail Building at Ootacamund

35

9 F

Urgent.

No. 197

OOTACAMUND,
29th April 1896.

FROM
The Commandant, Nilgiri Volunteer Rifles,

To
The Deputy Adjutant General
Madras Command.
Ootacamund.

SIR,

I have the honour to report for the information of H.E. the Commander in Chief that it is proposed by the D.P.W. authorities of the Nilgiri Division, to place about (400) four hundred Coolies, who are being imported for the Lake improvement Scheme, in a yard of the old Jail Buildings immediately above the Volunteer Head Quarters & near the quarters occupied by the European N.C. Officers (& their families) attached to this Corps.

ii I have examined the yard in which these Coolies & their followers are to be placed and as the accommodation available is not, in my opinion, sufficient for more than 100 persons, the effect of placing 400 people there is very likely to result in some epidemic. I consider it therefore my duty, in the interests of these European families committed to my care to strongly protest against the proposed location of these Coolies.

L. G. C.

iii I earnestly beg that H.E. the Commander in Chief will be pleased to take this matter into his consideration with a view to the Government of Madras being moved to order the postponement of the location of these Coolies.

1/1375 M of 96

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Robert V. Cox
Colonel
Commandant, N. V. Rifles.

1-5-96
1797

II

B2/5

1704
1st MAY. 96
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Diary No. B.1998
Recd. 2 MAY. 1896
Branch
6.5.

To The D. A. G.
Madras Command

No. 18
D.A.G.

Forwarded and recommended for consideration as it seems most undesirable to locate so many coolies in such a position

J M Prendergast
B. General
Comdg Southern Dist

No B / B1659 3.5.96

MADRAS COMMAND
4 MAY 96
MEDICAL

P. M. O. M. C. For favor of opinion & remarks

III

4-5-96

2/5

I have today visited site, the building will be terribly overcrowded & its proximity to Staff quarters, offices &c is I should say highly objectionable

S. Ballard Col.
A. Q. M. G. M. C.
for D. A. G.

IV

MADRAS COMMAND,
MEDICAL DIVISION,
Ootacamund, the 5th May 1896
No. 386

Diary No. B/2198
Recd. 5 MAY. 1896
Branch
6.5.

To

The Deputy Adjutant General
Madras Command

I find that the shed in which it is proposed to locate these coolies is a long low building without windows and with hardly any means of ventilation, the earthen floor below the level of the outside ground, and surrounded by high walls.

With 400 persons in occupation the cubic space available for each would be only about 85 cubic feet whereas in such a building, 600 would be little enough to keep them in health.

The occupation of this site by such a number of coolies - not counting their families and friends, must result in the surrounding ground becoming very much fouled, even under the best supervision, and this will constitute a danger to the health of the surrounding inhabitants, of whom many are military. Besides, outbreaks of disease are notoriously common amongst coolies placed under such conditions.

If I might be permitted to make a suggestion on this matter, I would say that it would be far better for the coolies and the inhabitants of Ootacamund if the former were located in temporary huts in the hollow on the south side of Bishops Down or thereabouts. I would strongly advise that the proposal that the coolies should occupy the jail, be not carried into effect.

S B Hunt
Surgeon Major-General,
Offg Principal Medical Officer Madras Command.

No. B/B-1821

Ltr

Chief Secretary
to the Govt of Madras.

Forwarded for information & such action as Govt may think it desirable to take.

Ootacamund.
6. May 96.

Chas M Clarke Lt Genl
Comdg the Forces. Madras.

Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1375 M.

E

Jud. transp. this to Stm

There was a letter from the 23 Pioneers on this subject the other day
CS 7/5

CHIEF SECRETARY
6. MAY. 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

C. Nos 1843, 1963 & 1970

E

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Local & Municipal Dept.
CURRENT No. 1375 M

From

Lieut General Commanding
the Forces, Madras.

No. B/B.1821

Dated 6-5-96

Received 9-5-96

Enclosures /

SUBJECT.

~~Forwarding for information correspondence~~ Regarding the location of ~~the~~ Public Works Coolies in the District Jail buildings at Ootacamund.

(With Encl.)

P. W. C. No

Recd. 18/5/96.

S/

TO BE RETURNED
WITH REPLY.

Encls: 9.

C. Nos. 1342, 1363 & 1375 M

No. 552

Referred to the Public Works Department for very early remarks.

Rd
12/5/96

S.D
9/5/96

W W Phillips
Ag. Asst. Secretary

~~[illegible]~~

Fort St. George
16th May 1896

To
The Public Works Department

9/5—

Note by the Chief Engineer, P.W.D.
No. 212 D of 19th May 1896

I have this day inspected the proposed site for locating the --- coolies on Jail Hill and am of opinion that it is in every way suited for the purpose.

2. I consider that not more than 200 can be housed inside the jail walls, but that there is room for far more than 200 on the Hill outside, should it ever be found necessary to employ more labour.

3. I agree with the suggestions contained in paras 2,3 and 4 of -- letter No. 534 A/1896 of 4th May 1896 from the Collector of the -- Nilgiris to the Chief Secretary.

(s/d) D.McNeil Campbell, Col. R.E
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

No. 213 D of 19th May 1896

Transferred to the Local and -- Municipal Department with reference to the endorsement in that Department No. 552 dated 16th May 1896.

D. McN. Campbell Colonel. R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

The Local & Municipal Dept.
with original papers returned

C.K.B.
19.5.96

[9]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

al Dept.
CU 1481 A.M.

From

The Public Works Deptt.

No. 213 D.

Dated 19-5-96

Received 19-5-96

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Transferring correspondence regarding the location of the Public Works coolies in the St. Jail buildings at Ootacamund

---

[G.
25 A.]
1,000—21-3-96.

L&M DEPARTMENT

C. Nos 1342 - 1363 & 1375 M
& note by C. E.

FOR ORDERS.

In the first current the I. G. of Prisons complains of the proposed location of coolies in the yard on Jail Hill, & says that as there is not sufficient room such location is likely to cause an epidemic. In the second current the Collector of the Nilgiris forwards a copy of this complaint, & also a letter from Dr. Cook, stating that he thinks 200 coolies can be accommodated in the existing building, & 200 more on the hill outside, if necessary. The Collector ~~suggests~~ mentions certain alterations & improvements to be carried out to render the place suitable which the Exe. Supt. has agreed to carry out, & states that with these the site is as unobjectionable as any other.

2. The L. G. C. also forwards a complaint from the Commandant of

Location of Coolies, Ootacamund

the U.V.R. together with the remarks of the P.M.O.

3. The C.E., Col. Campbell, has inspected the site & considers that the site is in every way suited for the purpose, & agrees with the Coll^r's suggestions.

4. There does not appear to be any reason to modify the previous G.O. If the coolies are not located in Jail hill they will go into the already overcrowded bazaar. In fact Mr Ashpitel tells me that some of the coolies, that have already come up, have preferred to go into the bazaar to going to Jail hill. In view of this it is hardly likely that many of them would care to go into temporary huts on Bishopsdown as suggested by the P.M.O.

5. The previous G.O. & connected papers are in Madras, but as this is urgent, & the necessary information is contained in the currents this is submitted for orders at once in order to save delay.

WWD
20.5.96

There are but three courses to follow as regard the coolies.

I. To use the jail buildings and hill as proposed

II. To let the coolies find accommodation in the bazaar as best they can

III. To hut them somewhere out of Ootacamund.

E

FOR ORDERS.

H. M.

[G. 25 A.]
1,000—21-3-96.

Department

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

To deal with II & III first.

In the case of II, the bazaar is crowded as it is, and the coolies in all probability will not be able to get any place to put up in or will lie about in verandahs or other similar places until the monsoon either kills them off or sends them flying back again to the plains.

As regard III. the coolies will be clear of all sanitary supervision away from medical aid and away from the bazaar at which they will have to get their food. If they are [illegible] out where [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] purposes or in any other like spot they will not remain a week. ~~As~~ Even if they did remain the chances of an outbreak of disease would be by much greater than if they were close to medical aid and in a place where sanitary arrangements could be carefully and closely seen to: with the I. G. of Prisons, the Commandant of the Volunteers and the Municipality all on the watch and ready to pick immediately every H. M. shortcoming will be ~~[illegible]~~ promptly be caught hold of.

Four hundred Coolies will be a nuisance more or less wherever they may be, but it is obviously desirable that if they are to be employed at all they should be located at ~~some~~ the spot where precautions to prevent their becoming a danger to others can best be ~~[illegible]~~ enforced. This spot is I submit that selected by the P.W.D. authorities.

There is of course the question whether the presence of four hundred additional Coolies ~~in the~~ within the town or a prolongation of the abominable stenches which assail any one going near the ~~[illegible]~~ head of the big lake of a morning is the lesser evil. I should say ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ that the latter ~~was~~ decidedly was ~~[illegible]~~ and that it should be accepted.

21/5/96

Location of Coolies, Ootacamund

8

FOR ORDERS.

very ready, I think.

I entirely agree — The 400 Coolies will do better on Jail Hill if properly looked after — the P.W.D. [illegible] this

22/5/96

Read again G.O. No. 563 of 27.3.96.

C 1342 M. from I. G. of Prisons
1363 M. Collr. of Nilgiris
1375 M. L. G. C.
1481 M. P. W. D.

G.O. No. 896 Public, d/27-5-96.

e Govt. regrets that it is unable ~~modify~~ alter the arrangements ctioned in G. O. No. 563 dated 27th March 1896 ~~but~~ as it is still of opinion that the cation of the Coolies on the Jail ill is the most desirable course to be adopted.

2. The P. W. D. will be requested to take all the ~~[illegible]~~ sanitary precautions necessary for the health of the Coolies, ~~if this is done~~ such as providing extra accommodation, latrines etc. ~~&~~ if this is done & careful & constant supervision is exercised there is no reason why their presence on the hill should be a nuisance ~~[illegible]~~ or source of danger to the health of individuals or the public.

(from orders)

23/5/96

To
The Inspector-General of Prisons
" Collr. of Nilgiris
" Lt.-Genl. Comg. the Forces, Madras
" P.W. Department

Despd. 27/5/96

P.W.D.
23.5-96

23/5/96

E

From orders.

8962

submitted to A.S. for perusal of B.S.'s addition

23/5/96.

To S.W.D. for favour of counterinitials.

25.5.96

REAL AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18 No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

FURTHER, No. OF 189

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT NO.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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INDEX.

Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DE

G.O., DATED 27-5-96
No. 896 M.

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

Ootacamund Lak

Declining to alter the arrangements sanctioned in G.O. No. 563 M. d/ 27.3.96 regarding the location of Coolies employed on filling in the —, and requesting the P.W. Dept. to take all the sanitary precautions necessary for the health of the Coolies

✓

When copied ______
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When signed ______

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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