... Pages. 6
4. Date of report 30-7-37
5. Initials of Clerk
M.R.O. 1—22,400—28-11-35.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 1918-57

G.O. No. 1590 Press / Mis.

3839

Dated 17 — 8 — 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 38. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Judicial Department, dated 5th August 1857, No. 961.

Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Palmanair, 13th July 1857, No. 257.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No. 778, (6th July 1857,) forwarding for my consideration and report letters from the Sessions Judge of Chicacole and from the Executive Engineer objecting to the plan proposed by me, and selected by Government, for the improvement of the Jail at Chicacole and proposing another plan.

2. I must say that letters are sufficiently unsatisfactory and it appears to me that if the facts stated are correct, some explanation, of the circumstances under which the building was so badly constructed in so objectionable a situation, is due to Government.

3. I have not on my records the correspondence which led to the erection of the new hospital, now condemned by the Judge and Civil Engineer, it was completed just before I took charge of my office and among the papers handed over to me by the Foujdaree Udawlut was one from Mr. Glass, the present Judge, proposing the enclosure of this very hospital at a cost of (about 1,800 Rupees.*) Not a word was then said of the objections now raised to the building, though it is evident from the present correspondence that "this hospital, on the very first slight fall of rain, after it was built, was so damp, or rather so wet, that upwards of an inch of water was found over the floors," some alterations were made which "in a small measure kept the hospital drier, for a time, but when the monsoon came down, the nullah * * came down and formed (*as it does every year*) a sheet of water from the road passing the Jail across to the hospital * * * and overflowing the hospital, covering the floor to the extent of upwards of a foot of water!" Again the ground is stated to be incapable of drainage because "the ground altogether there and thereabout is so much below the level of the river that instead of getting rid of the water, the back flow would swamp not only the ground and hospital, but the Jail itself, * * if an opening were made in the high banks."

From Session Judge Chicacole to Civil Engineer, 9th Division, 21st Feby. 1855.
From Session Judge Chicacole to Secretary Board of Revenue Dept. Public Works, 27th March 1855.
* Bill mislaid.

4. Under these circumstances, never alluded to either by the Judge or Engineer on my visiting the buildings with them and the Surgeon, what is proposed? "to give up the hospital," annually overflowed and damp, after the slightest shower, to the European Jailor and Dresser and their families and erect a new building for the Convicts! a consideration well worthy of a liberal Government!

5. As for the defects in the building itself, I will not offer any remarks, it was built by one Engineer Officer hardly three years ago, and is condemned by an Officer in the same department now, while the Judge gives his opinion "that unless for the material, the building will in a very short time be worthless."

6. Mr. Palmer gives the following particulars as to the levels.

7. Top of basement above high water mark in the river 4-6. The ground about it is on a level with the highest water mark in the river which seems within 450 yards of it.

8. Mr. Glass says that Mr. Palmer, not having seen a heavy fall of rain or monsoon, his statements are below the truth.

9. With these statements before the Government, I do not see how I can recommend an outlay of one Rupee on any addition to the Chicacole Jail, and I certainly shall not forward a proposition that a European Jailor and respectable Native Dresser should be put into a building represented to be such as is above described by those who cannot be mistaken.

10 But supposing the Government to overrule this objection, what is proposed is no equivalent to my plan. I required such a space as would enable me to confine the prisoners to hard labor within walls: enclosing an area of 456×320=145,920 feet=16,213 yards, nearly

4 acres, at a cost of Rupees 3,740, including the hospital. Instead of this I am offered an enclosure of 13,432 feet, about a third of an acre, exclusive of the hospital enclosure, at a cost of 638 Rupees.

11. The very large space I proposed would not have been necessary but for the circumstance of the hospital being placed where it is, and that it is desirable to have no separate enclosures. The space proposed by the Engineer would avail but little for any useful purpose.

12. In addition to this, I may remark, that the confined position chosen for the hospital would be objected to.

13. I must not altogether pass over the relative estimates. If in an estimate for Rupees 3,923, proposed by the Engineer, for buildings only, Rupees 463 can be saved by convict labor, surely in an estimate of Rupees 5,510 including 570, for a road, the prisoners might do more than 460 Rupees worth of the work; besides this, at Chicacole 1,200 Rupees is far more than would be needed for the Jailor's and Dresser's residences.

As it now appears clear that the plan for the improvement of the *Chicacole* Jail (sanctioned under date 26th May 1857) is objectionable, owing to the sawmpy nature of the ground to be enclosed and of that on which the hospital is built—the same must be abandoned.

2. Mr. Rohde will report what should be done for the improvement of the hospital, supposing, which appear doubtful, that it is capable of improvement.

3. This correspondence will be referred to the Public Works Department in order that it may be ascertained what Officer or Officer's are to blame in the matter of the hospital, both as to choice of site and to construction.

(True Extract and Copy.)

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 39. ORDER THEREON, No. 1590; dated 17th August 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with a request that he will report on the subject referred to in para. 3 of the foregoing Extract.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 961.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 5th August 1857.

Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Palmanair, 13th July 1857, No. 257.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No. 778, (6th July 1857,) forwarding for my consideration and report letters from the Sessions Judge of Chicacole and from the Executive Engineer objecting to the plan proposed by me, and selected by Government, for the improvement of the Jail at Chicacole and proposing another plan.

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12. In addition to this, I may remark, that the confined position chosen for the hospital would be objected to.

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(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

As it now appears clear that the plan for the improvement of the *Chicacole* Jail (sanctioned under date 26th May 1857) is objectionable, owing to the swampy nature of the ground to be enclosed and of that on which the hospital is built—the same must be abandoned.

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3. This correspondence will be referred to the Public Works Department in order that it may be ascertained what Officer or Officers are to blame in the matter of the hospital, both as to choice of site and to construction.

(True Extract and Copy.)

Acting Chief Secretary

To the Inspector of Prisons.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
Dr to Exec.t 8th Augt.
No 1613.

Extract from Min.s Mins:
of Cons: in Judicial Dep.t

Dated 5th Augt }
Recvd 12th Do: } 1857

No 961

Chief Engr 7th Sept.r 57
6 Ft: 1567 in 6 22
Referring certain
correspondence for the pur-
pose of ascertaining what
officer or officers are to
blame, in the matter
of the Schr aground at Isle.
From Dr Gr Nov.r 57 Cat No 2238
in Cons: 24 Nov.r

No 38+39.

William order
No 1590. 17th August

No 1590.

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Chief Engr.
neer with a request that he
will report on the subject
referred to in para 3 of the
foregoing Extract.

Fort St George
17th Augt 57 }

Copy to the Chief Engr. Dep.t 18