

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th September 1858.*

No. 120. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Judicial Department, dated 16th September 1858, No. 1269.

Referring to this Department a letter from the Inspector of Prisons urging, for the reasons stated, the immediate erection of a new Jail at Madura in order that the Plans and Estimates for the work may be called for. } (Vide Judicial Consultation, 21st September 1858, Nos. 32-33.)

No. 121. ORDER THIERRON, No. 2005 ; dated 28th September 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 25th March 1857, No. 547.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,  
*Chief Secretary.*

No. 1269.

*Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 16th September 1858.*

Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Madura, 26th August 1858.

Sir,

The state of this Jail compels me to solicit immediate orders for the erection of a new building. Plans and estimates for which have already been submitted, I believe, by the Department Public Works. The confinement of prisoners in the present building, decidedly the

\*Report, May 1st 1856, Construction of the Prisons, para. 20, and Appendix "Madura."  
Letter, 14th October 1856, accompanying Medical Board's Report for 1855.  
Inspector's Report for 1856-57, para. 15.  
Letter, 17th November 1857, submitting Medical Board's Report paras. 14, 17 and 10.

very worst Jail in the country, is a disgrace to my Department, the buildings I have spoken of repeatedly\* as totally unsuited to Jail purposes, unhealthy, ill-situated, insecure, and I may now add ruinous. Nothing but the facility for the transfer of invalid prisoners to Paumbum

keeps the mortality, high as it is, within even its high ratio; the building is insufficient for more than half the number of prisoners for which accommodation is required and I have no place to send the surplus to. Twice in the last year did cholera originate in this Goal, thirty-nine was the mortality among an average of prisoners last year and it has already amounted to 26 in this year. I have not my records with me for reference, but I trust that no time may be lost in soliciting from the Supreme Government sanction for this building already included, I believe, in the ordinary Budget.

Although the plan provides for 150 separate cells, these I propose to occupy in part, till I get Central Prisons, by putting three persons in each cell, for which there will be space and air sufficient, so that in reality the new Prisons, costing under Rupees 300, for each cell provided in them, will not cost more than 100 for each man they are capable of accommodating, and on each Convict the saving in extra guards alone exceeds 15 Rupees a year.

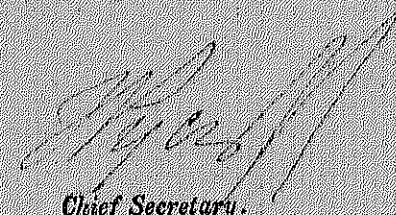
In such a building as the present Madura Jail, Prison discipline is hopeless and no sanitary arrangements can remedy its original defects.

As a summary of what I have already given as a description of this building may for convenience be added, I will state that it consists generally of old half-ruined Carnatic buildings, surrounded by a bad wall, (in parts unsafe,) except where the old buildings are on the outside. That the long range of two wards built by the English Government are much out of repair, that most of the floors are below the level of the outer soil; that notwithstanding all that was done after my first visit, the ventilation is very deficient. That access is obtained by several private buildings against the outer walls to its roof, that there is no proper accommodation for any class of prisoners, male or female; the water is salt and unwholesome, the situation in the middle of the Town with no access to water or to a necessary most inconvenient.

I feel assured that nothing but the absolute necessity will induce the Government of India to withhold sanction from this work, and I may add that the most I can hope for from the old building is, its standing till a new building is finished.

Order.—Referred, through the Public Works Department, to the Chief Engineer, who will submit the plan and estimate alluded to by the Inspector of Prisons, and in Extract Minutes Consultation 11th March 1857, No. 295, Judicial Department,

(True Extract and Copy.)

  
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department. ✓

,, Inspector of Prisons.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Cont: 31<sup>st</sup> March / 5<sup>th</sup> 1891.

Public Works 1888  
Cont 28<sup>th</sup> September.

No 2203.

Dr. Allen, Comptroller  
Judicial District

Dated 16<sup>th</sup> }  
Received 20<sup>th</sup> } Sept 1891

No 1919.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> day Aug. 91  
23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 1891 to the 1891

Cont. from 20<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> March 91  
No. from 20<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> March 91

Referring to the  
Department a letter  
from the District of  
Prisons regarding the  
revenue of the  
made the decision of  
the Court at all times  
in the District of  
Prisons for the month  
of 1891, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1891  
1891 on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1891

1891/20 + 121

No 2005

Ordered to be  
renewed to the 1891  
new with reference to  
Prisons Commission dated  
25<sup>th</sup> March 1891. No 547.

1891/20 + 121  
28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1891  
10 Oct 1891  
1891/20 + 121  
1891/20 + 121  
1891/20 + 121