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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 315

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Dated 29.2.39 - 184.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th January 1864.*

No. 642. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial
Department:—

Communicating letter from the Inspector General of Jails } (Here enter 22nd January 1864, No. 91.)
forwarding copy of his notes on the Tanjore Prison. }

No. 643. ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1864, No. 318.
Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 6th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustie.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Prisons; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 27th December 1863.

With reference to the Order of Government, 10th December 1863, I beg to forward copy of my notes on the Tanjore Prison, and to beg that the case of the lunatic Nandyan Ayan may receive your immediate attention.

TANJORE, 22nd December 1863.

1. I visited this Jail with Mr. Bird, the Session Judge, and Dr. Ross, the Zillah Surgeon, having previously inspected a piece of ground near the Railway station selected for the erection of the new Jail.

2. Of the two sites proposed this is incomparably the best; and from what I learn, claims are likely to be preferred to the other site, which, I think, less desirable: that now selected is south-east of the great Pagoda in the little Fort, and lies between this Fort and the Railway, and at a considerable distance from any dwellings. 2000 Rupees is asked for the land; but, in my opinion, measures should be taken to prevent any encroachment of buildings in its vicinity. This might, I think, be done without having to purchase; but even purchase would be preferable to risking the effects of a population in the neighbourhood. I requested Dr. Ross to examine the site attentively at leisure.

3. At the Jail it was evident that Mr. Cadell's absence had interrupted the arrangements proposed. The building having been since regarded as private property may further have tended to hinder outlay on it. The prison is, however, so crowded that the arrangements for the Hospital and for relieving the existing wards must be carried out at once. If the door frames removed from the large building, a portion of which only is now occupied as a Hospital, are still available, this may be done at small cost in a few days by simply putting a middle post from the top to the bottom of the frame, and securing the openings by iron bars now commissioned from Madras. If, on the other hand, new door frames are needed, they should be substantially made, the openings in the new Jail walls being made to correspond; these may be transferred to it eventually. By this means, and by building a brick and mud wall between the pillars of the third row from the south end an excellent airy and lofty Hospital, with a southern aspect, with Surgery on one side and privy on the other, will at once be obtained. The Prison Hospital will make a good female ward, and another large ward will be provided for the prisoners.

4. The arrangements for ventilating the wards proposed and settled at my last visit had been commenced, but not proceeded with. I may remark that the apertures should be made in the top of the arch, not on the side; a light seven-inch steel-faced jumper on chisel pointed bar will very soon pierce the necessary holes, and a few bricks set round the hole above with a large open chattle on three more bricks set on end will keep out all the rain; these should be, say six feet apart, and similar holes pierced through the outer walls on a level with the floor and guarded by a grating will admit air from below. The building is neither worthy of nor capable of any further improvements, unless it be to put gratings instead of the walls on the east side; but this is hardly necessary.

5. The Jail may be regarded as healthy, especially when it is remembered that it is peopled by the same class among whom occurred the great mortality of the Combaconum Jail. On looking over the Nominal Register of sick, there was no evidence of the existence of what may be feared as Jail diseases.

6. The opening to the road at the back of the Jail will be stopped, a wicket provided to the gate leading to the Jailor's quarters, and a rough gate put to the entrance as suggested by Mr. Campbell, Superintendent of Police, who joined us at the Jail.

7. A modification of the plan proposed for the Chetturpoor Jail, and suited to the requirements of the Tanjore District, as directed in the Order of Government, 10th December 1863, No. 1924, will be submitted on my return to my office.

8. The temporary arrangements I propose have been sanctioned by me.

9. In regard to the unfortunate lunatic Naraiyan Ayan, whose case, furnished at my request by Dr. Ross in a popular form, is appended, I beg that he may be transferred without delay either to Madras or some other suitable Lunatic Asylum. This man is committed under the orders of Government, 1105 (10th July 1863). I found the man in a dark miserable room under the Jailor's quarters, the only place available; from such treatment recovery cannot be expected.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,

Inspector General of Jails.

Short statement of the case of the lunatic Naraiyan Ayan now in the Jail at Tanjore.

The lunatic Naraiyan Ayan was received into Jail on the 20th July. I know nothing of his previous history beyond the fact that, when followed by a crowd of people teasing him, he threw a stone and slightly injured one of them.

2. While confined in the Station-house here he made his escape, but was brought back in a day or two and committed to Jail, because his relations would not take charge of him, unless allowed to put him under restraint.

3. Since his admission here, he has continued in a more or less excited state, talking and shouting, and at times he takes to beating the doors and windows, tearing his clothing, &c., but he is never dangerous and is easily managed; he is not very cleanly in his habits. Lately he contrived to scramble up to the rafters over his room where he was once or twice found perched. To prevent a repetition of this a pair of light chains were put on, which he has worn without any trouble.

4. Occasionally and at irregular intervals he becomes greatly excited without any apparent cause, and in this state keeps walking about shouting for hours at the top of his voice; but even in this state he can be easily controlled.

5. His constant entreaty is to get out of the place in which he is confined, a step which I would strongly recommend being carried out at once, as five months' solitary confinement in a damp gloomy room has increased his madness, and at the same time injured his general health.

(Signed) JAMES ROSS,

Zillah Surgeon.

TANJORE, 23rd December 1863.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,

Inspector General of Jails.

MADURA, 27th December 1863.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd January 1864, No. 91.

Communicated to the Department of Public Works.

2. Orders have been already issued for the removal of the lunatic Narrain Ayan to the Lunatic Asylum at Madras.

(True Extract.)

G. Cumt
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

„ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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