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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3761	Press
257-258	~~Mis.~~
Dated 13-12-	18 65.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th December 1865.*

No. 257. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department:—

Calling for plans and estimates for carrying out
the suggestions of the Central Jail Committee,
for the improvement of the Jail at Salem,
and for constructing a house for a European
Jailer. } (Here enter 8th December 1865, No. 1,756.)

No. 258. ORDER THEREON, 13th December 1865, No. 3,761.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 43.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 5th Division, who
will be requested to submit, at an early

date, the plans and estimates which are required in paragraph 2.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, with three Enclosures.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th December 1865.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 69. From the Salem Jail Committee, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Salem, 31st July 1865.

In paragraph 5 of the Orders of Government, dated 16th ultimo, No. 877, we were directed to report how far the suggestions made by the Inspector General of Jails and the President of the Sanitary Commission were sufficient to meet the requirements of the Jail at this station, and whether any other improvements are requisite. In compliance with these instructions, we have inspected the Jail, and, having given the subject our best consideration, proceed to submit our opinions. It should be mentioned here that, as Captain Drever, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, happened to be at Salem, on a tour of inspection, we availed ourselves of the opportunity to invite him to attend the meeting, with a view to ascertaining his opinion as to whether any of the alterations proposed by us were likely to diminish the security of the Jail, and we may state that, so far as the Police Department is concerned, our suggestions met with his full concurrence. Captain Drever himself offered a few suggestions (which will be found below), having for their object the more efficient guarding of the Jail, which we recommend should be adopted.

2. Under the head "additions and alterations required," in Messrs. Rohde and Ellis' report, the Jail at Salem is dismissed with this brief notice: "This is a new Jail which is not entirely completed. A separate building for a Hospital, properly enclosed, must be provided; a deep well, to supply drinking water for the use of the prisoners, must be sunk." We cannot but express our surprise that the members of the Jail Committee which assembled at the Presidency in February last, should have thus summarily disposed of the requirements of this Jail, as we find, on referring to the report* submitted by

* Dated 23rd February 1865, copy enclosed.

the Officer in charge, to the Secretary of the Committee, that many other defects in the existing arrangements were pointed out by that Officer of which no notice whatever has been taken.

3. The first desideratum is undoubtedly a new Hospital, capable of accommodating 50 patients. The present building, from its position inside the Jail walls, its proximity to the entrance gate and guard-room, and from the fact that the cells and convalescent ward are built on to the outer wall, is unsuitable in every way for the purpose. The new building we propose should be erected to the south of the Jail. It will stand outside the Jail walls, being enclosed on three sides by new walls, and on the fourth side by the present outer wall of the Jail, through which access will be had from the main building to the Hospital enclosure by means of a grated door. Under this arrangement, no additional guard will be required. The Hospital itself will be a two storied building, standing in the centre of the enclosure. The upper story will contain the sleeping wards, and on the ground floor will be a day ward, surgery, operating room, &c. As, generally speaking, the number of female convicts is very limited, it has not been thought necessary to provide separate accommodation for them in the hospital. There will be sufficient accommodation for them in the suite of cells now used as the "hospital," if these are made over to them. The present convalescent (or large) ward at the end will make a very good female hos-

pital. The medicines, &c., will be brought over from the Surgery within the hospital enclosure; a well will have to be sunk, and a dead-house, cook-room, an latrine, erected, also six lunatic cells, if it is decided that lunatics are to be confined in Criminal prisons—an arrangement which, we submit, is on every ground highly objectionable.

4. This Jail has been designed to admit of the classification of prisoners, and the inner space will be divided into separate yards by stout palisades. As it is most desirable that prisoners of one class should have no communication with those of another, a well should be sunk in each yard. There should also be in each yard, as far off from the well as possible, a cistern and pavement for lavatory purposes.

5. At present, access to the inner enclosure of the Jail from the entrance gate is obtained by passing through the work yard, L in the plan, and there is nothing to prevent the prisoners employed there making a rush at the gate. It was suggested by Mr. Rohde, at his last inspection of the Jail, that a double row of palisades should be erected from the entrance to the centre of Block No. 1, through the middle cell of which a door leading to the inner enclosure, should be provided. We are of opinion that this arrangement should be at once adopted, and, in addition, we would suggest that the proposed new entrance should be fitted with a turn-stile, which would prevent any attempt on the part of the convicts to make a rush at the gate, as only one could pass through at a time.

6. The attention of the Presidency Jail Committee was directed to this most important point by the Officer in charge, in paragraph 9 of the enclosed report, but no notice has been taken of it. As the defects of the existing arrangements in this respect are clearly shown, and a remedy for them suggested in the report quoted, we will only express here our concurrence with Mr. Sullivan's proposition, that the present Hospital cells, yard, and cook-room should be allotted to the separate use of the women. A well should be sunk in the yard, and they could then cook, draw water, and do every thing for themselves, without the assistance of the male convicts. The latrines planned by Mr. Rohde, and which, as will be seen below, we have condemned, as unsuitable for the rest of the Jail, might, we think, with a slight modification, be advantageously retained in the women's yard. If protected from wet by a light roofing, there is nothing to prevent the dry earth system of conservancy being carried out, and as the troughs are removable from outside the walls, it would not be necessary for even the scavengers to enter the women's yard, which would be completely shut off from the rest of the Jail by the palisading from the gate to the proposed new entrance on the outside, and by the palisades between blocks 1 and 2 on the other.

7. A considerable saving might be effected in the Jail expenditure if the grain consumed by the convicts was purchased wholesale, when the market rates are low. This has been impracticable hitherto, owing to there being no means of storing it. This also was brought to the notice

Wells.

Proposed new mode of access to the interior of the Jail.

Entire separation of Female from Male Convicts.

Granaries required.

of the Presidency Jail Committee, and passed over in silence by them in their report. On his last inspection of the Jail, Mr. Rohde suggested the excavation of the solid basement of the central tower, to meet this requirement. The suggestion appears to us to be a good one, and a separate report as to its practicability will be submitted.

8. This central tower is a handsome and imposing structure; but, owing to the alterations in the original design of the Jail, it is now little more than ornamental. It occurred to us, in the course of our inspection, that, instead of digging a number of wells in the different yards, it might be advisable to construct a large cistern on the first floor of the tower, to be filled with water from a well in the vicinity, which could be distributed all over the Jail by means of pipes. A separate report on the feasibility of this project will also be submitted.

9. At present, no means exist of punishing refractory prisoners, except the reduction of rations and the lash. In many cases, it is inexpedient to employ the first mode of punishment, and the latter should only be had recourse to in cases of grave breaches of prison discipline. Under these circumstances we recommend the construction of six Solitary Cells.

10. Two wooden doors in the guard room and present hospital should be replaced by iron grated doors.

11. At present the Dresser attached to the Jail Hospital, not being provided with quarters, lives about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off. We propose that the building at present occupied by the Jailer, which is unsuitable for an European, should be appropriated to the Dresser's use, and a new house built for the Jailer. We consider it important that the Medical Subordinate should live near his charge, and the building we propose to assign to him is close to the site selected for the new hospital. The site chosen for the Jailer's house is in close proximity to the Jail entrance, and on the other side of the entrance, it is proposed to build a house for the European Chief Constable in permanent charge of the Jail guard. This was suggested by Captain Drever, who attaches great importance to this Officer being close to the Jail. He intimated that rent would be paid for this building.

12. As it appears from the Proceedings of Government that the Superintendent of the Jail is to be provided with free quarters, a house for this Officer will have to be erected. The site may be determined hereafter. It will probably be necessary to purchase a piece of land in the vicinity of the Jail for the purpose.

Proposition of laying on water to all parts of the Jail.

Solitary Cells.

Iron grated doors to be substituted for wooden ones.

The Jailer's present house to be assigned to the Dresser.

A new house for the Jailer.

House for Chief Constable permanently attached to the Jail guard.

Superintendent's House.

13. It is most desirable that prisoners for debt should be kept perfectly distinct from the convicts. Having this in view, we propose to construct an enclosure on the north side of the Jail, corresponding with the Hospital enclosure on the south, and in the centre to erect a Ward, capable of containing 40 debtors. A cook-room and latrine would have to be built within the enclosure, and, unless water can be laid on as proposed, a well would have to be sunk. As in the case of the Hospital, access to this enclosure would be from the interior of the Jail only.

Ward for Civil Debtors.

14. As all the grain consumed by the convicts is husked and prepared in the Jail, a shed for this purpose is necessary. At present, when a shower comes on, the work has to be stopped, and the grain conveyed as quickly as possible under shelter.

Shed for preparing grain.

15. Owing to upper stories having been added, the central tower no longer answers the purpose for which it was originally designed. When the blocks consisted of only one story, a watchman on the top of the tower could command a view of all the outer yards and the base of the outer wall. Now the yards, and even the top of the outer wall, are excluded from view, and in consequence, a watchman has to be stationed in each yard when the convicts are out of their cells during the day. With a view to economize the guards, Captain Dreyer proposes to station a watchman on the roof of blocks Nos. 3 and 5 (vide plan), which would enable two men to perform the work of four. To afford access to the roof two flights of steps (wooden or masonry, as may seem most expedient) must be provided. We recommend the suggestion being adopted. A couple of sentry boxes would also be necessary.

Access to the roof of the upper stories.

16. At present, there is no separate accommodation for under trial prisoners; but if granaries and store-rooms are provided, the cells to the rear of the guard-room would be available for this purpose. They are at present filled with grain and Jail stores.

Under trial prisoners.

17. The design of the latrines recently constructed in the Jail, but not yet in use, will be best understood by a glance at the accompanying plan and section.

Latrines.

It is a tarred wooden trough, mounted on iron runners, having a handle at each end. It is inserted at the opening O, outside the Jail wall, and run in on the granite bed B.—p. p. p. are tarred planks covering the masonry, and c. c. c. c. copper shods to direct the soil into the trough. When full or nearly so, the troughs are removed from outside by the toties, placed on a cart, and carried away; a fresh trough being immediately inserted in the opening. Each latrine has two vents, and there are altogether seven of them in the Jail, including one attached to the Hospital. Only one man can use each vent at a time. It is clear, therefore, that the accommodation afforded by them is insufficient for 426 prisoners, the number the Jail is intended to hold. At present the prisoners are taken outside the Jail for

the purposes of nature, and with the view to doing away with this objectionable practice, we propose to build a large latrine court, attached to, and at the rear of, the Jail (vide plan). Access to this court will be had through the grated door X, and the deodorized soil taken out by the grated door W. It will have to be partially roofed in, to admit of the dry earth conservancy system being carried out. This latrine court would only be opened morning and evening, and those prisoners who have to answer the calls of nature during the day can use the existing latrines, in which, if protected from the weather, the dry earth system can be observed. We should state that we are not unanimous in wishing to retain the existing latrines, the Medical Officer being in favor of their being removed, and his opinion, appended to this Report, will doubtless carry great weight; but as they have cost a considerable sum in building and fitting, we think it desirable that they should have a trial.

18. The foregoing Report merely shows what alterations and additions we consider requisite for the improvement of the Jail. If our suggestions meet the approval of Government, the plans and estimates will be put in hand at once.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD.
(") H. E. SULLIVAN.
(") W. H. ROBERTS, M. D.

From the Acting Session Judge of Salem, to the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., President of the Sanitary Commission, and Secretary to the Jail Committee; dated Salem, 23rd February 1865.

I have the honor to return, slightly modified, the printed form to which your Circular, dated 13th instant, No. 492, gave cover.

2. The accompanying sketch will show the construction of the Jail at this station. It is composed of six upper-storied blocks, which are segments of concentric circles; the inner blocks being of less dimensions than the outer ones. There are 27 cells on the ground floors of Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 9 wards above; and on the lower floor of Nos. 2, 4, and 6 there are 21 cells, and 7 wards above.

3. The lower cells were, I believe, originally intended to contain only one prisoner and the upper wards six. If this arrangement is adhered to, this large Jail will only contain 432 convicts as shown below:—

N. B.—Inclusive of under trial prisoners committed to the Sessions Court.	
Lower cells 144, at 1 man per cell.....	144
Upper wards 48, at 6 men per ward.....	288
Total...	432

The prisoners confined in the lower cells would then have a cubic space of 840 feet, with a superficial area of 84 feet, each. Those confined in the upper wards would have cubic space 572 feet, and 47½ feet superficial area, each. It is evident that there would be under this arrangement a good deal of space lost, and I am of opinion that seven, if not eight, prisoners might safely be confined in one of the upper wards. I am aware that 500 cubic feet of space and 27 square feet of superficial area have been laid down as the minimum allotment for each prisoner, but the standard must I think depend greatly upon the ventilating area. These upper wards, which, from their elevation, catch every breeze that blows, have a ventilating area of 64 square feet; and this I submit should be taken into consideration in the allotment of space. With regard to the lower cells, a difficulty presents itself:—840 cubic feet of space and 80 square feet of superficial area are undoubtedly

I quite concur, nor would I recommend the construction of new latrines on this principle, but it will cost nothing, as they are already built, to give them a trial.

H. E. S.

replaced. No chunam should, on any account, be used near them.

2. Though of opinion that 10 or 12 "Settees," or vents, in each Court yard would be ample for the conservancy of the Jail, yet I have no objection to the using of a separate "latrine yard" for this purpose. But even here I would demolish the latrines above referred to, and erect in their place 2 or 3 of the proper kind.

* This need not be. Each class would be taken by itself. The objections a "Latrine yard" would give rise to would be the admixture* twice a day of prisoners of all classes, and increasing the area liable to pollution or vitiation of the air in and about the Jail.

3. Besides the objections already cited against the proposal of my fellow Committee men, for the employment of the now existing latrines, others equally grave will, I fear, present themselves, when we consider that these troughs are removed and supplied from without, and will consequently necessitate men being constantly

Unless we have paid scavengers, the toty gangs must be good deal employed outside the walls, whatever system is adopted. The troughs need only be changed twice a day, as they are only intended for occasional use; the bulk of the prisoners using the latrine court morning and evening.

H. E. S.

trouble and responsibility in guarding the toties in this work.

4. I believe the interests of the Jail will be best served by adopting the plan circulated by the Sanitary Committee as a model. Such edifices may be built in a separate latrine yard with two seats in each court yard, or small ones with 10 or 12 seats, capable of accommodating 80 or 100 men in each court yard.

The "pondrette" may be removed, either through the main entrance, or by some side or back door, and of these the fewer the better.

(Signed) W. H. ROBERTS, M. D.

(True Copy).

(Signed) H. E. SULLIVAN,
Acting Session Judge.

Referred to the Jail Committee now sitting at Bangalore, for their opinion.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

4th September 1865.

No. 70. From the Committee on Central Jails, Bangalore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Bangalore, 30th September 1865, No. 19.

We have the honor to return the Report of the Local Committee at Salem, referred to us on the 4th instant, and to submit our opinion upon the various proposals contained therein.

2. Separate accommodation for females is very desirable, and we think this may be provided in a yard placed where the Local Committee have recommended a ward for Debtors. The number of women confined in Salem Jail on the 25th February last, when general returns were called for by Messrs. Rohde and Ellis, amounted to 27, and continued the same at the close of the quarter ending 31st July 1865. We, therefore, propose a Barrack for 30 females, on the same plan as that recommended for the Central Jails with a small Hospital and out-houses. A

troughs, pans, or whatever utensils are to be used for this purpose, ought to be "set" in sand or earth, which may, without injury, absorb any spillings, and be capable of being renewed and

height of 10 feet will be sufficient for the new enclosing walls, and the entrance will be through a gateway, to be made in the present outer wall, marked J in the new plan herewith forwarded. A building upon raised arches, the ground floor of which could be used as a women's workshop, has been suggested, as securing better ventilation, but the expense would be considerably greater than that of an ordinary Barrack.

3. Judging from former returns, we are of opinion that accommodation for 18 Debtors will be sufficient, and that such may be provided by building one room above the Office and Surgery, and another above the Guard-room.

4. The space indicated on the local plan will do very well for a Hospital. The Committee have recommended that this should be an upper storied building, the ground floor to be used as a Surgery, &c., &c.; but in that case a great part of the accommodation on that floor would be thrown away, and the building will be expensive. In our opinion, a Hospital for 32 patients, with out-houses on the same plan as that for the Central Jails, will suffice, but it would be advisable to remove the wall marked C, and to re-place it by palisading. In the enclosing wall of the Hospital yard, there ought to be a gate, in order that the night soil may be carted out morning and evening—the gate to remain locked at all other times.

5. The range of cells at present used as a Hospital may be assigned to prisoners under trial, and that on the other side of the gateway will suffice for tools and stores, and also, with some trifling additions in the way of dividing walls, for grain. The under trial prisoners and the stores would be separated from the Work-yards on either side, and also from the entrance, by rows of palisading, as shown in the new plan, and we are of opinion that with these palisades it will not be necessary to make an entrance into the centre of the Jail through the block No. 1, as formerly proposed.

6. It remains to provide for juvenile offenders, and for convicts sentenced to solitary imprisonment. The Jail, as stated by Mr. Sullivan in his letter of the 23rd February last, copy of which forms one of the enclosures to this Report, will contain 432 prisoners, allowing only one man to each cell. This number added to that of the female convicts makes up the full complement of the Jail, viz. 459; and the vacancies occasioned by the removal of the sick to hospital will leave sufficient room for the classes first abovementioned, for which reason we do not think it necessary to recommend the provision of special buildings for their reception. Should such be required hereafter, the matter may then be taken into consideration; but, for the present, one or two of the upper wards may be given up to juvenile offenders, and those sentenced to solitary confinement may be kept in the ordinary cells, which, if found advisable, may be fitted with some contrivance for preventing the occupants from seeing into the yard. Imprisonment in a cell of this kind, together with a reduction of diet, will, in all probability, be found sufficient to subdue most convicts, however refractory.

7. We agree with the Local Committee in believing that the central tower now no longer fulfils the purpose for which it was designed, and we approve of the posting of sentries upon the tops of Blocks Nos. 3 and 5. The plan for utilizing the lower portion of the tower as a store for grain has, we understand, been abandoned,

in consequence of certain peculiarities in the construction. We have no means of giving any sound opinion regarding the practicability of converting the upper story into a Water-cistern, but, if such should be deemed feasible by the Engineers, the scheme may be taken into consideration at any future time.

8. The Surgery which adjoins the office will, when a Hospital is erected, be no longer required for that purpose, and may be assigned to the Head Constable on duty, who at present occupies part of the Guard-room, which is scarcely large enough for the guard alone.

9. We concur with the Medical Officer in his objections to the small Latrines, and recommend that one be constructed according to the plan accompanying our Report upon the Central Jails, but reduced in size, as shown in the present plan. The latrine court should be placed with reference to the prevailing winds, and be enclosed as recommended in the said report.

10. A number of palisades have been made in accordance with the original design, but none have as yet been put up. Dr. Mackenzie does not approve of them, as being likely to interfere with the free current of air in a space which is already contracted. The remaining Members of the Committee are of opinion that the separate yards formed by the palisading would be useful, inasmuch as they afford the means of parading the inmates of each barrack separately before they are sent into their respective Work-yards, and also when they return—the maintenance of order and discipline being thus rendered more easy. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that the number of gates necessary both in the radial and central palisading will be found very inconvenient, so that, taking all things into consideration, we think that, in event of our proposals regarding the Hospital, female ward, and entrance palisading being approved of, it would be expedient to employ the finished palisades for these parts of the prison, and to leave the erection of the central and radial palisading to be determined upon after further experience. Whatever the decision may be upon this point, it will be necessary to separate the work yards by railing off or palisading the short open spaces between the ends of the blocks, leaving room for a gateway in each. Strong iron rails would, we think, be preferable to palisades.

11. In the Jail, as it now is, there is only one set of Workshops which are marked A in the local plan. From the original plan, it appears that it was intended to build Workshops on each of the radial walls B and C, which would give a Workshop for each block; and we are of opinion that this plan ought to be carried out, whenever funds may be available for the purpose. The cooking shed, marked P in the local plan, ought to be removed, as it will interfere with the Workshops which it is proposed to build against the radial wall B. Cooking sheds may be provided by walling off a portion of the workshops for that purpose; and the inmates of each block would thus be provided with a separate workshed and cooking shed.

12. As the single well is scarcely sufficient for the requirements of the Jail, we recommend that another should be sunk in any favorable spot within the walls, to be selected in communication with the Superintending or Executive Engineer. We are averse, as stated in our former Reports, to lavatories in the compartments, and would prefer a couple of bathing cisterns, which might be placed in some convenient spot in one of the outer yards.

13. It is true that the present gateway is defective, as pointed out by the Local Committee; but if palisades are erected at M, as herein recommended, any further outlay upon the gateway may be dispensed with.

14. It now only remains to notice the propositions for providing quarters for the Superintendent, Jailer, Dresser, and European Chief Constable. We do not see anything in the Order of Government alluded to by the Local Committee, in paragraph 12, which leads us to believe that the Superintendent is to have free quarters. On the contrary, the inference is the other way. The Head Constable on duty with the guard may be accommodated in the present surgery, as stated above; and if rent for the quarters of the European Chief Constable is to be charged to the Police, as appears from paragraph 11, it would be well to leave the matter altogether to that Department. The Local Committee state that the Jailer's present house is not suitable for a European, and propose that a new one should be built for him, the former one being made over to the Dresser. As we are not in possession of any plan of the Jailer's house, we cannot give any opinion upon the point, but do not consider it of such importance as to induce us to delay this report for the purpose of making any further reference to Salem, as the subject may be taken into consideration at any future period.

(Signed) W. J. WILSON,
Acting Inspector General of Jails.

(„) W. MACKENZIE, M. D.,
Acting Inspector General of Hospitals.

(„) J. C. ANDERSON, Lieut. Col., R. E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1865, No. 1756.

The Governor in Council approves of the several suggestions made by the Committee on Central Jails, in their letter of 30th September last, for the improvement of the Jail at Salem.

2. Orders will be issued in the Public Works Department for the preparation of an estimate of the cost of carrying out the suggestions of the Central Jail Committee. The Superintending Engineer will be instructed to prepare a plan and estimate for a house for a European Jailer.

(True Extract).

To the Inspector General of Jails,
Public Works Department, with three Plans.

H. Burns.

102 paces

15/1/1865 Defunc
 Pro: of Govt. for Dec
 No. 2924
 Pro: of Govt. in the
 Civil Dept.
 2/8 3 Dec/65
 Recd 11
 3 Plans No. 1751

Calling for plans
 and estimates for carrying
 out the suggestions of the
 Central Jail Committee
 for the improvement of
 the Jail at Salem, and
 for constructing a house
 for a European Jailor.
 No. 3761. 13th Decr 1865-

With an Order

1254. 258.

Communicated to
 the Engineer
 of the 5th Division, who
 will be requested to
 submit, at an early
 date, the plans and
 estimates which are
 required in para 2.

Order of Secy to Govt.
 12th Decr 1865
 2nd Decr 1865