

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair 12/1/1943

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1874	Press
316-317	~~Mis~~
Dated 14-6-	18/68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
14th June 1866.

No. 316. Read the following Memorandum from the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, dated 7th June 1866:—

1. I visited the Central Jail at Coimbatore on the 4th instant. It is a most substantial building, or rather range of buildings built, the greater part of it, of stone, of which there is abundance in the neighbourhood; but a good deal of it, I should say, is needlessly substantial, and therefore more costly than it need have been. Each of the yards, in which the ranges of wards and cells stand, is divided from the next yard by a thick partition wall 12 feet in height, 3 feet of which, I fancy, might have been dispensed with.

2. Very little use comparatively has been made of Convict labor. Out of 337 prisoners now in Jail, 182 are employed in work connected with it, viz., 100 in the brickfield, and 82 on the well and in cleaning out the yards, &c. None are employed in actual building, though there is much of the building work which might be and might have been done by prisoners, under the superintendence of trained Maistries. I asked why no Convicts had been employed in building, and was told that it had not been possible so to employ them, owing to the building having been done by contract; but that there were plenty of Convicts in the Jail who might be very usefully employed in this way. My informants were the Superintendent of the Jail and the Jaier. The Engineer Officer in charge of the work was not present, having gone to Madras on leave; but whether the reason assigned was the real one which has induced the Officers of the Public Works Department to dispense with Convict labor in the erection of these buildings, or whether the non-employment of the Convicts is attributable to some other cause, there can be no question that, with a considerable number of Convicts in the Jail for some months past, the erection of the buildings has been carried out entirely by free laborers, and at a very heavy cost. The number of Convicts employed in the brickfield, viz., 100, is considerable, and as the greater part of the Jail is built of stone, it is difficult to understand how so many prisoners can be profitably employed in the manufacture of bricks. If the matter were carefully looked into, it would probably be found that many of those employed in the brickfield might be more effectively utilized in replacing free laborers on the

Hospital.
Office and Stores.
Latrines.

actual building work. The buildings noted in the margin have not yet been commenced. If any of them have not yet been given out on contract there is

no apparent reason why Convict labor should not be largely employed on them, and a considerable saving thereby effected in their cost.

3. The number of Convicts in the Jail might at once be largely increased, for there is accommodation already available for 574 prisoners, exclusive of two wards which have been set apart for use as a temporary Hospital.

4. And there ought to be no difficulty in raising the aggregate number of prisoners to 958, in the course of a month or two; for there are two large unfinished ranges, each containing eight wards, (each ward, being calculated to hold 24 prisoners), which are built up to the roof; and the roofing of which ought to be carried out with as little delay as possible. On enquiring why these ranges could

not be roofed in at once, I was told that there was a difficulty about wood, but this would probably disappear if the Executive Engineer put a proper pressure upon the Contractor, who I presume is tied down in some measure in regard to time. It is very desirable that this Jail should be finished speedily, and with this view I think it would be well that the Government should impress the urgency of the case upon the Superintending and Executive Engineers and also should re-call their attention to the positive orders of the Government of India that the labor of Convicts should be utilized as largely as possible in the erection of Jails.

5. I rather think (but on this point I am not certain) that the plan and estimate contain no provision for the erection of quarters for an Apothecary; with so large a body of prisoners it seems very necessary that there should be an Apothecary residing on the premises.

6. Another matter of pressing importance, is the speedy completion of the batten doors and venetians which are being made for the purpose of being affixed to the iron barred openings, which serve as windows to the wards, but which at present are altogether unprotected from the weather. In a climate like Coimbatore, where during the south-west monsoon there is a strong wind night and day, the principle of "perflation" may be carried out to a very unsanitary extent; the Superintendent should be instructed to protect the iron barred openings by mats or by some other temporary expedient, until the wooden doors are ready.

No. 317. ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1866, No. 1,874.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 54.

1. In ordering a copy of this Memorandum by the Chief Secretary of his inspection of the Central Jail in course of construction at Coimbatore to be communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to call upon Colonel Walker to make arrangements for pressing on the work as rapidly as possible, and especially for the completion of the two blocks which Mr. Arbuthnot shows to be so nearly finished as only to require roofing. Every exertion should be made for preparing and fixing to all the iron barred openings, the batten and venetian shutters which are necessary to shelter the inmates of the buildings, and should there be any delay in supplying these defences against the weather, the Executive Officer should be directed to give his assistance to the Jail authorities in putting up mats or other temporary substitutes.

2. Colonel Walker's particular attention is drawn to Mr. Arbuthnot's remarks regarding a larger employment of Convict labor in the erection of the buildings, and he will endeavour to make such arrangements as will permit of the prisoners being employed, not only in the preparation of materials, but also in every description of labor connected with the actual construction of the Jail; as, by this means, it is believed that the progress of the work may be hastened, as well as its cost diminished.

3. Some saving might have been effected by making the radial divisional walls less in height and perhaps of less thickness, and although it is too late now to remedy this at Coimbatore, Colonel Walker will not fail to bear it in mind in

designing the other Central Jail which it is proposed shall be erected in his Division at Cannanore.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
.. Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

I visit the Central Jail
 at Cambridge at the 4th
 district. This is a
 substantial building on
 a large range of buildings,
 with the further part of it
 of stone & brick there is
 a window in the neighbor-
 hood. But a good deal
 of it, I should say, is
 mostly substantial &
 therefore more costly than
 I would have been. Each
 of the yards in front the
 range of wards & cells stand
 is divided from the main
 yard by a thick partition
 wall 12 feet in height
 3 feet of which I fancy
 might have been disposed
 with
 very little use comparatively

has been much of convict
labor. out of 337 prisoners
now in jail 182 are employed
in work connected with it viz
100 in the brick field and
82 in the well & in churning
and the yards etc. & some
are employed in actual
building though there is
much of the building work
which might be & might
have been done by prisoners
under the supervision
of penal masters. I
asked why no convicts had
been employed in building
and was told that it
had not been proposed to
employ them owing to the
building having been done
by contract, but that there
was plenty of convicts
in the jail who might be
very usefully employed in
this way. my informant

has been informed by one
of the jail & the penitentiary
the superior officers in charge
of the work are not prepared
having gone to London
to have; but whether the
reason assigned, was that
that are wanted ~~for~~
some which has in mind
the officers of the Public
works Dept. to be prepared
with convict labor in the
erection of their building
or whether the non-employment
of the convicts is altogether
for some other cause, there
can be no question that
with a considerable number
of convicts in the jail
for some months past
the erection of the building
has been carried out entirely
by free laborers and at
a very heavy cost. The
number of convicts employed
in the brick field is 100

is considerable and
as the price per foot of the
joint is built of stone it
is difficult to understand
how so many prisoners can
be profitably employed ⁱⁿ
the manufacture of bricks.
If the matter were carefully
worked into it would probably
be found that many of
those employed in the brick-
field might be more effectively
utilized in replacing free
labourers on the actual
brickling work. The brickling
work in the margin has
not yet been commenced, ~~except~~
if any of them have not
yet been given out as lost.
There is no apparent reason
why more labour should
not be largely employed
as there are a considerable
number of convicts ^{in the jail}
at once to be largely increased

for there is accommodation
already available for 574
prisoners inclusive of two
wards which have been
set apart for use as a temporary
hospital.
and there ought to be no
difficulty in meeting the
apparent number of prisoners
to 950 in the course of a
month or two, for there are
two large uninspired ranges
each containing eight wards
(each ward being calculated
to hold 24 prisoners) which
are built up to the roof,
and the roofing of which
ought to be carried out with
as little delay as possible.
In supposing that these ranges
could not be worked in at
once, I am told that there
is a difficulty about wood,
but this would probably
disappear if the Government
suggested that a proper provision
upon the contractor who

I presume is laid down
in some manner in
your & time. It is
my desire that the
first draft be finished
quadrately and with the
view to make it useful to
all and the first. And
in your own inquiry of the
case upon the superintending
a scientific engineer
and also should read
this after this & the order
of the committee of action
which but the labor of
university should be utilized
as largely as possible in
the execution of plans.

I rather think (but on this
point I am not certain)
but the plan & estimate
contains no provision for the
execution of practice for an
apothecary. And is long
a body of provision if there

any inquiry that there
should be an apothecary
working in the premises.
The committee pres-

J. J. Land

X ~~the~~ X

another matter of pressing
importance is the speedy
completion of the battery
doors & sometimes which
are being made for the
purpose of being affixed
to the iron-barred opening
which have no windows
to the wards, but which
at present are altogether
unprotected from the
weather. In a climate like
Cambridge there during
the last winter there
is a strong wind night
& day, the principle of
"perforation" may be carried
out to a very unsatisfactory
extent. The superintending
should be instructed to

protect the iron from
opening by rust
as by some other means
-very dependent until
the working days are
nearly.

[The page contains several lines of handwritten cursive script, which is mostly illegible due to extreme fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. A large, dark ink mark or signature is visible at the top center.]

O H. 1866 Dept
No. of Govt. for June.
2389.

From
The Honorable
S. J. Arbutnot.
Chief Secy. to Govt.

27. } June 1866.
28. }

Remarks on
his inspection
of the Coimbatore
Jail

No. 1874 - 14th June 1866.

Carlisle

Public Works Department.

18th June 1874

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT
(Under date 14th June 1866.)
Read the following

From
The Honorable S. J. Arbutnot
(Chief Secretary)

(Here enter No. — dated 7th June 1866.)

On ordering a copy
of this Memorandum by
the Chief Secy. of his
inspection of the Central
Jail in course of construc-
tion at Coimbatore to be
communicated to the Super-
intending Engineer of the
7th Div, the Right Honor-
able the Governor in
Council resolves to call
upon Colonel Walker to
make arrangements for
pressing on the work as
rapidly as possible, and
especially for the completion
of

Wm

of the 2 blocks which
Mr. Orbulnot shows
to be so nearly finished
as only to require roofing.
Every exertion should be
made for preparing, and
fixing to all the iron
burnt openings, the battens
and penwork shutters
which are necessary to
shelter the inmates of
the buildings, and should
there be any delay in
supplying these defences
against the weather, the
Executive Officer should be
directed to give his as-
sistance to the Jail
authorities in putting up
mats or other temporary
substitutes.

(Dall)

Colonel Walker's
particular attention is
drawn to Mr. Orbulnot's
remarks regarding the
further employment of con-
script labour in the erection
of the buildings, and he
will endeavour to make
such arrangements as will
permit of the prisoners
being employed, not only
in the preparation of ma-
terials, but also in every
description of labor con-
nected with the actual
construction of the Jail;
as, by this means, it is
believed that the progress
of the work may be hasten-
ed, as well as its cost.

diminished

Some saving might
have been effected by
making the radial division
at walls less in height
and perhaps of less
thickness, and although
it is too late now to
remedy this at Bangalore,
Col. Walker will not
fail to bear it in
mind in designing
the other Central Jail
which it is proposed
shall be erected in the
Division at Cannanore.

28
3

W.H.

7 September 7/94
11 June 1894

Dec 15th 1894
25th June

J. W. M. B. Dept
Par. of Genl. for Line

No. 18/11.
Par. of the Major Genl.
of 11. June 1871

Memorandum by
the Chief Secretary of Govt
of his inspection of Central
Rail at Coimbatore, Com.
municated with certain
instructions to the Supt. of
7. 1871

No. 316. 317