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Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 17-7- 18 17.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th April 1867.

No. 394. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department:—

Approving of the proposed alterations and additions to the old European Barrack at Vellore, and requesting the Public Works Department to issue the necessary orders on the subject, and to call upon the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to explain the great delay which has occurred in completing the huts at present occupied by the prisoners on the site of the Central Jail at Vellore. } (Here enter 10th April 1867, No. 572.)

No. 395. ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1867, No. 1,196.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 34.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, who will submit at an early date plans and estimates for the alterations and additions referred to in paragraph 1. Meanwhile, the works should be proceeded with, and, in order to this, the Government resolve to place a sum of Rupees 4,000 at the Superintending Engineer's disposal from the Reserve under "Civil Buildings."

2. Colonel Boileau's attention will be called to the orders in paragraph 2, and he will be requested to expedite the submission of the required explanation regarding the great delay which has occurred in completing the huts on the site of the Central Jail at Vellore.

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, with Plan.
,, Accountant General.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Judicial Department.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

No. 68. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 4th April 1867, No. 4.

Having recently visited Vellore, in company with the Honorable Mr. Ellis, the Sanitary Commissioner, I have the honor to submit the following observations regarding the progress made in converting the old European Barrack into a Jail, and in erecting huts on the site of the Central Jail for the accommodation of a working gang of 350 convicts, and to suggest certain additions and alterations which appear to be required.

2. *Jail.*—The wards are nearly finished, and will be comfortable and airy. The doors of these wards can at present be lifted off their hinges without any difficulty. Something should be done to prevent this.

ii. Two troughs of stone are required in each ward, for night conservancy purposes. The stones should be accurately joined together, and the interstices filled with clay or mud. No chunam should be used. The dimensions proposed are three feet by one foot, inside measurement; the enclosing ledge to be one foot high. The troughs should be placed in opposite corners of the wards.

iii. A small privy and bath-room are required for the Hospital. They should be built outside, about thirty feet from the main wall, and twenty feet from each other. A privy, which has been commenced against the Hospital wall, ought to be removed.

iv. A separate ward for contagious diseases, sufficient for three patients, and of the following dimensions, viz., 17 feet; by 16, by 12, should be erected about 45 yards to the north-east of the Jail, where there is an eligible spot, which can be pointed out by the Assistant Magistrate.

v. The old Hospital, part of which it was proposed to use as a cook-room, was rather too far off to be convenient, and, having been pulled down, it is necessary to make some other arrangement. I, therefore, propose that a cook-room, measuring 25 feet by 16, be built near the centre of the Jail quadrangle, and that a well and cistern may also be provided. A small well has already been sunk for the use of the workmen. Water was found at a small depth, and the well might easily be widened and deepened.

vi. There are two substantially built privies about 40 yards to the north of the Jail, measuring, respectively, 71 feet by 10, and 49 feet by 9. I believe that both of these may be adapted to the dry earth system by removing the brick floors, and substituting a single trench, with a bin for dry earth. They are not sufficiently wide to admit of two parallel trenches. The former will accommodate 26, and the latter 18, persons at one time. The ventilation should be improved by making large openings in each gable, by lengthening the small apertures in the back wall, and by removing the screen walls in front. A shed for dry earth will be required. If it is found that these alterations are not feasible, an open tiled shed, of cheap materials, according to the standard plan of Latrine for Central Jails, might be erected parallel to the Fort wall, a few yards to the west of the old privies. A shed of this description, 56 feet long by 18, will accommodate 42 persons, and one of the old privies might be used as an earth store.

vii. There is a good well near the old privies. It ought to be repaired and fitted with a wheel. A stone platform and cistern are also required.

viii. A privy and bath-room are required for the Jailer, and may be built outside, and attached to his quarters.

ix. I doubt whether the measures now in progress for carrying off the surface water from the interior of the quadrangle are likely to prove effectual, and, therefore, recommend that the special attention of the Superintending Engineer may be directed to this point.

x. It is desirable to shut off the Jail from the other parts of the Fort. This may be done by running low walls, surmounted by iron or wooden rails, between the points indicated on the enclosed Plan by the letters A B, C D, and E J, the distances between which are about 175, 125, and 350 feet, respectively. A gate will be required in the railing between A and B. B is a high stone wall, forming the enclosure of the temple used as an Arsenal.

3. *Huts.*—One long shed, divided into two compartments, each capable of containing 50 men, has been completed, and is now occupied by 100 convicts. The guard-room as well as temporary accommodation for the Jailer, Dresser, and sick, is also ready, but the huts for the remaining convicts are in a very backward state. I was given to understand that the convicts have been largely employed in brick making, instead of being solely engaged in building their huts as was intended. This may possibly have been owing to a difficulty in procuring materials, but it is very desirable that the huts should now be completed without further delay.

ii. Two troughs for night use, made of brick and mud, but similar in other respects to those specified above, should be provided for each ward. Mr. Gibson has been requested to see this done.

iii. Mr. Ellis and I were both of opinion that the hut now occupied is far from secure, and is unlikely to stand anything like bad weather. The roof is not sufficiently supported, and, instead of being perfectly flat, has become concave in several places, so that it must leak. The hut ought to be carefully examined, and the necessary steps taken to render it secure and water-tight. If it is found more convenient to make the remaing huts half the length, and to divide them into two wards, to hold 25 men each, there is no objection to such being done.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1867, No. 572.

The Governor in Council approves generally of the alterations and additions to the old European Barrack at Vellore proposed by the Inspector General of Jails in his letter above recorded, and the necessary orders on the subject will be issued in the Public Works Department.

2. The immediate attention of the Officer in charge of the Jail buildings at Vellore should, however, be called to Colonel Wilson's remarks in paragraph 3, Clause III, regarding the insecure state of the hut at present occupied by the prisoners on the site of the Central Jail. The Superintending Engineer will be called upon to explain the great delay which has occurred in completing the huts.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
„ Public Works Department, with the plan.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Lid

1195
No. 1196
Comm. D. Gen. Insp.
Engineer of the 4th Dn. who
will submit at once any
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submission of the required explanation
regarding the great delay which has occurred in com-
pleting the huts on the site of the Central Jail at Vellore.

37

2554 Dn with plan.
2781 Gart St Drawer 17th April 1867
Conductor Dept 18 April 64
Surd Dept

Rec'd from Lt Col Sir
Rec'd from Lt Col Sir
No. 1379.
Rec'd from the Master Genl
in the Judicial dept

Dec 10
Rec'd 15 April 67

No 572

Ex. one

No 1196-17 — 8 April 1867

Approving of the alterations
& additions to the old European
Barrack at Vellore, & requesting
the P.W. Dept to issue the
necessary orders in the subject
& to call upon the Supt's Engr.
to explain the great delay wh
has occurred in completing
the huts at present occupied
by the prisoners on the site of the
Central Jail at Vellore.

With one Order

No 394-395