

(1) Number of pages 8(2) Date of repair 24 - 4 - 45

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2444	Press ~~Mis.~~
268-65	
Dated 10 . 8	1867 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

File

15
Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.

-10th August 1867.

No. 268. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department:—

Requesting the Inspector General of Jails to }
report on certain points connected with the }
provision of Jail accommodation at Nellore for } (Here enter 5th August 1867, No. 1,261.)
female convicts, debtors, State prisoners, &c., }

No. 269. ORDER THEREON, 10th August 1867, No. 2,444.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 37.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 2nd Division.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, with three Enclosures.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

35

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th August 1867.

Read the following papers:—

No. 50. From the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Camp Vulvapadu, 2nd February 1867, No. 98.

With reference to G. O., No. 1941, dated 21st June 1866, sanctioning an estimate of Rupees 3630 for improvements to the Nellore Jail, I have the honor to inform you that some important modifications have since then been found to be necessary, and I beg to forward a revised estimate for the work needed, amounting to Rupees 3920, being Rupees 290 in excess of that originally submitted.

2. The principal item of difference is the reduction of the work proposed for the old Jail* from Rupees 1814 to Rupees 665-3-0. This I directed to be done, as I found, on inspecting the part

* Vide Comparative Statement attached.

known as the old Jail, that the building was in a dilapidated condition, the walls built only of mud and stone, the roof made with old Malabar trusses, and the rooms close, hot, and low; and after consultation with the Medical Officer in charge of the Jail, and the Executive Engineer, it was agreed that any attempt to improve it was not desirable, either on the ground of eventual economy or efficiency, and that the erection of new buildings would be more advisable.

3. This seems likewise to have been the opinion of the Inspector General of Jails, and the President of the Sanitary Commission—(Vide their report of 10th April 1865); but the Committee, who reported on the Jail on 22nd January 1866, recommended that the old Jail

Recorded in G. O. 635, 3rd May 1868.

should be retained, in order that more room might be secured for "Officers, State prisoners, Civil debtors, solitary and condemned cells, lunatics, men afflicted with loathsome diseases, and male and female prisoners under trial."

4. I fully agree as to the necessity for the provision of this accommodation, but the old buildings are not fit for the purpose intended, and I beg to recommend that new edifices be erected.

5. Should Government agree in the expediency of this course, I shall desire a special estimate to be prepared for the work required. Meantime, in the revised estimate now submitted, all the items under the head of "Old Jail" have been omitted, excepting the money expended on preparation of doors and windows (Rupees 665-3-0), the value of which will eventually be recovered.

6. As regards the "New Jail," the following are the principal items of difference between the revised estimate and that originally sanctioned:—

Raising compound wall, Rupees 439.—The Judge and the Superintendent of Police both consider the present wall too low, and that it would not be difficult for prisoners to get over it. I concur in this opinion, and the present estimate allows for making the walls two feet higher than before.

Prison labor.—Rupees 700 was allowed as a deduction from the former estimate under this head, but now only Rupees 500 has been entered. There are two reasons for so doing—1st. Under the present arrangements for guarding convicts, a gang of 50 men must work together, and consequently much loss of labor takes place by bringing that number to stand idly round a work on which, perhaps, only

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th August 1867.*

5 or 10 can possibly be employed.—2ndly. All long-sentenced convicts are, after a short time, drafted off to Salem Jail, and only short-sentenced men remain, who probably have just learnt to be useful as bricklayers, tilers, &c., when their sentences expire, and they quit the prison.

I beg here, with reference to G. O., No. 218, dated 22nd instant, to respectfully assure the Government, that both at Guntoor and Nellore the Officers in charge are utilizing the convicts as much as possible. Had no prisoners been employed at Guntoor the estimate would have been 2000 Rupees more than it is.

Foundation of walls connecting Jail and Cooking-yard.—It was considered desirable to go deeper than originally proposed, in order that a more compact soil might be secured, this with additions to the new privy, dry earth, shed, and store-room, accounts for the increased quantity of masonry in the revised estimate, and the excess of Rupees 404-6-0 in this item.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

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

5th February 1867.

Secretary to Government, D. P. W.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails for his remarks.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
12th March 1867.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 51. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 25th July 1867, No. 71.

I have the honor to return the letter of the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, No. 98, dated 2nd February 1867, with enclosures.

2. The Committee which assembled at Nellore, agreeably to the Order of Government, dated 16th June 1865, No. 877, sent in their report on the 5th February 1866. In this report they recommended the retention of the old Jail, in order that it might be adapted for the reception of female convicts, under-trial prisoners, debtors, State prisoners, lunatics, and persons afflicted with loathsome diseases. It was also recommended that certain measures should be taken to improve the ventilation of the new Jail, and of the hospital; that the cooking and working yard should be connected with the general enclosure by building two short walls; and that a new privy, and a shed for dry earth, should be constructed. These recommendations were approved of in the Order

Judicial Department, 3rd May 1866, No. 685.

noted in the margin, but it is now stated by the Superintending Engineer that the

buildings of the old Jail are in such a dilapidated condition that an attempt to improve them is not desirable, either on the ground of eventual economy or of efficiency, and the Superintendent of the Jail is of the same opinion. The present reference, therefore, principally regards the provision of accommodation for the classes above specified, and as the new Jail cannot be adapted for this purpose so as to ensure a proper degree of separation, I propose that buildings should be erected on the site of the present old Jail.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th August 1867.*

3. Judging from the average of the last five years accommodation for the undermentioned number will be required, and I request that the Superintending Engineer may be instructed to prepare plans and estimates accordingly.

Female convicts.....	14
State Prisoners, Males.....	3
" " Female.....	1
Debtors, Males.....	2
" Females.....	2
Under-trial Prisoners, Males.....	20
" " Females.....	4
Lunatics, Males.....	2
" Female.....	1
Patients afflicted with } Males... 2	
loathsome diseases.. } Female.. 1	

Besides these buildings, an office, two solitary cells, and a store-room are required. The office may, I am informed, be built over the main entrance, and this will be more convenient than within the precincts of the Jail. The solitary cells should be ten feet square and ten feet high so as to give the regulated quantity of space.

4. As the present enclosing wall is only 11 feet high it will be well to raise it two feet, as suggested in the 6th paragraph of the Superintending Engineer's letter.

5. With respect to the loss of labor said to arise from the system of guarding, I have reason to believe that this may be obviated in a great measure, if not altogether, if the Officer in charge of the works will place himself in communication with the Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of the Jail on the subject, with the view of making better arrangements. I have not received any complaint on this score from Madura, Trichinopoly, or Vellore. The Superintending Engineer is mistaken in supposing that all long-sentenced convicts are after a short time drafted off to Salem Jail. In April 1866, 63 men were sent to Salem because the Nellore Jail was much over-crowded, but for no other reason; the Salem Jail not being in the Nellore Circle. A transfer of 40 was made to Vellore in February 1867 on the same account, but these are the only two that have been made in 1866-67.

No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 5th August 1867, No. 1261.

In the letter above recorded the Inspector General of Jails reports to Government that it was intended to convert the old Jail at Nellore into a place of confinement for female convicts, under-trial prisoners, debtors, State prisoners, lunatics, and persons afflicted with loathsome diseases.

2. It is now stated by the Superintending Engineer that the buildings of the old Jail are in such a dilapidated condition that it would be waste of money to attempt to improve them, and the Inspector General of Jails recommends the construction of entirely new buildings for this purpose.

3. Colonel Wilson at the same time states that the new Jail cannot be adapted for this increased accommodation so as to ensure a proper degree of separation of these different classes of prisoners from those confined in the new Jail, which is intended solely for male convicts.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

5th August 1867.

4. It is, therefore, proposed to erect the new buildings on the site of the old Jail. Accommodation is required for 52 prisoners.

5. The Governor in Council does not consider that, as the old Jail buildings have been decided to be in so ruinous a condition as not to admit of repairs, it will be desirable to construct an entirely new set of Jail buildings on the old site. The old Nellore Jail was notoriously unhealthy and the soil must from long use, without proper drainage, have become saturated with the sewage and dirt of many years, and there will be the risk of the new buildings proving from this cause unhealthy. The Inspector General of Jails will, therefore, report whether some site near the new Jail cannot be found suitable for these buildings, or if this is not possible some site more eligible than that so long occupied by the old Jail. The Government are very averse to having two District Jails in one town, and request that Colonel Wilson will explain why it is impossible to make any additions to the new Jail, as stated by him in paragraph 2 of his letter.

6. It seems unnecessary to construct wards for two males and one female lunatic as the Madras Lunatic Asylum, which is in course of construction, would give accommodation for these prisoners.

7. The Governor in Council requests that an early report be submitted on these points, and regrets that the real condition of the old Jail should not have been made known in 1866, when the Committee, of whom the Executive Engineer, Major Ritherdon, was a member, reported upon these buildings.

8. The Governor in Council concurs with the Inspector General of Jails in his opinion, that the loss of labor, said by the Superintending Engineer to result from the system of guarding, might be obviated in Nellore as in other places by better arrangements being made by the Officer in charge of the works, the Superintendent of Police, and the Superintendent of the Jail. It is obvious that the rule, by which gangs are not to consist of less than 50 prisoners, cannot be made applicable to all the prison labor employed on works of construction, and that the strict enforcement of such a rule will in some cases entail great waste of convict labor.

(True Extract).

R. S. Mis

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

„ Public Works Department, with Estimates and Statement returned. ✓

„ Inspector General of Police. ✓

21/11/67

Comm. Works

Lid

Comm. to the Supg Engr of the

Exd. J. Tulloch.

2. Du

M.

10/11/67

20/11/67 with 2 Dec ✓

Start at 10/11/67

10/11/67

P. No. 1867. Dept
Pro. of God for living
No. 2966
Pro. of the headas Gout
Pro. Dept

Dated 5 { Aug 17
Recd 8 {

No. 1261

Encls: 3

Respecting the
Insp. Genl. of Jail to report
on certain points con-
nected with the provision
of jail accommodation
at Waller for female
convicts, debtors, State
prisoners &c &c
No. 2444-102 Aug 1867

With an order

Ch 268-269