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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 308 Press Mis.

624-25

Dated 30. 1 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 30th January 1867.

No. 624. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department:—

Directing the Commissioner of Police to report what measures are necessary for carrying out the improvements suggested by His Lordship the Governor to the Lock-ups in connection with the Police Courts of Madras. } (Here enter 23rd January 1867, No. 137.)

No. 625. ORDER THEREON, 30th January 1867, No. 308.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 124.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 244. Read the following Minute by the Right Honorable the PRESIDENT, dated 4th January 1867.

I took occasion to visit the three Lock-ups in connection with the three Police Courts of Madras this morning at an early hour, and I beg to submit the following remarks as the result of a hasty inspection.

2. At Royapettah the cells are spacious, tolerably ventilated, and clean. The privy is ill-ventilated, filthy, and offensive, to a degree which can hardly be described, although the defects of construction and conservancy were noticed by the Sanitary Commissioner (by whom I was attended) about two years ago, and recommended for correction. The apparatus for the purposes of nature in the cells is insufficient. A separate building appropriated to the detention of persons subject to fine, and incapable of satisfying their sentence, was strewed with dung and litter, and appeared to be the habitation of goats. The ground of the compound was dirty and defiled. The European Police Officer in charge was ill-informed respecting the persons and offences of the prisoners under remand, and his register was not quite written up to date. There is no proper accommodation for European prisoners.

3. In Vepery the accommodation for prisoners is not quite so good as at Royapettah, but it is in no degree deficient. The same defects of conservancy are apparent in nearly the same measure, but no other fault can be found with the cells appropriated to Native offenders. There is an entire deficiency of accommodation for European prisoners, as far as I saw, except that in one of the cells there was an iron cot without bedding. In consequence of this an Englishman arrested, as I understood, during the night on a charge of trespass and contempt of Court, but who discovered every symptom of recent inebriation, had been shut up in a room attached to the Magistrate's Cutcherry where he was allowed the benefit of his wife's society. The East Indian Police Inspector in charge had not made any entry on his register since the 19th of December, but he informed me that the Native Duffadar had kept the record punctually in Hindoostanee.

4. The Lock-up in Black Town, which is much less favorably situated for cleanliness and ventilation than the others, was in those respects superior to them. The corridors and cells on the ground-floor, which in such a locality might easily have been close, were perfectly sweet and inoffensive; a laudable, though imperfect attempt has been made to carry out the dry-earth system in the latrine, and the necessary provision for European offenders has been made in the ward appropriated to that class. The Native Policeman in charge had his register in perfect order. The European Inspector being absent, I was not able to inspect his book. The state of this Jail reflects credit on those who are concerned in its management.

5. In none of these places of confinement was there maintained, apparently, a systematic distinction between prisoners brought in during the night for casual offences or disorders, and prisoners remanded after preliminary investigation. The two classes, both male and female, were, or might be, blended together. A separation of the two categories would be desirable, but I cannot affirm, as far as Natives are concerned, that it is of much importance.

6. On the whole it was satisfactory to see that the accommodation both for prisoners and for the Police Courts is ample, and that only a little reformation and attention in regard to classification, furniture, conservancy, and punctuality in the

performance of formal duties, are requisite, to make these establishments exemplary in all respects. An occasional personal inspection on the part of the Head of the City Police, and a very small expenditure on the part of the Department of Public Works, would secure the desired result.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 245. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1867, No. 137.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Minute be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, who will, in communication with the Sanitary Commissioner and the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, report to the Public Works Department, without delay, the measures necessary for carrying out the improvements pointed out by His Lordship the Governor.

2. Major Hearn's attention is drawn to the incomplete state in which the registers at some of the Lock-ups were found on the occasion of His Lordship's visit.

3. Dry-earth conservancy should be introduced in all the places of confinement under notice.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Police.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Pro: 1 Cont. for January
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Pro: of the Madras Govt
in the Jail Depts

Dt 23 January 67
Rec 30 "

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