M.R.O. 1—77,006—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair 18-2-43

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Pub Cie works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 318 Press / Mis.

42-43

Dated 31 1 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st January 1867.

No. 642. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department:—

Sanctioning the retention of the present Jail at Cochin, and requesting the issue of orders, by the Public Works Department, for the provision of a ward for European prisoners, capable of holding six men.

(Here enter 23rd January 1867, No. 144.)

No. 643. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1867, No. 318.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 129.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, who will issue orders for the sanctioned alterations being put in hand at once, and especially the conversion of the old buildings Nos. 10 to 17 into a Hospital and Female Ward, and the improvement of the ventilation, as recommended by the Local Committee in their Report recorded in Judicial Proceedings under date the 27th August 1866, No. 1,327.

Communicated with G. O. Public Works Department, No. 2,847, dated 6th September 1866.

2. An estimate, to include the alterations now ordered, should be submitted at an early date for the ward for European prisoners referred to in paragraph 4.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with four Plans.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.
" Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

submitted at an early date

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd January 1867.

Read the following papers :—

No. 258. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Ootacamund, 5th September 1866, No. 72.

With reference to the Order of Government noted in the margin, I have the honor to request I may be permitted to defer my report until I have visited Cochin, which I propose to do about the beginning of October. In the meantime, I have suggested to Mr. Ballard that he should instruct one of his Officers to select a site that may be available for a new Jail, and I will take steps to ascertain the probable cost of such a building.

Judicial Department, 27th August 1866, No. 1327.

2. I herewith enclose a letter from the Officer in charge of the Jail, and one from the Medical Officer, in which these gentlemen give it as their opinion, for reasons stated, that it is not expedient to introduce the dry earth system.

From the Joint Magistrate of Cochin, to the Inspector General of Jails ; dated Cochin, 6th June 1866, No. 140.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, I have the honor to forward, for your information, a copy of a communication addressed to me by the Civil Surgeon at Cochin, expressive of his views on the "dry earth system" of conservancy, and as to whether it might be introduced in the local Jail.

2. You will observe that though in the abstract the Civil Surgeon is in favor of the dry earth system he yet, for reasons stated, does not recommend its adoption in the Cochin Jail. Those reasons appear to me to be so cogent and forcible that, in drawing your attention to them, I must myself suggest no change of the present plan of allowing the prisoners the use of tubs, and of emptying them every morning into the sea.

From the Civil Surgeon, Cochin, to the Joint Magistrate of Cochin ; dated Cochin, 5th June 1866, No. 31.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 133, of yesterday's date, with reference to the advisability or otherwise of introducing the "dry earth system" into the Jail at Cochin, and requesting my opinion on the subject.

2. I have a very high opinion of the dry earth system of conservancy, and frequently taken into consideration the advisability or otherwise of recommending the introduction of that system into the Jail at this place, but my objections to its introduction here are as follows :—

1*stly*.—Unlike other stations there is no cultivation in the neighbourhood of Cochin, so that it would be impossible to utilize the earth when it becomes highly charged with organic matter, it would require to be treated just as at present the night soil is, that is, buried in deep pits, for were it left on the surface of the earth, or thrown into a heap, it would be productive of great injury on the return of the rains, when the organic particles would be decomposed.

2*ndly*.—The difficulty of procuring earth, I may state that the soil of Cochin is excessively sandy, probably consisting of two-thirds or more of sand.

submitted at an early date

3*rdly*.—The rainy season here lasts for from four to five months, but this I do not consider a very strong objection, as a raised flooring and shed could easily be erected within the Jail enclosure; but my first and second objections would still hold good, viz., the earth when fully charged would have to be conveyed to a distance and buried, and the earth obtainable here would not, I fear, act as a disinfectant.

3. The present system of conservancy answers so well that I see no objection to its continuance; formerly the prisoners were marched down every morning to the sea beach, each with his chattie, considerable time was thus lost. At present there are eight tubs with close covers, these are painted with tar daily, and are carried out by two prisoners to a distance where their contents are thrown into the sea.

4. I may state that when the Committee recommended the introduction of the dry earth system, reform was urgently required, but since that time the tubs referred to have been introduced, and in my opinion, fulfil all the requirements of conservancy.

No. 259. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 17th December 1866, No. 125.

With reference to the Order of Government noted in the margin, regarding the Jail at Cochin, and to my letter of the 5th September last, No. 72, to your address, in which I requested permission to defer my report, I have the honor to state that I inspected the Jail in question on the 22nd and 23rd ultimo.

Judicial Department, 27th August 1866, No. 1327.

2. The inmates consisted of 21 convicts, viz., 20 males, and one female. Of these, 12 were long sentenced men received from Calicut, four sentenced by the Joint Magistrate, and five by the Sub-Magistrate of Cochin. Of these five, one was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for one month, and the remaining four to simple imprisonment for seven days each. Of the four sentenced by the Joint Magistrate two were released on the 16th instant, and the sentences of the other two will expire in April 1867. Of the long sentenced men five will be released during 1867, but all the twelve might be sent back to Calicut, if necessary. I herewith forward a Statement, showing the average daily number per mensem of prisoners of all classes in this Jail from the 1st January 1863 up to the 30th November 1866, inclusive, from which it will be seen that the men drafted from other Jails have always constituted by far the largest proportion of the inmates, and that the number of the other classes has been small, averaging as follows:—

Cochin Prisoners.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
Convicts, Male	13·27	13·45	12·46	6·87
,, Female	·12	·10	·56	·31
Under trial, Male	·29	·58	·67	·35
,, Female	·01	·00	·08	·01
Debtors, Male	·90	·74	2·82	1·97
,, Female	·02	·00	·00	·00
Europeans	·10	·00	·56	·35

3. As Cochin is now being brought under the operation of the Towns' Improvement Act, and as free labor is easily procurable at that place, there will no longer be any advantage in drafting convicts thereto for labor on the roads, and it therefore seems unnecessary to do more than to provide for the accommodation of persons imprisoned at Cochin, the number of which is, as shown above, inconsiderable.

4. It is true that the present building is not well adapted for a Jail, that it is in bad repair and insecure, but I cannot say I think it unwholesome. In the mont- of July 1865 the state of Cochin generally, and the town also, were visited by epidemic cholera, and the Jail did not escape; but with the exception of the deaths from that disease, and one from dysentery during the same month, there was only one death during the year, and in 1866, up to the time of my visit, there had only been one death, which occurred in the month of January from small pox. At the time of my inspection all of the men appeared healthy, and there were none in hospital. The accommodation, if the alterations proposed by the Committee are carried out, will be as follows, viz.:—

One Ward for	Male convicts	14
,,	under trial prisoners, Males	7
,,	Male debtors	4
,,	Females	6
	Total	31

This is exclusive of the hospital. The floors of the two first wards are boarded, and the Debtors' ward has been provided with a raised platform made of wooden planks. The open drain which runs under the Tahsildar's room is now cleaned twice a day, and I was given to understand that the annoyance formerly experienced therefrom is now rarely felt.

5. No separate accommodation has been provided for Europeans. Such prisoners are almost invariably seamen. Their number is small and their terms of imprisonment short, but there have been as many as six in confinement at one time. They were formerly kept in the cells now proposed for females, and there will be no means of lodging them when there may happen to be both women and debtors in Jail, unless the individuals of one or other of these classes are put into ward No. 5 as a temporary measure. This ward, although condemned for want of back and end ventilation, is raised from the ground, and has a boarded floor. A ward measuring 20×14×14 feet would accommodate six men, and might be built in the yard.

6. The question as to the retention of the present building for Jail purposes affects other interests, but looking at the Returns for the last four years I do not think, so far as this Department is concerned, that it is necessary to build a new Jail. The same reasoning applies to the proposal for removing the stable and salt store, and for enclosing the ground for a garden. If, however, it is considered objectionable that the prisoners, even if reduced in number, should continue to occupy the same building which is used for the Courts of the Joint and Sub-Magistrates, then a new Jail on a small scale should be built.

7. I return the plans of the Jail which I obtained from the Secretary to Government for reference.

submitted at an early date

STATEMENT showing the average number of all Classes of Prisoners in the Jail at Cochin, from January 1863 to 30th November 1866.

Months.	Convicts received from other Jails.		Convicts sentenced by Cochin authorities.		Under trial.		Debtors.		Europeans.		Total.	
1863.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January	37·00	.....	12·29	.....	.....	.....	1·06	.....	.....	.....	50·35	.....
February	35·00	.....	12·18	.....	0·39	.....	0·64	.....	.....	.....	48·21	.....
March	33·10	.....	12·51	.....	0·10	.....	1·16	.....	.....	.....	46·87	.....
April	32·90	.....	8·93	.....	0·17	.....	0·70	.....	.....	.....	42·70	.....
May	31·45	.....	10·16	0·77	0·22	0·13	1·00	.....	.....	.....	42·83	0·90
June	29·00	.....	10·23	0·23	0·23	.....	1·13	0·07	0·37	.....	40·96	0·30
July	28·45	.....	12 09	.....	0·84	.....	0·94	0·19	.....	.....	42·32	0·19
August	28·00	.....	18·68	.....	1·19	.....	0·13	.....	.....	.....	48·00	.....
September	27·27	.....	17·60	.....	0·16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45·03	.....
October	26·77	.....	19·68	.....	0·16	.....	0·06	.....	.....	.....	46·67	.....
November	25·77	.....	11·83	0·50	.....	.....	2·13	.....	0·67	.....	40·40	0·50
December	25·29	.....	13·13	.....	0·13	.....	1·87	.....	0·25	.....	40·67	.....
1864.												
January	26·00	.....	13·45	.....	0·13	.....	1·58	.....	.....	.....	41·16	.....
February	26·00	.....	12·62	.....	0·58	.....	0·76	.....	.....	.....	39·96	.....
March	26·00	.....	12·22	0·12	1·22	.....	1·81	.....	.....	.....	41·25	0·12
April	25·20	.....	13·04	.....	0·93	.....	1·33	.....	.....	.....	40·50	.....
May	25·00	.....	15·13	.....	0·25	.....	1·00	.....	.....	.....	41·38	.....
June	25·00	.....	16·80	.....	0·20	.....	1·00	.....	.....	.....	43·00	.....
July	25·00	.....	13·74	.....	0·87	.....	0·51	.....	.....	.....	40·12	.....
August	24·42	.....	13·77	.....	1·23	.....	0·45	.....	.....	.....	39·87	.....
September	22·63	.....	11·90	.....	0·17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34·70	.....
October	21·16	.....	14·10	0·67	0·61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35·87	0·67
November	21·00	.....	12·73	0·13	0·50	.....	0·03	.....	.....	.....	34·26	0·13
December	19· 7	.....	11·90	0·29	0·29	·06	0·41	.....	.....	.....	31·67	0·35
1865.												
January	21·90	.....	16·36	1·32	0·82	.....	1·00	.....	.....	.....	39·58	1·32
February	37·28	.....	16·11	1·67	0·36	.....	1·53	.....	.....	.....	55·28	1·67
March	37·00	.....	14·45	1·00	.....	.....	1·93	.....	.....	.....	53·38	1·00
April	37·00	.....	14·77	1·00	1·70	.....	3·33	.....	1·80	.....	58·60	1·00
May	37·48	.....	13·61	1·00	1·00	.....	2·00	.....	0·78	.....	54·87	1·00
June	37·13	.....	17·93	0·73	1·03	.....	1·57	.....	.....	.....	57·66	0·73
July	28·19	.....	10·42	.....	0·29	.....	0·10	.....	.....	.....	39·00	.....
August	25 64	.....	9·03	.....	1·97	.....	1·87	.....	.....	.....	38·51	.....
September	23·57	.....	10·24	.....	0·23	1·06	2·13	.....	0·03	.....	36·20	0·06
October	22·71	.....	11·32	.....	0·32	.....	2·00	.....	2·36	.....	39·61	.....
November	21·07	.....	9·00	0·06	0·63	.....	8·73	.....	0·43	.....	39·86	0·06
December	20·00	.....	6·39	.....	0·23	.....	6·77	.....	1·35	.....	34·74	.....
1866.												
January	19·90	.....	6·52	0·29	0·35	.....	6·10	·06	2·58	.....	35·45	0·35
February	18 25	.....	7·57	0·14	1·18	.....	6·00	.....	1·53	.....	34·53	0·14
March	17·58	.....	7·58	.....	0·06	.....	3·00	.....	0·10	.....	28·32	.....
April	17·00	.....	5·03	.....	.....	.....	2·00	.....	.....	.....	24·03	.....
May	17·00	.....	9·48	.....	0·13	.....	2·00	.....	.....	.....	28·61	.....
June	16· 7	.....	6·90	0·40	0·16	.....	1·67	.....	.....	.....	24·80	0·40
July	14·00	.....	8·39	1·00	1·77	.....	0·58	.....	.....	.....	24·74	1·00
August	13·23	.....	8·22	1·00	0·55	0·16	0·35	.....	.....	.....	22·35	1·16
September	12·00	.....	9·57	0·66	.....	.....	0·86	.....	.....	.....	22·43	0·66
October	12·00	.....	7·00	.....	0·10	.....	1·06	.....	.....	.....	20·16	.....
November	12·00	.....	6·20	0·23	.....	.....	0·03	.....	0·07	.....	18·30	0·23

COCHIN, 11*th December* 1866.

(Signed) J. D'SILVA,
Acting Principal Sudder Ameen, in charge of the Jail.

No. 260. ORDER THEREON, 23rd January 1867, No. 144.

16th June 1865, No. 877.

In the report of Messrs. Rohde and Ellis, recorded in the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin, the number of prisoners to be confined in the Jail at Cochin was estimated at 45. The existing accommodation was deemed sufficient for this number, and it was stated that nothing further was required than putting the Jail into thorough repair. The Committee, however, which subsequently assembled at Cochin, under G. O., 16th June 1865, in reviewing the subject, gave it as their opinion that several of the wards and cells occupied by the prisoners were quite unfit for the purpose, and ought to be condemned, and that, in the event of their being abandoned, the remaining wards, including the Hospital, could not accommodate more than 37 persons. The Committee therefore proposed that a room, which is at present occupied by the Tahsildar, should be converted into a ward to contain 26 convicts, a new Cutcherry being built for the Tahsildar elsewhere. The Magistrate of Malabar was rquested to report whether the room in question could be made available as proposed. Mr. Ballard stated in reply that it was not a suitable place for a Jail ward, in consequence of the proximity of a noxious drain, and that the whole Jail accommodation at Cochin was so faulty and out of repair, that it was questionable whether the present building should be retained for Jail purposes at all. He added that the removal of the prisoners to another place would obviate the inconvenience arising from the drain already referred to, and would leave available for the use of the Tahsildar two rooms contiguous to, and parallel with the Cutcherry, and under the same roof, and thus render unnecessary the provision of other accommodation for the Tahsildar. The Inspector General of Jails was thereupon directed to report whether, under the circumstances, it was desirable to retain the present building as a Jail, or whether an entirely new building, on a small scale, should be provided for the purpose.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Wilson replies to this reference in the second of the letters above recorded. His report is based on a personal inspection of the Jail. It appears that on the dates of his visit there were only twenty-one prisoners, and that twelve of these were men received from Calicut; that the average number of prisoners of all classes confined in the Jail during the last four years was as shewn in the margin, but that nearly two-thirds of these were persons drafted from other Jails, leaving the number of Cochin prisoners at little more than fourteen on an average. The Inspector General states that as Cochin is now being brought under the operation of the Towns' Improvement Act, and as free labor is easily procurable there, there will no longer be any advantage in drafting convicts thereto for labor on the roads; that it is, therefore, unnecessary to do more than provide for the accommodation of prisoners sentenced at Cochin; that although the present building is not well adapted for a Jail, and is besides in bad repair and insecure, it is not unwholesome; that the open drain referred to by Mr. Ballard being now kept clean, is no longer felt as a nuisance; that separate accommodation for European prisoners, which is now wanting, might be provided by building a ward in the yard for six men, and

	Total number confined.	Of which drafted from other Jails.	Remaining Cochin prisoners.
1863	44·5	30	15.
1864	39	24	15.
1865	46	29	17.
1866	24	14	10.

submitted at an early date

that, under these circumstances, it is not necessary to build a new Jail as far as the Jail Department is concerned. If, however, Lieutenant Colonel Wilson adds, it is considered objectionable that the prisoners, even when reduced in number, should continue to occupy the same building which is used for the Courts of the Joint and Sub-Magistrates, then a new Jail on a small scale should be erected.

3. The Committee appointed under G. O., 16th June 1865, at Cochin, also recommended that the dry earth system should be introduced fully into the Jail. On this point the Inspector General forwards a letter from the Officer in charge of the Jail, and one from the Medical Officer, in which they give it as their opinion, for reasons stated, that it is not expedient to introduce the dry earth system.

4. Under all the circumstances, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the present Jail at Cochin, and the present system of conservancy there, should be retained, and that a ward for European prisoners, capable of holding six men, should be erected in the yard of the present building. The necessary orders on this point will be issued in the Department Public Works.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" Magistrate of Malabar.
" Public Works Department, with four plans returned.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Lid
Immediate

Public Works Dept
11

No 318

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 31st January 1867
Read the following

Proc. of the Madras Govt
Jud. Dept
Judicial Dept

(Forwarded 23d Jany/67 No 144)

Communicate to
the Superintending Engineer
of the 7th Division, who
will issue orders for the
sanctions & alterations being
put in hand at once, and
especially the conversion
of the old buildings Nos 10
& 19 into a Hospital and
Female Ward, and the im-
provement of the ventilation
as recommended by the
Local Committee in their
Report recorded in Judl Proc.
under date the 29th
August 1866, No 1327

Am Estimate to
include the alterations
now ordered, should be
submitted at an early
date

Commd with P W Dept, No 284 776 Sept/66

Jud Dept
Pro. Govt
No 144
Dated 30 Jany/67
Encl 4

Sanctioning the
retention of the present
Jail at Cochin, and
requesting the issue of
orders, by the P W Dept,
for the provision of a
ward, for European
prisoners, capable of
holding six men.

No 642

No 318 - 31st Jany 1867
Public Works Dept

P W Dept
Pro. Govt
No 284
Dated 7 Feby/67
Encl 1

Jud Dept
Pro. Govt
No 1316
Dated 29 Aug/66
Encl 1

Jud Dept
Pro. Govt
No 1327
Dated 29 Aug/66
Encl 1

date for the ward for the
European prisoners referred
to in para 4.

To
The Supg Engr 7th Div with plans ✓
1 Cinderella ✓
3 A&H ✓
11 Jud Dept ✓

In-s Desp. 31/1/67 to the Supt Engr 7th Div only
P.C for all Desp. 5/2/67

Pub: Works 1867 Depart.

Pro: of Govt. for January

No 318

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Dd 31st January 1867

The Supg. Engr. of the 7th Divn. furnished with instructions relative to the alterations required in Sail at Cochin and the provision of a ward for European prisoners.

No 642 — 6/12.