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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3830

Press  
Mis.

182-183

Dated 9-12-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Per 20.5.67*

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
9th December 1867.*

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No. 182. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the  
Judicial Department:—

Requesting that orders may be issued for the  
execution of certain works required at the  
Coimbatore Central Jail, and that explanation  
may be called for of the unfinished state of  
that Jail at a time when it was proposed to  
hand the building over to the Superintendent  
of the Prison. } (Here enter 2nd December 1867, No. 1,960.)

No. 183. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1867, No. 3,830.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 37.

Communicated to the Superintend-  
ing Engineer of the 7th Division, who  
will furnish the required explanation,  
and arrange for the immediate execution of the works referred to in the letter from  
the Inspector General of Jails.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with two Sketches.  
.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,  
2nd December 1867.*

No. 2. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 15th November 1867, No. 137.

With reference to the enclosed letter from the Superintendent of the Central Jail at Coimbatore, reporting that the Assistant Engineer is prepared to make over the Jail buildings as complete, I have the honor to report that several essential matters still remain to be attended to, most of which must be performed under the direction of the Department of Public Works.

2. *Latrines.*—A number of deep drains have been cut in the latrine compartment, and carried about 100 feet beyond it, but they have been left in that state. It is absolutely necessary that these should be paved either with brick or stone; the latter I believe to be preferable, as being more lasting. The fall of these drains should be regulated to suit the main drain outside the Jail wall. No arrangement has been made for supplying the latrines with water. A well has been sunk in No. 9 yard under the direction of the Superintendent, from which water may be led. The palisades at each end of the latrine yard are so wide apart, that in some places a man may pass between them. This should be rectified by inserting iron rails where they are required. The heads of the palisades should either be spiked or "*chevaux-de-frise*" supplied.

3. *Entrance to latrine yard from the Jail.*—A light grated door, revolving on the centre, has been put up. It is not sufficiently strong, and should be replaced by a stout wooden door opening on hinges, to allow of the passage of a small covered cart, which is intended to supersede the present inconvenient method of carrying the night soil out of the wards and cells in the morning. Another wooden door will be required in the low inner wall, opposite to that in the main wall above mentioned, and of equal breadth. This is necessary, in order to avoid the great *detour* which would otherwise have to be made.

4. *Guard-rooms.*—The beams in the roofs of these rooms do not appear sufficiently strong, as the roofs have sunk in the middle. The verandah rooms leak. The rooms to the right on entering ought to be divided as nearly in the centre as may be found convenient; the inner room to be used by the warders on duty, and the other to be made over to the Officer in charge of the Police Guard. This should have a door and window at the end, as shown in the accompanying plan. The windows of the guard-rooms should be fitted inside with wooden shutters, as a protection from wind and rain.

5. *Main Gate.*—This is so extremely heavy and unwieldy that it takes four men to shut it. It is desirable that this should be rectified if possible. The slide in the gate requires to be fitted with iron bars.

The inner gate is not supplied with a padlock.

6. *Store-rooms.*—The doors of these are merely supplied with loosely fitting wooden buttons, which are useless. Proper iron bolts are required inside each door, and sliding horizontal bolts outside.

7. *Hospital.*—Nothing has been done in the way of drainage for the bath-rooms, or of surface drainage in the yard. There is a bad leak in one verandah. Honey-comb work is wanted for the front of the cook-room.

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2nd December 1867.*

8. *Hospital for females.*—The windows require iron bars; as they are, there is nothing to prevent any one from getting in or out through them. The door is an ordinary wooden door; a grated door would be preferable.

9. *Solitary Cells.*—The venetians have no fastenings. Iron bolts are required outside.

10. *Warder Tower.*—This leaks very much, and has done so from the first. I believe that it will not be easy to remedy this in any other way than by the addition of a tiled roof supported by pillars, as recently recommended for the Warder Tower at Calicut. This would be a much better position for the sentry than the upper verandah of the tower, where he is now placed.

11. The tarring of the palisades has been done so indifferently that it already requires renewing.

12. *General Drainage.*—Openings have been made in the outer wall, but beyond this nothing has been done with the exception of channels dug outside the Jail, under the direction of the Superintendent, and converging towards a spot about 150 yards to the east of the Jail, where a reservoir has been dug, from which it is proposed to irrigate the land below it, which belongs to the Jail. The Superintendent is prepared to complete this work, and also the surface drainage of the yards, to which I see no objection, as he has already commenced it; but the supply of water to the latrines, the paving of the drains belonging thereto, the drainage of the hospital, the alterations in the Guard-rooms, and the various other matters specified above should be performed by the Department of Public Works.

13. I, herewith, enclose a small sketch plan of the Jail, showing the manner in which the Superintendent proposes to carry out the surface drainage. The ground slopes gradually from the west towards the east.

14. I must remark that the fittings of this Jail generally, such as shutters, bolts, and hooks, are of inferior workmanship and materials. The iron work especially so.

P. S.—It is requested that the two sketch plans may be returned when no longer required.

(Signed) W. J. WILSON,  
*Inspector General of Jails.*

From the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Coimbatore, 16th October 1867, No. 104.

I have the honor to inform you I have received information from the Assistant Engineer that he is prepared to hand over the latrines complete and ready for use. He states, "the drains (to the latrines) have not been built first, because there was nothing allowed for them in the estimate, and, secondly, because I understand that they are intended to be of cut stone, which I could not do without extra sanction. If they are to be of brick-work, there are some bricks collected on the spot, and some at the kilns, which would answer the purpose," &c.

2. I beg to state that, until the drains are completed, the latrines are unusable, as there is at present no arrangement, beyond some ditches cut over the yard, to carry off the water and washings, neither has any provision been made for supplying the latrines with water. I beg, also, to state that only one door has been put in the outer wall to communicate with the interior of the Jail, and that door is the grating which you saw on your late inspection and objected to, and which I understood you told the Overseer in charge of the works it would be useless putting up. No opening has been made in the small wall leading into No. 8 yard; the consequence will be

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2nd December 1867.*

that time will be lost in the mornings marching convicts to the latrines, as they will have to go round between the walls if the present arrangement for the entrance to the latrines is to be left as it is.

3. Besides the various things which require to be done before the Public Works Department give over the Jail as completed, which I have already reported to you both by letter and personally, I have to state that shutters have not been supplied to the Police guard-rooms; these are absolutely necessary. At present bamboo tatties are used; these constantly require renewing, and have a very untidy appearance.

4. During the last few days we have had some very heavy showers of rain. A leak has shown itself in the Hospital and the roof of the Central Warder Tower leaks so much that the rain has penetrated some way down the walls.

The latter leak I have repeatedly pointed out to the Executive Engineers in charge of the works.

5. I have informed Mr. Roberts, the Assistant Engineer, that I cannot take over charge of the Jail from him until I have your sanction, and that he is not to consider that I have done so until he holds my receipt in writing.

No. 3. ORDER THEREON, 2nd December 1867, No. 1960.

Referred to the Department of Public Works, for the issue of the necessary orders, and for explanation as to the unfinished state of the Central Jail at a time when it was proposed to make it formally over to the Officer in charge of the prisoners at Coimbatore.

2. The Government concludes that the slight sketch of the gallows is only intended to indicate their situation, and not as a design for their structure.

(True Extract).

*J. W. Wilson*  
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with two sketches.  
" Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

1<sup>st</sup> 1854 Dec 10  
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