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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2137 Press / Mis.

18-19

Dated 1 7 18 49.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st *July* 1869.

No. 18. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the ~~Home~~ Judicial Department :—

Forwarding, with observations, the final report of the Subsidiary Jail Committee with the order of Government thereon. (Here enter 15th June 1869, No. 1,000.)

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 1st July 1869, No. 2,137.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 2.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

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No. 109. Read the following letter from the Subsidiary Jail Committee, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 7th June 1869, No. 343.

In continuation of our letter, dated the 16th April 1869, No. 322, we have the honour to submit the enclosed statements which exhibit—Statement A—the proposals made by us for the cutcherries, new subsidiary jails, and alterations to existing subsidiary jails required in every district of the Presidency.

2. The Government are aware that, during the progress of our inquiries, it became evident that, to ensure due supervision of the subsidiary jails by the Magistracy and economy of guarding prisoners, it was necessary that the new jails should be in close proximity to the cutcherries; and that in many cases it was necessary to provide new buildings for the use of the Subordinate Magistracy.

3. The deficient accommodation afforded to these officers, as is well known to Government, has been a crying want in this Presidency for many years. Many of the cutcherries have been found, on inquiry, to have been located in old and semi-ruinous native houses, totally unsuitable as public offices; in other cases, the Subordinate Magistracy have been for years holding their offices in hired buildings, and, where the accommodation was manifestly insufficient, an excuse has been afforded for all kinds of irregularities, such as office being held in temples, chuttrums, and in private houses.

4. These facts will explain how it has happened that the statements now forwarded embrace cutcherries required for the Subordinate Magistracy in addition to the proposals for subsidiary jail accommodation, which formed the primary object of our inquiry.

5. Statement A contains the whole of our recommendations, which have from time to time received the approval of Government.

6. These may be summarized as follows:—

One hundred and twenty-eight buildings, consisting of office accommodation for the Subordinate Magistrates and their necessary adjuncts subsidiary jails, at an estimated cost of Rupees 17,31,000, of which Rupees 5,30,500 represent the cost of the subsidiary jails attached to new cutcherries.

One hundred and sixteen subsidiary jails attached to the existing offices of the Magistrates, estimated to cost Rupees 5,80,000.

Eighty existing buildings, to which alterations and additions are required to render them suitable as places of confinement for prisoners. The cost of these alterations and additions is estimated at Rupees 2,50,000.

7. Thus it will be seen that, of a total cost of Rupees 25,61,000, the proportion of charge to be debited to cutcherries is Rupees 12,00,500, while the cost on account of subsidiary jails is represented by a sum of Rupees 13,60,500.

8. From accounts furnished us by the Department Public Works we learn that, of the grant of five lakhs made by the Government of India on account of subsidiary jails during 1868-69, under the order dated 30th October 1868, No. 3353, Financial Department, a sum of Rupees 4,49,751 has been expended prior to the close of the last official year.

The details of this expenditure are exhibited in Statement B.

9. We beg very respectfully to represent to the Government the urgency of providing a further sum of five lakhs of Rupees during the present official year to be appropriated to the completion of these buildings, which have been commenced and are so far advanced that any delay in their completion will entail a most serious loss from the deterioration which always occurs in this country to unfinished buildings.

10. It is not within our province to indicate the exact period during which the admitted evil of deficient jail and office accommodation can be remedied. It would be useless, where all are equally suffering from this deficiency, to select any particular districts upon which the expenditure should be concentrated. We can only venture to hope that the special expenditure on this object will not be less than five lakhs per annum. Even at this rate it will not be until the close of the official year 1872-73 that, on the present system, the subsidiary jail accommodation will be such as is required by the interests of humanity, and the Subordinate Magistracy be provided with such suitable offices as will secure regularity and decency in the discharge of their official duties.

11. As before stated, the cost of the subsidiary jails is Rupees 13,60,500, and these might be completed before any attempt to build cutcherries is made; but, on the other hand, this would in almost all cases necessitate the jails being separated temporarily from the Magisterial cutcherries, to the detriment of jail discipline and at a very serious increase of the cost of guarding the prisoners.

12. Under the plan proposed by us and sanctioned by the Government, the Police can guard both the Taluq treasuries and buildings and the subsidiary jails.

No. 110. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1869, No. 1000.

Ordered that copies of the foregoing report and the statements received with it be forwarded to the Government of India with the following letter.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 111. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 15th June 1869, No. 1001.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, the final reports of the Committee appointed in April 1867 to inquire and report upon the existing and required accommodation for prisoners undergoing short sentences in Subsidiary Jails throughout the Presidency, together with the order of this Government thereon.

Proceedings, 26th May 1869, Nos. 164 & 165.
" 15th June " " 109 & 110.

2. In my letter, No. 1031, dated 26th June 1868, the actual condition of the Jails in this Presidency classified as Central, District, and Subsidiary Jails, was fully described.

3. It was explained that whenever in any Taluq of a District new Taluq Cutcherries and Subsidiary Jails are necessary, these buildings would be constructed in a single block, both as securing economy in construction and because

it is very desirable that the Subsidiary Jails, which are ordinarily in charge of Taluq Magistrates, should be so placed as to be under their immediate supervision. Further by this arrangement there is a considerable saving in the cost of guarding prisoners by the Police, as the same guard answers for the Treasury Jail and Office.

4. With these objects in view the Committee have recommended plans of three different classes of Cutcherries and Subsidiary Jails which have been approved by His Excellency the Governor in Council, and adopted as standard designs for the various new buildings throughout the Presidency.

5. These plans I am directed to submit, and to state that their cost is respectively 20,000 Rupees, 7000 Rupees, and 5000 Rupees.

Standard Plan No. 1 exhibits the office of the Tahsildar of the Taluq. It will be observed that a treasury is required in these buildings, and that a considerable space is necessarily devoted to the safe custody of the records.

NOTE.—A Taluq in this Presidency represents an average revenue of 2,33,777 Rupees, an area of 654 square miles, and a population of 128,876 souls.

It is to this office that the entire remittances from the taluqs are made, and in this office the entire records of the taluq are kept.

It is owing to the expensive construction of these parts of the building to make them secure and defensible that the difference of cost between Standard No. 1 and Standard Nos. 2 and 3 is mainly attributable.

Standard No. 2 shows the Office and Subsidiary Jail under the immediate charge of a Deputy Tahsildar, an officer who, owing to the size of the taluqs in this Presidency, has always been maintained to divide the work with the Tahsildar.

The establishment of this officer is smaller, and as explained above his office contains no treasury, and only a small room for those current records which are necessary for the immediate despatch of business.

Standard No. 3, the Committee state, has been prepared at their request in order to lessen the expense of buildings for the Deputy Tahsildars at stations where the office establishments are small, and the prisoners in confinement are few in number.

6. The Committee last year with the information then before them, calculated that a sum of 20 lakhs would be sufficient to place the Subsidiary Jail accommodation throughout the Presidency in a satisfactory condition, and to provide new Cutcherries where these were most urgently necessary.

7. Under these circumstances, and as it had been found impossible to assign, in last year's budget, more than Rupees 5,46,560 to Jail works of all descriptions, a request was preferred by this Government for a special grant of five lakhs to be assigned to the construction of Subsidiary Jails where these were most urgently needed. This grant was sanctioned by the Government of India in their Proceedings, dated 30th October 1868, No. 3353, Financial Department.

8. I am to observe that, owing to the late date at which this sanction was received, the whole of the grant could not be expended; but it is creditable to the Officers of the Department of Public Works that they have been able to lay out Rupees 4,49,751 of the sanctioned amount on this class of jails.

9. The Committee have now completed their inquiries and presented a final report to Government, embracing not only the number and description of

buildings required, but also suggestions for the future management of the Subsidiary Jails and for their inspection. From the statements now furnished by the Committee it will be observed that, in their report of last year, they had somewhat under-estimated the cost of the required Cutcherries and Subsidiary Jails.

10. Their inquiries which are now complete show that, including the works already commenced, there will be required for the whole Presidency "128 buildings consisting of office accommodation for the Subordinate Magistrates and their necessary adjuncts Subsidiary Jails, at an estimated cost of Rupees 17,31,000, of which Rupees 5,30,500 represent the cost of the Subsidiary Jails attached to new Cutcherries. One hundred and sixteen Subsidiary Jails attached to the existing offices of the Magistrates, estimated to cost Rupees 5,80,000. Eighty existing buildings to which alterations and additions are required to render them suitable as places of confinement for prisoners. The cost of these alterations and additions is estimated at Rupees 2,50,000. Thus it will be seen that of a total cost of Rupees 25,61,000, the proportion of charge to be debited to Cutcherries is Rupees 12,00,500, while the cost on account of Subsidiary Jails is represented by a sum of Rupees 13,60,500."

11. The provision made in the budget for the current year for jails is Rupees 6,63,550, and of this amount Rupees 4,63,490 are devoted to new Central and District Jails now under construction, or to the improvement of existing Jails of these classes. The sum allotted to Cutcherries for the Subordinate Magistracy and for Subsidiary Jails is Rupees 1,00,460.

12. I am to explain that it was not possible to frame any such accurate estimate as is now submitted of the total cost involved in providing adequate Subsidiary Jail accommodation for the whole Presidency in sufficient time to obtain the sanction of the Government of India to a proportionate addition being made to the total amount allotted to this Presidency in the Public Works Budget of the current year, and it has thus been necessary to make this special application.

13. As pointed out by the Subsidiary Jail Committee, it will cause a very serious loss to the State if the buildings commenced from the special grant of five lakhs sanctioned last year should be allowed to remain in their present unfinished condition, and I am instructed by His Excellency the Governor in Council most earnestly to bring to the notice of the Government of India the emergent necessity which exists for the completion of these buildings.

14. As from the terms of the Circular, No. 32, Public Works Department, 11th May 1869, it appears that there are insuperable obstacles to any supplementary grant being made to the Budget assignment for public works, His Excellency in Council directs me to suggest that, in order to provide funds which, for the reasons detailed in this letter, are so absolutely necessary, this Government may be authorized to make the following transfer and re-appropriation of Budget allotments, namely, two lakhs from Repairs, Irrigational, to the head of Civil Buildings (Jails), and Rupees 75,000 from Item No. 74, Civil buildings, General Post-office, Madras, to Subsidiary Jails. I may add that the plan and estimate for the Post-office are not yet ready.

Jail

Civil Works

No 2137

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15. I am, however, to state that His Excellency in Council has recourse with regret to these expedients; but he considers that, important as is the improvement of the state of minor irrigation works, and great as would be the public convenience afforded by the erection of a new General Post-office, the necessity of completing the works in progress for affording adequate jail accommodation is still more pressing. His Excellency the Governor in Council would be happy to learn that these sacrifices will not be required, and that, without disturbing the general financial arrangements of the Government of India, it may be found practicable to provide in some other way for the completion of the prison accommodation which is so deficient in this Presidency.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No 6

No 2137

Brevet d'Invention

Vu et admis

Paris le 17 Mai 1793

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur

Vu et admis

Paris le 17 Mai 1793

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur

2613

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Controller of P. W accounts

&c, &c, &c

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 1st July 1869, No. 2137

Nos. 18 - 19

Report. Rev. Home dept on the final report of the Subsidiary Jail Committee, recorded -