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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>1097/1030</u>	Press Mis.
<u>216-218</u> Dated <u>13-6-</u> <u>18/0</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th April 1870*

No. 216. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer in charge of 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 8th March 1870, No. 5,903 —

In reply to the Order of Government, No. 289, dated 24th January 1870, calling upon me to report, after communication with the Inspector-General of Jails, whether it is practicable to carry out the suggestions of the Government of India regarding the modifications in the description of work proposed to be carried out at the Central Jail, Vellore, with a view to the saving of expense, I have the honour, after consultation with Colonel Wilson, to remark on the several points referred to in the Deputy Secretary's letter, as follows —

Paragraph 7.—The estimate allowed for fine plastering both inside and outside of all the buildings. The outside of the buildings as well as the enclosure and radial walls, however, have been rough plastered only and washed with colour, and the inside plastered. The Range Officer, Lieutenant Brockman, reports that the interiors of the rooms were so treated in order to keep them clean and remove vermin. It has not been usual hitherto in the North Arcot District to point the walls of buildings in lieu of plaster. The substitution of the one kind of work for the other, however, can be made, but I would recommend a better, and consequently a more expensive, description of brick being used.

Paragraph 8.—The locality in which the jail is built is so infested with white-ants that special precautions were required to be taken in laying the floors. The Inspector-General of Jails approves of a floor made of broken jelly and gravel, well rammed and washed with cow-dung, but when this was tried it was not successful. Square tiles were also laid down, but asphalt was substituted under the authority of Government Order, No. 39, dated 7th January 1869.

Paragraph 9.—The doors of the prison wards, but not of the hospitals, are iron revolving, with half batten and half-fixed venetian doors in addition. The latter were made of this design to give free ventilation, and did not add materially to the expense.

Paragraph 10.—When the buildings were commenced, with a view to economy in the roofing Lieutenant Brockman procured junglewood from Malabar, but it was found quite unsuitable for the work, and a large quantity was put on one side and not used. This I attribute, in a measure, to the want of proper selection, as Erool and Karamarathoo timber are used for building purposes largely on the Western Coast. A good quality, however, it appears was not procurable at the time, and the prices of the best kind of wood delivered at the jail work would not, I believe, have been so much below that of teak as to render its use desirable. A contract was also made with the Steam Saw Mills Company, but the timber supplied was of inferior quality. Subsequently, Government, in Order, No. 2,532, dated 6th August 1868, authorized teakwood for the whole of the roofing.

Paragraph 12.—The wall was built 13 feet high above the basement for the sake of security. Judging from the walls used as enclosures to prisons in the Presidency town, it cannot be considered unnecessarily high. The Madras Penitentiary wall is 20' 9" in height.

Paragraph 13 — Government, in Order, No 1,618, dated 17th May 1869, specially gave instructions for the substitution of iron railings for wooden palisading, on the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Jails, the Superintendent, and the Superintending Engineer. It will be better economy in the end to use this material, for the palisading will not last, and is apt to be destroyed by the prisoners. The substitution was approved of at other jails, and it was shown that the difference in cost was not more than 2,000 or 3,000 rupees.

Paragraph 14 — Convict labour has been employed as far as practicable, and an allowance of five per cent. on its account made in the estimate. The prisoners generally have not as yet been taught the trades of our artificers, but they have been largely employed on brick-making and brick laying. They are also engaged on Carpenters' and Blacksmiths' work, the latter employment enabling them to carry out the greater portion of the iron railings. Lieutenant Brockman reports that the cost of their work contrasts unfavourably with the departmental rates, but, on the other hand, Colonel Wilson informs me that the Superintendent's house at the Coimbatore Jail has been built by the prisoners below the ordinary cost, so that improvement in the amount of convict work turned out at Vellore may be looked for.

2. Though Government were anxious for the jail to be constructed as economically as possible, and expressed their views to this effect in Order, No 3,014, of the 19th September 1866, yet, owing to the difficulty of procuring inexpensive as well as good material, and to the prevalence of white-ants in the soil, it was absolutely necessary to go to further expense than was originally intended.

3. With the exception of the Police lines and Warders' quarters, the buildings and division walls are very nearly completed. The outlay up to the close of this Official year will amount to Rupees 2,81,000, leaving only Rupees 56,000 as the balance of the estimate to complete the Central Jail, out of which Rupees 40,000 have been provided for outlay in the Budget of 1870-71. Most of the work has been undertaken on contract, and the progress is in such a forward state that I cannot suggest any modifications whereby a saving may be effected in the estimate.

No. 217.

ORDER THEREON, 13th April 1870, No. 1,029.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 21.

ORDERED that this letter be forwarded to the Government of India.

(Here enter No 1,030, dated 13th April 1870.)

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Ed A S Rodgers.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST GEORGE, 13th April 1870

No. 218.

No 1,030.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CIVIL WORKS, No. 22.

SIR,—With reference to Colonel Crommelin's letter of the 29th November 1869, No. 708-B-C, communicating

the observations of the Government of India on the plans and estimates submitted with my letter dated 9th September 1869, No. 2,962, for a Central Jail at Vellore in the North Arcot District, I am directed to forward the accompanying communication from the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, containing explanations on the several points noticed by the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council.

2. It having been found that, owing to the nature of the climate and soil of this Presidency and to the prevalence of white ants, the use of mud in the construction of the walls of buildings intended to be permanent, although effecting a small saving of cost in the first place, leads to greatly-increased outlay in the end and prevents the work ever proving satisfactory to the occupants, this Government consider it advisable to use lime mortar in all such structures as jails.

3. As mud floors occasionally "leaped" over quickly become impregnated with unwholesome matters and are liable to harbour white ants and other noxious insects, the adoption of asphalt for flooring is an improvement which, in the opinion of this Government, more than compensates for its additional expense.

4. It is perhaps not absolutely necessary that the walls should be plastered, but they are less likely to hide vermin when so protected, and are more easily kept clean.

5. With a view to security and ventilation, the prison wards, but not the hospital, have been provided with revolving iron-barred doors, and, in addition, with wooden doors half-batten and half-venetian.

6. It was intended to employ cheap junglewood throughout the building, and a quantity of that description of timber was procured. It was, however, soon found that it was not well fitted for the purpose, and that its use would be false economy. Teak was accordingly substituted.

7. The latrine is on a plan which, after much consideration, has been adopted by this Government as, under all circumstances, the best that has yet been designed to give full effect to the sanitary system of conservancy which it is necessary strictly to enforce in connection with such assemblages of human beings as are congregated in Central Jails. The design is somewhat costly, but His Excellency the Governor in Council would regret to depart from it till a more suitable one at a smaller cost is prepared.

8 As the difference of cost between iron and wooden railings was shown to be only some Rupees 3,000, while there is no question of the superiority of the former in all respects, this Government sanctioned their substitution for the latter

9 The enclosure-wall, though originally intended to be 15 feet above the basement, has only been built to a height of 13 feet.

10 Convict labour has been largely utilized on brick-making and, to some extent, on brick-laying, as well as on Carpenters' and Blacksmiths' work. The Government regret that their earnest desire to employ convict labour to a greater extent has not up to the present time been realized, but this is a point to which the attention of Government and of the executive officers will be particularly directed in future

11. The remarks of the Government of India as to the necessity of increasing the number of solitary cells are under consideration in the Judicial Department

12. The total expenditure on the Jail up to the end of the current Official year is computed at Rupees 2,81,000, leaving Rupees 56,500 to complete the building. The provision made in the Budget of 1870-71 is Rupees 40,000

13. Under these explanations, and seeing that, in the opinion of this Government, the estimated cost of the Jail is not susceptible of any material reduction, I am directed to re-submit the plans and estimates and to request the sanction of the Government of India to the proposed outlay which amounts to Rupees 3,37,500 inclusive of the charges entered in the estimate for the salaries of the permanent Superintendent of the Jail and of the Medical Officer in charge, as well as for the cost of the Police guard over convicts employed on the work.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. A S. Rodgers

Sup. Engrs Office 4th Div.
No. 5903. Madras 8th March 1870

From,

Lieut. Colonel J. Bean R.E.
Superintending Engineer in ch. 4th Div.

To, Colonel L. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government P. W. Dep^t
Fort Saint George

Sir,

In reply to the Order of Government No. 289 dated 24th January 1870, calling upon me to report, after communication with the Inspector General of Jails, whether it is practicable to carry out the suggestions of the Government of India regarding the modifications in the description of work proposed to be carried out at the Central Jail Vellore, with a view to the saving of expense, I have the honor, after consultation with Colonel Wilson, to remark on the several points referred to in the Deputy Secretary's letter, as follows. Paragraph 7. The estimate allowed for fine plastering both inside and outside of all the buildings. The outside of the buildings as

as well as the enclosure and radial walls, however, have been rough plastered only, and washed with colour, and the inside plastered. The Range Officer Lieutenant Brockman reports that the interiors of the rooms were so treated in order to keep them clean and remove vermin. It has not been usual hitherto in the North Arcot District to point the walls of buildings in lieu of plaster.

The substitution of the one kind of work for the other, however, can be made, but I would recommend a better, and consequently, a more expensive, description of brick being used.

Paragraph 8. The locality in which the jail is built is so infested with white ants that special precautions were required to be taken in laying the floors. The Inspector General of Jails approves of a floor made of broken jelly and gravel well rammed and washed with cowdung, but when this was tried, it was not successful. Square tiles were also laid down, but asphaltic was substituted under the authority of Government Order No. 39, dated 7th January 1869.

Paragraph 9. The doors of the prison wards, but not of the Hospitals, are iron revolving,

with half batten and half fixed venetian doors in addition. The latter were made of this design to give free ventilation and did not add materially to the expense.

Paragraph 10. When the buildings were commenced, with a view to economy in the roofing, Lieutenant Brockman procured jungle wood from Malabar, but it was found quite unsuitable for the work, and a large quantity was put on one side and not used. This I attribute, in a measure, to the want of proper selection, as Erool and Kairamarathoo timber are used for building purposes largely in the western coast. If good quality, however, it appears, was not procurable at the time, and the prices of the best kind of wood delivered at the jail work would not, I believe, have been so much below that of Teak as to render its use desirable. A contract was also made with the Steam Saw Mill Company, but the timber supplied was of inferior quality. Subsequently, Government in Order No. 2532 dated 6th August 1868, authorized teakwood for the whole of the roofing.

Paragraph

Paragraph 12. The wall was built 13 feet high above the basement for the sake of security. Judging from the walls used as enclosures to Prisons in the Presidency town, it cannot be considered unnecessarily high. The Madras Penitentiary wall is 20' 9" in height.

Paragraph 13. Government in Order No. 1618 dated 17th May 1869 especially gave instructions for the substitution of iron railings for wooden palisading, on the recommendation of the Inspector General of Jails, the Superintendent, and the Superintending Engineer. It will be better economy, in the end, to use this material, for the palisading will not last, and is apt to be destroyed by the prisoners. The substitution was approved of at other jails, and it was shown that the difference in cost was not more than two or three thousand Rupees.

Paragraph 14. Convict labour has been employed as far as practicable, and an allowance of 5 per cent on its account made in the estimate. The Prisoners generally have not as yet been taught the

the trades of our artificers, but they have been largely employed in brick making and brick laying. They are also engaged in carpenters and black smiths work, the latter employment enabling them to carry out the greater portion of the iron railings. Lieutenant Brockman reports that the cost of their work contrasts unfavorably with the departmental rates, but, on the other hand, Colonel Wilson informs me that the Superintendent's house at the Coimbatore Jail has been built by the prisoners below the ordinary cost, so that improvement in the amount of convict work turned out at Vellore may be looked for.

2 Though Government were anxious for the Jail to be constructed as economically as possible, and expressed their views to this effect in Order No. 3014 of the 19th September 1866, yet, owing to the difficulty of procuring inexpensive as well as good material, and to the prevalence of white ants in the soil, it was absolutely necessary to go to further expense than was originally intended.

With

3
With the exception of the Police
lines and Warders quarters, the buildings and
division walls are very nearly completed.
The outlay up to the close of this official
year will amount to Rupees 28,000, leaving
only Rupees 56,000 as the balance of the
estimate to complete the Central Jail out-
of which Rupees 40,000 have been provided
for outlay in the Budget of 1870/71. Most
of the work has been undertaken on
contract, and the progress is in such a
forward state that I cannot suggest
any modifications whereby a saving
may be effected in the estimate.

I have the honor to be

Sir
Your most obedient servant

W. H. Mearns

Supy. Engr. in Ch. 4th Div.

P. W. Department
No. 1023.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 13th April 1900.
Read the following.

From Lieut. Col. Bean P. O. { H. E. No. 5403 of 8th March 1870 /
Superintg. Engineer in Ch. S. S.

Ordered that this letter
be forwarded to the Govt. of
India
H. E. No. 1030 of 13th April 1900
To
The Secretary to the Govt.
of India

Sir
In reference to Col.
Crommelin's letter of the 29th
November 1869 No. 708 B. C.
communicating the observa-
tions of the Govt. of India
on the plans and estimates

From Lieut. Col. Bean P. O.
Superintg. Engineer in Ch. S. S.

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.
Madras

Dated 8th March 1870.
No. 5403

Remarking on the

several points referred to
in the letter from the Deputy
Secretary to the Government
of India Public Works
Department regarding the
modifications in the des-
-cription of work proposed
to be carried out at the
Central Jail, Madras, in the
view to the saving of expense.
No. 10295 of 13th April 1900

216

218 March 1870

submitted with my letter
dated 9th September 1899
No 2962 for a Central Jail
at Villour in the North.

Prisot Dick. I am directed to send you
to forward the accompa-

nying communication
from the Lupton of
the 4th containing
explanations on the several
points noticed by the
Right Honourable the Gov.
General in Council.

It having been
found that owing to
the nature of the climate
and soil of this Presi-
dency, and to the prevalence
of

of white ants, the use of
mud in the construction
of the walls of buildings
intended to be perma-
nent, although effecting
a small saving of cost
in the first place, is
greatly increased
in the end, and
prevents the work ever
proving satisfactory
to the occupants, this
Govt considers it advi-
sable to see time mor-
tar in all such struc-
tures as jails.
As mud floors
occasionally keep
fair quickly become

impregnated with
unwholesome matters
and are liable to harbour
white ants and other
noxious insects, the
adoption of asphalt
for flooring is an improve-
ment which in the opinion

of this Govt more than
compensates for its
additional expense.

It is perhaps not
absolutely necessary
that the walls should
be plastered, but they
are less likely to hide
vermin when so protected,
and are more easily

kept clean. 15
With a view to security
and ventilation the prison
wards, but not the hospital,
have been provided with
revolving iron-barred doors,
and in addition with
wooden doors half battened
and half venetian.

It was intended
to employ cheap
jungle wood throughout
the building, and a quan-
tity of that description
of timber was procured.
It was, however, soon
found that it was not
well fitted for the pur-
pose, and that its use

would be false economy.
The design was accordingly
substituted.

The Latrine is on
a plan which after
much consideration has
been adopted by the
Govt. as, under all cir-
-cumstances, the best
that has yet been de-
-signed to give full
effect to the sanitary
system of condormancy,
which it is necessary
strictly to enforce in
connection with such
assemblies of human
beings as are congregated

in Central jails. The design
is somewhat costly, but
His Excellency the Govt. in
Council would regret to
depart from it till a
more suitable one at
a similar cost is prepared.
As the difference of
cost between iron and
wooden railings was
shown to be only some
Rs 3,000, while there is no
question of the superio-
-rity of the former in
all respects, the Govt.
sanctioned their sub-
-stitution for the latter.

The inclosure wall,
tho' originally intended
to be 15 feet above the

basement, has only been built to a height of 13 feet.

Convict labor has been largely utilized on brick-making and to some extent on brick-laying, as well as on Carpenter's and Black

Smith's work. (British has not been found either practically or economically to employ exclusively.)

The remarks of the Govt of India as to the necessity of increasing the number of solitary cells are under consideration in the Judd Dept.

The total expenditure on the jail up to the end of the current

I would say. -

The Govt. regret that their earnest desire to employ convict-labor

to a greater extent has not up to the present time been realized but this

is a point to which

the attention of Govt. and of the execution officers will be particularly

devoted in future

official year is completed at Rs. 2,81,000, leaving Rs. 6,500 to complete the building. The provision made in the Budget of 1870/71 is Rs. 4,000.

Under these explanations and seeing that in the opinion of the Govt. the estimated cost of the jail is not susceptible of any

material reduction,

I am directed to present

the plans and estimates,

and to request

the sanction of the Govt.

For the Govt. of India
Secretary to the Govt.
Judd Department

of India to the proposed
outlay which amounts
to Rs 3,37,500 inclusive
of the charges entered
in the estimate for
the salaries of the per-
-manent Superintendent
of the jail and of the
medical officers in
charge as well as for
the cost of the Police guard
over convicts employed
on the work.

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Recd: 20/6/70 into 18 plan
1 estimate & one specific em-
-ment into Ch₂ 5131 of 1869 & a
Copy of G.O. 1029 of 1870.

Re to present the
Part of S. with 6. 1372-22 June 70
Gwinto S. Meocar
19/10/70 -
Gwinto

110
Plant. from 2/4/73

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[Faint handwritten notes]

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Secretary to the
Govt of India

Dated

10th

1870

G O 13-4 April 1870 Nos 1029 & 1030

Nos 216-217 & 218

(Copy)
 Vellore Central Jail. Copying
 orders on a letter from the
 Secy: Genl of the Prison
 Department, with reference
 to remarks by the Govt of
 India, the plans & estimates
 for the Vellore Central Jail
 in the S. Arcot District.

(Letter)
 Vellore Central Jail. Re-
 submitting, with reference
 to remarks by the Government
 of India, the designs &
 estimates for the Central
 Jail at Vellore in the North
 Arcot District.