M.R.O. 1—77,006—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2557 Press ~~Misc.~~

112-13

Dated 7-10- 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 112. Read the following Endorsement of the Public Department, dated Ootacamund, 18th September 1871:—

From the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Inspector-General of Jails, Ootacamund, dated Bangalore, 8th September 1871, No. 41.

I HAVE the honour to suggest, for your consideration, that before the buildings of the Vellore Central Jail are handed over by the Public Works Department, it is very essential that something should be done to improve the surface drainage of the enclosed area.

2. I visited the jail on Monday, the 4th instant, two days after an unusually heavy and rapid fall of rain. The lower part of the ground on which the female enclosure stands had evidently been for some time under water, and the flood-marks against the outer wall showed that the water must have stood rather more than two feet high in the lower part of the ground. The flood had covered the floors of the cook-room and latrine of the female enclosure.

3. It is very evident that the grated openings in the enclosing wall are insufficient in size and number to carry off flood-waters falling within the jail area. On the present occasion it is stated that two inches of rain fell in a very short space of time. If the fall had been prolonged, at the same rapid rate of fall, it is evident that the stability of the jail wall in the lower part of the ground might have been endangered.

4. It does not appear to me that the surface drainage arrangements of this jail have ever been considered on a definite plan. There are no shallow surface drains to catch the water falling from the roofs of the hospital and barrack blocks. To ensure dryness of the basements of the buildings, I think it is essential that these should be constructed, and that the drainage of the whole enclosed area should be now carefully designed and executed.

5. I observe that no provision has been made in the barrack blocks for the washing of the asphalted flooring. Small openings beneath the door sills for the escape of water should be provided.

6. The large latrine is not used for the purpose for which it was built.

The yard latrines are quite sufficient for every purpose. All that I have to suggest in regard to these is that they should be provided with simple roofs, so that dry conservancy might be at all times practicable in them.

7. The receptacles for night soil within the barracks are kept very clean, but the arrangement of having such places in sleeping barracks is one that I do not approve of. I think it is much to be regretted that night latrines were not built off from the sleeping rooms, both on the score of health and decency.

8. A small latrine is required for the Police lines.

9. I have to express my satisfaction with the general sanitary condition of the jail and prisoners. The buildings are kept in admirable order. The prisoners generally are healthy and well cared for, and the food supplies I found all of good quality, and well cooked.

There has, I am informed, been a slight tendency to scurvy in a few of the prisoners. The extension of the jail garden, and the regular supply of green vegetables, will, I have no doubt, tend to counteract this disposition to disease.

10. I would, in conclusion, beg to point out that the decision of Government in No. 1,040, of 4th August 1871, (Judicial Department,) had not been communicated to the Superintendent at the time of my visit. No entry was made by me, therefore, in the official visitor's book. As I am about to make a tour to the Western Coast, where several jails fall to be inspected, may I beg that you will issue the necessary instructions to the Superintendents of Jails.

FORWARDED for the information of Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

REFERRED to the Department of Public Works.

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

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1871, No. 2,557.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, who will, after personal inspection, submit the necessary estimate for the improvement of the surface drainage of the jail and for carrying out the other works suggested in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
,, Public Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

3

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

No.

Madras, 18

From

Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

To

SIR,

Enclosures.

No 2555/71

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 4th Dn., who will, after personal inspection, submit the necessary estimate for the improvement of the surface drainage of the Jail and for carrying out the other works suggested in Paras 5 & 6 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter.

21 Sept

To
S. Engr 4 Dn
Public Depts
Desp 9/10/71

No 2555/71 Dated Nov 21 1871

Superintending Engineer
4th Circle

Executive Engineer
Public Works Dept
Trichinopoly

Sir

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a letter from the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government, No 4163 dated 14th September 1871 (Received 20th ditto) and to request that you will submit the necessary estimate for the improvement of the surface drainage of the Jail and for carrying out the other works suggested in Paras 5 & 6 of the Sanitary Commissioner's letter.

I am
Sir
Your most obedient
Servant
[illegible]
18 Sept 1871

No 112

C- No-4637.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Superintending Engr.
4th Division

Dated

Read. Encl.

G. O., } Oct. 1871. No. 2557.

Nos. 112 & 113

Vellore Central Jail
South Arcot-

Copy Rep
Le. Du called upon to
submit an estimate for the
improvement of the surface
drainage of the Jail &c