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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public works* DEPARTMENT.

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| G.O. No. 2232.   | Press |
| 281-282.         | Mis.  |
| Dated 20-9-1872. |       |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
20th September 1872.*

No. 281.

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department.

Sanctioning plan and estimate for the erection of four wards in the vicinity of the new Jail at Madura for the accommodation of Civil Debtors, and authorizing the Accountant-General to transfer the sum of Rupees 4,360 to the Public Works Department for the early execution of the work. (Here enter No. 1,143, dated 21st August 1872).

**MEMORANDUM.**

THE Chief Engineer of the Department Public Works has the honour to intimate his opinion that the dimensions of the buildings for accommodation of Civil Debtors at Madura, sanctioned in G. O. of the Judicial Department, No. 1,143 of 21st August, are such as to require the use of brick-in-chunam walls, and of four tie-beams in each ward instead of two.

2. He accordingly recommends an increase to the estimate for each ward of Rupees 260, and of the total charge to Rupees 5,400.

OOTACAMUND,  
18th September 1872.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,  
Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

No. 282.

ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1872, No. 2,232.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 19.

In accordance with the Chief Engineer's recommendation, His Excellency the Governor in Council revises the sanction accorded in the Judicial Department, involving an additional transfer of Rupees 1,040 to the credit of the Public Works Department from the balance available from Provincial Funds.

2. The Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division will proceed with the work at once.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, with seven Enclosures.  
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.  
,, Judicial Department.  
,, Financial do.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,  
21st August 1872.*

Read the following papers: —

No. 105. From the Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 15th June 1872; No. 126.

In December 1869 the convicts, the under-trial prisoners, and insanes confined in the old Jail in the town of Madura were removed into the new Jail outside, but the civil debtors remained in the old Jail, and that class of prisoners is still confined therein. The accommodation is ample; but, the town being subject to periodical visitations of cholera, the inmates of the Jail generally suffer. During

1870 six\* deaths occurred therein, viz., four from cholera and one from diarrhoea. During 1871 there were two deaths, viz., one from cholera and one from diarrhoea. The following statement shows the death-rates in each Jail during 1870 and 1871:—

| New Jail. |                         |                   |                 | Old Jail.               |                   |                 |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Years.    | Daily average strength. | Number of deaths. | Ratio per cent. | Daily average strength. | Number of deaths. | Ratio per cent. |
| 1870      | 181.99                  | 6                 | 3.29            | 47.16                   | 5                 | 10.60           |
| 1871      | 217.16                  | 1                 | .46             | 39.59                   | 2                 | 5.05            |

The Officer in medical charge is of opinion that it is very desirable to remove the debtors to the new Jail on sanitary grounds, and in support of that opinion he contrasts the death-rates in the old Jail with those in the new. These rates are shown in the subjoined table:—

| Jails.    | Years. | Daily average strength. | Number of deaths. | Ratio per cent. | Remarks.           |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Old Jail. | 1863   | 234.75                  | 73                | 31.09           | In huts this year. |
|           | 1864   | 259.50                  | 62                | 23.88           |                    |
|           | 1865   | 201.00                  | 25                | 12.43           |                    |
|           | 1866   | 254.50                  | 25                | 9.82            |                    |
|           | 1867   | 463.50                  | 10                | 2.15            |                    |
|           | 1868   | 420.34                  | 9                 | 2.14            |                    |
| New Jail. | 1869   | 252.03                  | 3                 | 1.19            |                    |
|           | 1870   | 181.99                  | 6                 | 3.29            |                    |
|           | 1871   | 217.16                  | 1                 | 0.46            |                    |

I do not think that this improvement can be attributed exclusively to the change in the location of the prisoners, inasmuch as better food, better clothing, and increased attention to sanitation had in 1867-68 commenced to operate beneficially on the health of the jail population generally to a considerable extent, and to these causes the improvement at Madura must be ascribed in some degree. Still it must be admitted that the old Jail is comparatively unhealthy, and I therefore recommend that it should be given up as a place of confinement for debtors, and that accommodation for this class may be provided in the new Jail, unless there is a prospect of the abolition of imprisonment for debt.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,*  
*21st August 1872.*

2. The accommodation at the new Jail being no more than sufficient for the other classes of prisoners, it will be necessary to build wards for the debtors, should it be determined to remove them from the old Jail. Two proposals have been made, viz., one to extend and to adapt the present latrine at a probable cost of Rupees 6,820, the other to build a block or blocks capable of containing 79 persons outside the Jail at a cost of about Rupees 10,500. This last proposal is in my opinion the better in every respect. The latrine having been in use for some years and being low in the roof it cannot be satisfactorily converted into wards; and, with so large a number of debtors as there always has been at Madura, it is advisable to have them located outside the walls of the criminal prison. The number fluctuates so much that it is not easy to determine for how many provision ought to be made, but I think it will be safe to provide for 70 or 80, although the number during 1871 fell considerably below those figures. A statement showing the highest and lowest number during each month from 1869 to 1871 inclusive is enclosed.

3. The expense might be considerably reduced if the debtors were housed in huts of a similar character to those in which the prisoners were located when the Jail was being built, except that they should be tiled instead of being thatched, and that a sufficient basement should be given. Such buildings might be kept in repair by convict labour, and would I think be sufficiently good for the purpose.

4. Two approximate estimates and the ground plan of the Jail are enclosed, the preparation of regular plans and estimates being deferred pending the orders of Government.

No. 106. From the Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 5th August 1872, No. 143.

With reference to Official Memorandum in the Judicial Department, No. 185, dated 20th June, I have the honour to forward a letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, together with a plan and estimate for building a ward for debtors at a probable cost of Rupees 1,090.

2. A basement of one foot has been given, and the space allowed per man is 40 superficial and 600 cubic feet, in conformity with the standard for convicts. The necessity of providing this space, and the substitution of tiles for thatch, has enhanced the supposed cost considerably; and, as four wards of the size shown in the plan will be required, the difference between the estimate for building accommodation of this description and the estimate of the Superintending Engineer is not great. Such being the case, I beg to recommend that, should it be decided to locate the debtors at the new Jail, the Superintending Engineer may be instructed to prepare plans and estimates with reference to the approximate estimates submitted with my letter, No. 126, dated 15th June.

No. 107. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1872, No. 1143.

The Governor in Council approves of the erection of four wards in the vicinity of the new Jail at Madura for the accommodation of civil debtors, and sanctions the plan and estimate submitted with the second of the letters above recorded.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,*  
*21st August 1872.*

2. The cost of four wards will, according to the estimate, amount to Rupees 4,360. The Accountant-General is authorized to transfer this amount to the Public Works Department from the balance available under Provincial Funds. Orders will be issued in that Department for the early erection of the wards.

(True Extract.)

*Acting Under Secy. to Govt.*

To the Inspector-General of Jails.  
" Accountant-General.  
" Public Works Department, with seven enclosures.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Memorandum

113 2

The Chief Engineer Department Public Works has the honor to intimate his opinion that the dimensions of the buildings for accommodation of Civil Debtors at Madura, sanctioned in G.O. of the Judicial Department, No. 1143 of 21<sup>st</sup> August are such as to require the use of Brick in Chunnam walls, and of 4 Tiebeams in each ward instead of two.

He accordingly recommends an increase to the estimate for each ward of Rs. 200, and of the total charge to Rs. 5400.

Signed / G. W. Walker Col. & E.  
Chief Engineer D. P. W.

Notagandum  
18<sup>th</sup> September 1872

P. H. 1872 Madras.  
Chief Engineer  
Govt. of Madras.  
JUDICIAL.  
No. 4201.

To  
THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF JAILS,  
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Recd. — 30<sup>th</sup> — 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.  
G. O., 21<sup>st</sup> August 1872, No. 1143.

Print into  
Ms. No. 105-107.  
AUGUST.

Approving of the erection of four wards in the vicinity of the new Jail at Madura for the accommodation of civil debtors, and sanctioning the plan and estimate submitted.

Communicated to the  
Supty. Eng. of the Division with the  
arrangements for carrying out the work as  
early as practicable.

A. P. Smith, Madras.  
Engr. to the Division.

No 286

113 2

No 2232-20  
113 2

N: 2232 Public Works Deptt.

Pr: of the Madras Govt.

Read the following

Pr: of the Madras Govt.

in the Judicial Deptt.

Sanctioning plan and the provision

of four wards in the vicinity of  
the new jail at Madras for the  
accommodation of civil debtors  
and authorizing the Accountant  
General to transfer the sum of  
Rs 4350 to the P.W. Deptt. for the  
early execution of the work.

H.C. No 1143 } 21<sup>st</sup> Augt / 72

In accordance  
with the Chief Engi-  
-neer's recommenda-  
-tion His Excellency  
the Governor in  
Council revises  
the sanction ac-  
-corded in the  
Judicial Departt.,  
involving an addi-  
-tional transfer  
of Rs 1040 to the  
credit of the Public

A. A.  
J. S.

Works Department  
from the balance  
available from  
Provincial Funds.

The Super Engineer  
8<sup>th</sup> Division will  
proceed with the  
work at once.

Y.M.W.

18/9/72

50

S. Engr. 8<sup>th</sup> Div. with 7 Engrs.  
Controller ✓  
Genl. Secy ✓  
Finl. Dept ✓

Desp 25/9/72

CP-4201

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engineer

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 20 Sept 72, No. 2252.

Nos. 282 & 282

New Jail at Madras. Re-

viewing sanction awarded  
in the Judicial Dept for  
the transfer of funds  
required for the erection  
of wards in the vicinity  
of the new Jail at  
Madras for the ac-  
commodation of civil  
debtors and directing the  
prosecution of the work  
at once.