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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1283	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.---
Dated	12-5-	1874 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th May 1874.*

No. 292. Read the following endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 20th April 1874:—
From W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Honourable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camp at Palmanair, 16th April 1874, No. 26.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of the Acting Joint Magistrate's letter, No. 120, dated the 2nd instant, for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. I quite agree with Mr. Rice in his remarks as to the defects of the railing of the doorways of the new sub-jail, and when it was originally under consideration, I pointed it out to the Consulting Architect and also to the late Superintending Engineer Colonel Moberly. Recently also in the case of the new sub-jail at Arcot, I have addressed the District Engineer on the same subject.

3. As regards Mr. Rice's observations, with reference to the buckets provided for night use by the prisoners, I do not agree with him. A latrine has been provided close by for use during the day and evening, and the prisoners are taken to it at proper intervals. During the night the tarred buckets, I think, answer the required purpose as well as is possible under the circumstances. It would not be advisable to resort to the old system of having the latrines adjoining or opening into the cells; for then, in spite of every effort, the building would be gradually polluted with the prisoners' evacuations, or tainted with an unhealthy smell. There is a super-abundance of fresh air in the cells, and the buckets can be covered in with a lid, and that done I do not think further improvements are called for.

From R. RICE, Esq., Acting Joint Magistrate, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot, dated Camp at Chittoor, 2nd April 1874, No. 120.

WHEN visiting the Subsidiary jail at Chittoor a few mornings ago, it occurred to me, and I remarked in the visitors' book, that the railings of the cell gates were not sufficiently strong or close to prevent the possibility of the escape of prisoners confined therein, a possibility which was actually demonstrated in my experience a short time ago in the case of the new sub-jail at Pulludum of similar construction to that at Chittoor, where two prisoners actually squeezed through between the bars and escaped. This danger seems to have been noticed here also, as I observed that a staple or tie had been added securing the last bar (between which and the wall there was the greatest space, and consequently the greater facility for escape) more firmly with the wall; but, in my judgment, the security is still insufficient and this has been brought more forcibly to my notice just now when there is a large body of prisoners (the Lubbay rioters from Amborey) numbering 68 confined in this jail, and who being powerful and determined men might easily, if minded, "burst their bars and walk forth free," at least for a time.

2. As many sub-jails are being built in different districts on a similar plan, and presumably with similar defects, I think it would be well to call the attention of Government to the subject in view to such notice being taken of it as they may deem proper.

3. While on this subject, I would wish also to call attention to the, what I consider to be, very objectionable arrangements in these jails for night requirements.

4. These consist of tarred buckets and common chatties which are placed in and kept in the cells all night, and as I need hardly remark when these are made use of by a number of prisoners in the same cell (as in the case of the Lubbay prisoners above referred to) the consequences are to, say the least, most disagreeable; and not only so, but in some instances the prisoners object to make use of them, and prefer rather to squat on the floor of the cell, as actually occurred the other day in the case of two females who were confined in one of the cells of this jail.

W. S. Whiteside
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
12th May 1874

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th May 1874.

5. I think that without taxing the ingenuity of the Department Public Works over-much, some arrangement or plan might be devised, which, without detracting from the ornamental appearance of these jails, might serve the very useful and, I would submit, very desirable purpose of obviating the disagreeable state of things referred to.

REFERRED, through the Public Works Department, to the Consulting Architect for report, on the defects adverted to in the railing of the doorways in the new Subsidiary Jail.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 293. ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1874, No. 1,253.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 35.

The Government having authorized in G. O., No. 2,309, dated 18th September 1873, any necessary alteration in the iron bars of sub-jail doors, the District Engineer, North Arcot, will arrange for remedying any defects of original construction in the doorways of the new sub-jail at Chittoor.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
Judicial Department, with G. O., No. 2,309, dated 18th September 1873.
Consulting Architect.
Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ed. F. O. Shanks,
Stamp Copy.

1283

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the

187

Read the following :-

From the Magistrate at Chittoor } (H.L. No. 26, 7, 16 April 1874)
Through the Public Works Dept.

The Government
having authorized
in G. O. No. 2309 dated
18th September 1873 any
necessary alteration
in the iron bars of
sub-jail doors, the
District Engineer
North Arcot will
arrange for remedying
any defects of original
construction in the
doorways of the
new sub-jail at Chittoor.

MS
seen

Ed. F. O. Shanks
Stamp Copy
10/10/1874
C. W. Shanks
10/10/1874

2397
Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Dist. Engr.
North Arcot.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. /

G. O. 12 May 1874. No. 1288

No. 292-293

Sub. sub.

The District Engineer
North Arcot requested to
arrange for remedying
any defects of original
construction in the
saps of the new sub
rail at Chittoor in the
North Arcot District.

292-293