Archives I 10,006 16-8 77.

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. A292 W
B.P. No.
Press.
Mis.

Dated 7. 11. 1875 ~~197~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

4292/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

7th November 1878, No. 4,292 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following papers:—

No. 109. Endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Ootacamund, 16th October 1878, No. 1,912.

From Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 14th October 1878, No. 206.

ADVERTING to Judicial Order No. 2,481, of the 18th October 1877, I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that during my recent visit to Madras I inspected the works at the Senate House on which convict labor has been employed during the last ten months, and being dissatisfied with the manner in which the convicts were worked, I called upon the Superintendent of Prisons for the Town of Madras for a statement showing the total number of convicts employed and the amount of work actually performed; I moreover several times visited the gangs at labor and had opportunities of judging how utterly destructive of discipline the present arrangements are and how prison labor has been wasted.

2. The distance from the beach whence the soil is moved to the tank is about 550 yards. The prisoners put a little sand into their baskets, probably not more than 30 or 35 lbs., and carry it on their heads a distance of about 550 yards, returning the same distance to refill their baskets. In this way each prisoner travels a distance of about two-thirds of a mile to deposit some 30 lbs. of sand. The actual outturn of work up to the 1st of October is shown in the statement furnished by the Consulting Architect to Government which accompanies the report of the Superintendent of Prisons herewith forwarded.

No. 1,110, dated 12th October 1878.

3. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the prison labor power placed at the disposal of the Engineer and Government Architect has not been paid for. If these authorities had to pay for the labor they would probably have taken some steps to insure its economical distribution, but they have not thought it prudent to provide a single wheel-barrow or truck or any arrangement even for handing baskets rapidly from one man to another and passing the empty baskets underneath, and as a consequence the labor power placed at their disposal has been almost entirely wasted. From first to last there have been 25,251 convicts employed; allowing 1 Anna 9 Pies per head the cost of this labor has been upwards of Rupees 2,760 exclusive of the cost of the Police guard.

4. But the most serious part of this want of proper arrangement and supervision is the bad effect on prison discipline. It is but little use our endeavoring to introduce a more severe system of prison discipline into our jails if gangs of convicts are worked outside the walls without supervision, without task work, and with little or no care taken to economise labor. If the supply of convicts without payment is to be continued, I think the Engineer authorities should be directed to take some steps to insure the more economical distribution of the labor and that the services of an efficient Work Overseer should be obtained to supervise the work done by the

convicts. Moreover the Superintendent of Prisons ought to be furnished with a weekly statement showing the amount and nature of the work performed.

From the Superintendent of Prisons for the Town of Madras, to the Inspector-General of Jails, dated Madras, 12th October 1878, No. 1,110.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5,310, dated 10th instant.

2. I beg to annex a statement of the work of the Senate House gang furnished by the Consulting Architect to Government. This statement is a bare record of the quantity of work actually performed, and makes no allowance for the distances traversed, &c. There was no proper interested supervision of the work such as would have been provided had the work been paid for; however so, after all due deductions, it must be admitted there has been a scandalous waste of prison labor. The total number of convicts employed from first to last was 25,251.

3. I have taken steps for the supervision of the prisoners now employed at Government House and on the new jail quarters, but this is comparatively easy, the scene of labor being in each case with a reasonable distance from the Penitentiary.

MEMORANDUM showing the Quantity and Nature of Works executed by the Convicts at the Senate House, Chepauk, up to the 1st October 1878.

1st.—Filling in tank with sea sand	4,914 c. yards.
2nd.—Widening road on the east face by earth from the compound near the railing	661 do.
3rd.—Filling in the pit so caused and also a saw-pit at the same spot by sea sand	826 do.
4th.—Removing rubbish and clearing away the earth, &c., from the cells or lower rooms below the big hall ...	7 days.
5th.—Cleaning compound at the time of convocation and collecting stones	7 do.

(Signed) M. GOOROOSAWMY,
Overseer, P.W.D.

CHEPAUK,
2nd October 1878.

(Signed) R. F. CHISHOLM,
Consg. Archt. to Govt.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for issue of the requisite orders.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 109-A. From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated Chepauk, 22nd October 1878, No. 410.

WITH reference to your memorandum No. 4,698, dated 18th of October 1878, I have the honor to state that I addressed the Superintendent of Jails, Madras, on the 18th September as follows:—

"I cannot dispense with the convict labor till the tank is filled, and being convict labor, I do not see how I can assist in the supervision. I have noticed myself the extraordinary snail's pace at which the men move, and was told it was in consequence of the fetters impeding their movements. I would suggest placing the men four feet apart and handing the baskets rapidly from one to the other, passing the empty ones underneath, allowing ten men for filling the work, could be reached in one lead of 500 feet, and allowing half a cubic foot for a basket and ten passed every minute in a working day of six hours we have as effective work per day 6 × 60 × 10 = 3,600 cubic feet or 133 cubic yards. As the tank requires about 15,000 cubic yards of filling the work will be completed in about 120 days."

2. I have measured the work executed and promised weekly returns and all other assistance in my power; but as the convicts are in charge of a Serjeant who acts under the Superintendent of Jails, I have no power or authority over them in any way, and until lately no one at any time connected with the Jail Department asked for any assistance, nor do I know now what is expected of me.

4292/2

No. 110. ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1878, No. 4,292 W.

THE foregoing letter from the Consulting Architect will be communicated to the Inspector-General of Jails through the Judicial Department; and the Superintendent of Madras Prisons will be instructed to inform the Consulting Architect exactly what is required, so as to ensure proper supervision and economy of labor.

2. The Consulting Architect is also directed to communicate with the Superintendent of Prisons on this matter and to provide, at the cost of the works, such supervision as may be needed to obviate waste of labor and indiscipline.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Judicial Department.
„ Consulting Architect.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of [1878] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 7th

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 7th November 1878, No. 4,232 W.

NOVEMBER.
Nos 109 110.

Senate House, Madras.—Passing orders on papers regarding the adoption of better arrangements in connection with the convict labor employed on the——

No 206

Ootacamund 14th October 1878

From

Lt Coll T. E. Tennant
Inspector General of Jails,

To

C. G. Master Esq
Acting Chief Secretary
to Government
Ootacamund

Sir

Adverting to Judicial Order No 2481 of the 18th October 1877 I have the honor to report for the information of Government that during my recent visit to Madras I inspected the works at the Senate House on which convict labor has been employed during the last 10 months, and being dissatisfied with the manner in which the convicts were worked I called upon the Superintendent of Prisons for the town of Madras for a statement showing the total number of convicts employed and the amount of work actually performed, I moreover several times visited the gangs at labor and had opportunities of judging how utterly destructive of discipline the present arrangements are and how prison labor has been wasted.

2. The distance from the beach whence the soil is moved to the tank, is about 550 yards. The prisoners put a little sand into their baskets probably not more than 30 or 35 lb, and carry it on their heads a distance of

about 550 yards returning the same distance to refill their baskets. In this way each prisoner travels a distance of about $\frac{2}{3}$rds of a mile to deposit some 30 lb of sand. The actual outturn of work up to the 1st of October is shown in the Statement furnished by the Consulting Architect to Government which accompanies the report of the Superintendent of Prisons herewith forwarded.

No 1110 dated 12 Octr 1878.

3. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the prison labor power placed at the disposal of the Engineer and Government Architect has not been paid for. If these authorities had to pay for the labor they would probably

have taken some steps to insure its economical distribution but they have not thought it prudent to provide a single wheel-barrow or truck or any arrangement even for handing baskets rapidly from one man to another and passing the empty baskets underneath, and as a consequence the labor power placed at their disposal has been almost entirely wasted. From first to last there have been 25,251 Convicts employed; allowing One Anna nine pie per head the cost of this labor has been upwards of Rupees 2760 exclusive of the cost of the Police guard.

4. But the most serious part

part of the want of proper arrangement and supervision is the bad effect on prison discipline. It is but little use our endeavoring to introduce a more severe system of prison discipline into our jails if gangs of Convicts are worked outside the walls without supervision, without task work, and with little or no care taken to economize labor. If the supply of Convicts without payment is to be continued I think the Engineer authorities should be directed to take some steps to insure the more economical distribution of the labor and that the services of an efficient work overseer should be obtained to supervise the work done by the convicts. Moreover the Superintendent of Prisons ought to be furnished with a weekly statement showing the amount and nature of the work performed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
J. E. Tennant
Inspector General of Jails

No 1912.

Transferred to the Public Works Department for report & the requisite orders.

C. Lancaster
Ag Chief Secretary

Ootacamund
16 October /78.

To the Public Works Department.

PW 1191/78

Judicial (1878) Deposits
From (Prisons)
The Inspector
General of Jails,
to
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Ootacamund
Dated 14 Oct 1878
Recd 15 —

No 206

Encls. one

Reporting on the unsatisfactory manner in which convicts are worked at the Senate House & suggesting that the Engineer authorities may be directed to take steps for the better management of Convict Labor.
With Endorsement.

No 4698

Referred to the Consulting Architect to Government for explanation as to the alleged waste of prison labor.

E A Ward Col. R.E.
Secy to Govt PWD

18th Oct 1878.

To The Con. Architect in original
to be returned.

A Paul to Dite

No 5

No. 1110

HER M.'S PENITENTIARY OFFICE,
Madras, 15 October 1878.

429/4

FROM
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS
FOR THE TOWN OF MADRAS,

TO
THE Inspector General
of Jails
Ootacamund.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 5310 dated 10th instant.

2. I beg to annex a Statement of the work of the Senate House gang furnished by the Consulting Architect to Government. This Statement is a bare record of the quantity of work actually performed, and makes no allowance for the distances traversed &ca. There was no proper interested supervision of the work, such as would have been provided had the work been paid for, however so, after all due deductions, it must be admitted there has been a scandalous waste of prison labour. The total number of convicts employed from first to last was 25,250.

3. I have taken steps for the supervision of the prisoners now employed at Government House and on the new Jail Quarters, but this is

comparatively

comparatively easy, the Scene of labour being in each case with a reasonable distance from the Penitentiary.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant,

Superintendent of Prisons.

From
The Supt. of Prisons
Madras
To
The Inspr. General
of Jails
Ootacamund

Dated 12th } October
Pt. 1 } 1878

No. 1113
Enclosure 1
Information regarding the Senate House labour furnishing as per his letter No. [illegible] of 10th October 1878.

Memo shewing the quantity and nature of works executed by the Convicts at the Senate House Chepauk up to the 1st October 1878.

1st Filling in Tank with sea sand	Cyds	4914
2d Widening road on the east face by earth from the Compound near the railing	Cyds	661
3d Filling in the pit so caused and also a saw pit at the same spot by sea sand	Cyds	826
4th Removing rubbish and clearing away the earth &c from the Cells or lower rooms below the Big Hall		7 days
5th Cleaning Compound at the time of Convocation & collecting stones		7 days.

Signed/ M. Goorosawmy
Overseer D.P.W.

Chepauk
2d October 1878.

Chisholm
Consg. Archt. to Govt.

Filed 4222/12

ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

4292/9

No. 410

CONSULTING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE,
Chepauk, 22d October 1878.

FROM
THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT,

TO
THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
BUILDINGS AND ROADS BRANCH.

SIR,

Enclosures.

With reference to your Memo No. 4692 dated the
18th of October 1878 I have the honor to state that I
addressed the Superintendent of Jails Madras
on the 18th September as follows,- "I cannot
" dispense with the Convict labor till the Tank
" is filled, and being Convict labor, I dont see how
" I can assist in the supervision. I have noticed
" myself the extraordinary snails pace at which
" the men move, and was told it was in consequence
" of the fetters impeding their movements. I
" would suggest placing the men 4 ft apart
" and handing the baskets rapidly from one to
" the other passing the empty ones underneath
" allowing 10 men for filling, the work could be
" reached
~~rendered~~ in 1 lead of 560 ft. and allowing half
" a Cubic ft. for a basket and 10 passed every

minute in a working day of 6 hours we have as"
effective work per day "

6 × 60 × 10 = 3600 cubic ft. or 133 cubic yards"
As the tank requires about 15000 cubic yds of"
filling the work will be completed in about 120 days"

I have measured the work executed and promised weekly returns and all other assistance in my power, but as the Convicts are in charge of a Sergeant who acts under the Superintendent of jails. I have no power or authority over them in any way, and until lately no one at any time connected with the Jail Department asked for any assistance, nor do I know now what is expected of me.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most Obedt servt.

Consg Archt to Govt.

P.W. 1878

ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

No. 11916

From
The Consulting Architect
to Government,

To
The Chief Engineer, P. W. Department,
Buildings and Roads Branch.

No. 410

Dated 22nd October 1878

Received 28th " "

No. of Enclosures. 3

Convict labor at the Senate House.

To Cotty 23-10-78
Cir 29-10-78 ret 6-11-78

Letter from the Inspector General of Jails, No. 206 dated 14th Octr 1878 - thro Jud. Dept.

Letter from the Consulting Architect, No. 410 dated 22nd Octr 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

C A Bird Col RE
Secy to Govt PWD

Frame G.O. [illegible] I.G. of Jails this Jud. request & that C. Supt of Madras Jails may be instructed to inform the Consg Architect exactly of the supervision he desires to ensure economy of labor - & take charge of the works - & direct C.A. also to consult with Supt & provide at once [illegible]

29th Octr 78
[illegible] discipline [illegible]

FOR ORDERS.

Cir. 29.10.78 [illegible]
[illegible] 6.11.78 [illegible]

B & R Works

No. 4292 W Public Works Department.

4292/W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 7th Nov 1878

Read the following :—

Letter from the Inspector Genl of Jails (No. 206 dated 14th Octr/78.
thro' Judl Dept.

Letter from the Cons. Architect (R.S. No. 410 d/ 22nd Octr/78).

The foregoing letter from the Consulting Architect will be communicated to the Inspector General of Jails, through the Judicial Dept.; and the Superintendent of Madras Prisons will be instructed to inform the Consulting Architect exactly what is required, so as to ensure proper supervision and economy of labour.

R.S.

The

The Consulting Architect is also directed to communicate with the Superintendent of Prisons on this matter, and to provide, at the cost of the works, such supervision as may be needed to obviate waste of labour and indiscipline

7/11

To Jud'l Dept.
Consulting Architect
Desp. 21-11-78

23. 1. 18

11916

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Judicial Dept

Dated

Issued

Read

Read

Read 7 Novr 1878, No. 4292

Nos. 104 to 110

Senate House, Madras.

Passing orders on paper regarding the adoption of better arrangements in connection with the convict labor employed on the ______

Entd Regr