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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

DEPARTMENT

PW

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Dated	1. 9. 1879	197

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2291

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1st September 1879, No. 2,241 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 1. From the Consulting Architect to Government, dated Chepauk, 11th August 1879, No. 267.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1879, No. 2,241 W.

* * * * *

2. With regard to the general question raised in the foregoing correspondence, His Grace in Council considers that it is the duty of the department obtaining convict labor to provide proper supervision, and to see that each prisoner performs a sufficient task. A statement should be furnished to the Jail Department, showing the amount and nature of work performed. Should the outturn be insufficient, in the opinion of the Public Works Officers, it will rest with the Jail Department to punish the defaulters.

* * * * *

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
CIVIL WORKS.

Sept. 1st 1879. Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS.

Dated September 1st.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 1st September 1879, No. 2,241 W.

SEPTEMBER.

No. 12.

Employment of convict labor on Public Works. Instructions issued relative to the

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1st September 1879, No. 2,241 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 1. From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated Chepauk, 11th August 1879, No. 267.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copies of two letters which I request you will hand up to higher authority. I deprecate as much as Colonel Tennant controversial correspondence, and this is the first time in a course of twenty years' service that I have asked for the interference of Government. The point is whether the officers of the Jail Department are to blame for the waste of prison labor on the Senate House tank, or whether the officers of the Department of Public Works, that is myself and subordinates, are to blame.

2. In my letter to Colonel Tennant, I ask him if I have failed at any time to comply with any wish expressed by an officer of his department, or if there is any communication lying unanswered. I remind him that I myself organized the method of working unsolicited by any officer of his department; unsolicited I provided carts and made roads; unsolicited I put my Overseer on the work, and unsolicited I appointed a maistry to keep daily checks of the work done. I state further, that if he can point out a single thing which either I, my Overseer, or my maistry might have done and did not do, I should be satisfied. Colonel Tennant's reply is a kind of specification of the above duties which I have carried out to the letter, down to bringing to the "notice of the prison authorities any failure to complete the allotted task." The result of the latter action is that Colonel Tennant blames my department for the faults of his, and causes the prisoners to be removed.

3. I may mention that there is some haziness in the minds of the officers of the Jail Department as to what a fair day's work is. Mr. Symonds, for instance, does not admit that there has been a waste of prison labor; he inspected the work and writes to say he is "on the whole satisfied," at a time when the men were doing a little more than half a yard per diem. Colonel Tennant says: "In carting gravel or sand I should exact 14 or 15 miles a day, going loaded and returning empty with loads of 15 cubic feet of sand or gravel;" as the lead is 900 feet, Colonel Tennant expects nearly six times the quantity that satisfied Mr. Symonds.

From R. F. CHISHOLM, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Inspector-General of Jails, Ootacamund, dated Chepauk, 4th August 1879, No. 249.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4,166, dated the 2nd August 1879, from which I gather that one of the reasons for withdrawing the Senate House gang of prisoners was to put a stop to the waste of prison labor, and that waste was due in a great measure to the want of proper supervision, or in other words the fault was mine. As I do not intend a second time to allow your statements to go uncontradicted before Government, I purpose making a reference on the subject through the Public Works Department. Before doing so, however, it will save time if you will kindly inform me, if I have failed at any time to comply with any wish expressed by your department. If there is any communication lying unanswered, or any suggestion neglected. I would remind you that when these men were first sent down they were sent without a day's notice, although the Superintendent of Prisons must have known that we could not find implements for men at an hour's notice. I myself organized the method of working unsolicited by any member of your department; unsolicited also I provided carts and made roads; unsolicited I put my best Overseer on the work, a man of known experience and tried ability, and unsolicited I appointed a maistry continually on the work to check the

numbers of trips, &c. The result of my first remonstrance to proper authority, after continually speaking to the men themselves, is that the Superintendent of Prisons, your own officer in charge of the work, declares himself "satisfied" with half a cubic foot per man per diem. You report to Government that the supervision in my department has been lax, and make this one reason for withdrawing the men. If you can point out a single thing which I, my Overseer, or maistry might have done and did not do, I shall be satisfied; but I object altogether to be blamed for a discreditable state of things for which your own department is wholly and entirely responsible.

From T. E. TENNANT, Esq., Inspector-General of Jails, to the Consulting Architect to Government, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 7th August 1879, No. 4,220.

In acknowledging your letter No. 249, dated 4th August 1879, I have the honor, whilst deprecating controversial correspondence, to briefly summarize the case for the Jail Department as follows:—

I. The convict labor was given by Government without payment, not under the advice or with the approval of the Inspector-General of Jails, but at the solicitation of the Government Architect. It was the duty of the department thus obtaining the grant of prison-labor to take steps to ensure its economical distribution. To supply not only carts, tools and such implements and articles as might be required in the employment of the convicts, but to appoint efficient supervision, to organize the labor, to mark out the daily tasks, to measure up the work daily, and to bring to the notice of the prison authorities any failure to complete the allotted task.

II. The Prison Department had to supply the labor power, and, in communication with the professional engineering officers, to determine the amount of task. The supervision ought to be provided and paid for out of the work. It was the duty of the department obtaining the labor to do all this.

III. The Police Department is not held responsible for the execution of work by convicts.

IV. The Prison Department has no funds to provide supervision over extramural prison labor granted free.

V. The department obtaining the sanction of Government to employ convict labor is bound to make itself acquainted with the duties attending such responsibility.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1879, No. 2,241 W.

THE prison labor was withdrawn from the Senate House because it could not be spared any longer.

2. With regard to the general question raised in the foregoing correspondence, His Grace in Council considers that it is the duty of the department obtaining convict labor to provide proper supervision, and to see that each prisoner performs a sufficient task. A statement should be furnished to the Jail Department, showing the amount and nature of work performed. Should the outturn be insufficient, in the opinion of the Public Works Officers, it will rest with the Jail Department to punish the defaulters.

3. Mr. Chisholm, it is observed, should have adopted a more conciliating tone in addressing the Inspector-General of Jails.

(True Extract.)

To the Consulting Architect.
" Superintending Engineers.
" Judicial Department.

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Enthail para

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies



BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gt. of [1879] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The CONSULTING ARCHITECT.

Ac., Sc., &c.

(6)

Dated September 1st.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 1st September 1879, No. 2341 W.

SEPTEMBER

No. 1-2.

Employment of convict labor on Public
Works. - Instructions issued relative to the

ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

No. 267

CONSULTING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE,

Chepauk, 11 Augt 1879

2241

From

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT,

To

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

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose copies of two letters which
I request you will hand up to higher authority.
I deprecate as much as Col Tennant controversial
correspondence and this is the first time in a
career of 20 years service that I have asked for
the interference of Government. The point is
whether the Officers of the Jail department are to
blame for the waste of prison labor on the Senate
House tank or whether the Officers of the Depart-
ment of Public Works that is myself and
subordinates are to blame.

In my letter to Col Tennant, I ask him if
I have failed at any time to comply with any
wish expressed by an officer of his department
or if there is any communication lying unanswered,
I remind him that I myself organized the
method of working unsolicited by any of his
department, unsolicited I provided carts and

made roads, unsolicited I put my Overseer on the work and unsolicited I appointed a Master to keep daily checks of the work done, I state further that if he can point out a single thing which either I, my Overseer, or my Master might have done and did not do, I should be satisfied. Col. Tennant's reply is a kind of specification of the above duties which I have carried out to the letter down to bringing to the notice of the Prison Authorities "any failure to complete the allotted task." the result of the latter action is that Col. Tennant blames my department for the faults of his, and causes the Prisoners to be removed.

I may mention that there is some haziness on the minds of the Officers of the Jail Department as to what a fair days work is. Mr. Symonds for instance does not admit that there has been a waste of prison labor, he inspected the work and writes to say he is on the whole satisfied "at a time when the men were doing a little more than half a yard per diem. Col. Tennant says "In carting gravel or sand I should expect 14 or 15 " "Ounces a day going loaded and returning empty with loads of 15 cubic feet of sand or gravel" as the load is 900 feet, Col. Tennant expects nearly 6 times the quantity that satisfied Mr. Symonds.

I.

I have the honor to be

Yours

your most obedient servant

W. H. L. W. H.

Long Archd. to Government

G.O. No 11292 N- 4-11-78
 Lib u 1894 N- 19-7-79
 L.B. u 2284- 23-7-79
 Booklet Slip for Lib 11477 of 1898
 R. 5082 of 1899

ROADS AND BUILDINGS.

P.W.D.

11-1879

No. 2241

From
 The Consulting Architect
 to Government,

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

h.c. No 2241 of 1-7-79

No. 267

Dated 4 August 1879

Received

No. of ENCLOSURES. 2

Convict labor employed
 at the Senate House tank.

Recd 20-8-79. Tel 23-8-79.
 Cir 14-8-79. Tel 20-8-79.
 To City 12-8-

No. 249

Long Arch's Office
 Chepauk 4 August 1879.

From
 The Consulting Architect
 to Government

 To
 The Inspector General of Jails
 Patnamund.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of
 your letter No 4166 dated the 2nd August 1879 from which
 I gather that one of the reasons for withdrawing the
 Senate House gang of Prisoners was to put a stop to
 the waste of prison labor and that waste was due
 in a great measure to the want of proper supervision
 or in other words the fault was mine. As I do not
 intend a second time to allow your statements to go
 uncontradicted before Government I ^{therefore} intend making
 a reference on the subject through the Public Works
 Department. Before doing so however it will save
 time if you will kindly inform me, if I have
 failed at any time to comply with any wish expressed
 by your department. If there is any communica-
 tion lying unanswered, or any suggestion neglected
 I would remind you that when these men were
 first sent down they were sent without a

days notice although the Superintendent of Prisons
must have known that we could not find implements
for men at our hours notice. I myself organized
the method of working unsolicited by any member
of your department. Unsolicited also I provided
carts and made roads, unsolicited I put my
best Overseer on the work a man of known
experience and tried ability, and unsolicited I
appointed a Maistree continually on the work to
check the numbers of trips &c. The result of my
first remonstrance to proper authority after
continually speaking to the men themselves is that
the Superintendent of Prisons your own officer in
charge of the work declares himself "satisfied"
with half a cubic feet per man per diem, You
report to Government that the supervision in
my department has been lax and make this
one reason for withdrawing the men. If you
can point out a single thing which I, my
Overseer or Maistree might have done and
did not do I shall be satisfied but I object
altogether to be blamed for a discreditable
state of things for which your own depart-
ment is wholly and entirely responsible.

I have the honor to be
sir
your most Obedt. servt
sd/ R. Blinholm
Comdg. Archt. to Govt.

True copy

W. Blinholm
Comdg. Archt. to Government.

T.W.D.
11/11/79
No. 5884

1,604,224 1/2 of 1877

En in B No 1

No. 4220

JP3
Cotacamund
Office of Inspector General of jails
7th August 1879

From

The Inspector General of jails
Cotacamund

To

The Consulting Architect to Government
Madras

Sir,

In acknowledging your letter No. 249 dated
4th August 1879 I have the honor, whilst deprecating
controversial correspondence, to briefly summarize
the case for the jail department as follows—
I. The convict labor was given by Government
without payment not under the advice or with
the approval of the Inspector General of jails,
but at the solicitation of the Government Architect.
It was the duty of the department thus obtain-
ing the grant of prison labor to take steps to
ensure its economical distribution. To supply not
only carts, tools and such implements and
articles as might be required in the employ-
ment of the convicts but to appoint efficient
supervisions to organize the labor, to mark out

the daily tasks, to measure up the work daily, and to bring to the notice of the prison authorities any failures to complete the allotted task.

II. The prison department had to supply the labor power, and in communication with the professional engineering officers to determine the amount of task. The supervision ought to be provided and paid for out of the work. It was the duty of the department obtaining the labor to do all this.

III. The Police department is not held responsible for the execution of work by convicts.

IV. The Prison department has no funds to provide supervision over extramural prison labor granted free.

V. The department obtaining the sanction of Government to employ convict labor is bound to make itself acquainted with the duties attending such responsibility.

I have the honor to be
sir

Your most Obedt servant

signed J. C. Tennant

Inspector General of Jails.

True Copy

En in B. No. 1

W. Chisholm.

Consul Archt to Government

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Read the following:—

Letter from the Consulting Architect to Govt.
No. 267 of 11th August 1899, with enclosure

FOR ORDERS.

These papers refer to a discussion between Mr. Chisholm, the Consulting Architect to Govt., and the Prison authorities in connection with the convicts employed at the Senate house tank, which has resulted in the withdrawal altogether of the convicts from the work by order of the Inspector General of Jails. The person of the withdrawal is stated to be

the waste of prison labor,
due in a great measure
to the want of proper
supervision on the part
of the Consulting Architect.
From the Consulting Architect's
letter it is clear that he
has done all in his power
to secure efficient super-
vision, and that the waste
of prison labor complained
of is due to the want of
a clear idea on the part
of the prison authorities
as to what constitutes a
fair day's work; the
Inspector General's and
Superintendents of Prisons
views widely differing
on the subject.

The Consulting Architect's
previous suggestion for

Yrs. certainly

11/18

the re-employment of the
convicts on the work in
question was referred to
the Judicial Dept. for
the issue of the necessary
orders with Memo. from
this office N^o 2587 dated
23^d July 1879.

The tone of Mr. Chisholm's letters
is not particularly conciliatory.

W. Lawkey Col. R. C. C.
Secy. to Govt. P. W. D.
D.

had
12.8

14th Aug 1879

FOR ORDERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 1st Sept 1879.

Read the following:—

From the Secy. Architect.
No. 267 dated 11th Aug 79

Order thereon:—

1. The prison labour was withdrawn from the Public Works, because it could not be spared any longer.
2. With regard to the general question raised in the foregoing correspondence, His Grace in Council considers that it is the duty of the Department obtaining convict labour to provide proper supervision, and to see that each prisoner performs a sufficient task. A weekly statement should be furnished to the Jail Department, showing

Cir 14.8.79. Res 20.8.79.
Ld. Secy 12-8

Ltd 17/8

Cir 20.8.79. Res 20.8.79
12.8.79

the amount and nature
of work performed.
Should the amount be
insufficient, in the
opinion of the Public
Works Officers, it
will rest with the
Jail Department to
provide the defaulters.

3. The ~~inconciliatory~~ tone
of the Consulting
Architect's letters is
noticed with dissatisfaction.

GP
19/8

Mr. Christensen it is
observed should have
adopted a more conciliatory
tone in addressing the
Inspector General of Jails

31 in full
Architect 3
S. S. in extract - para 2.
full Sept 7
Despo 21
9-8-79

Wt
19-8-79

Cir 3104
Govt. of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 1 Sept 1879, No. 2446

Nos. 1 & 2

Employment of Convict
Labor in Public Works
Instructions issued
relative to the

*Printed
by
the
Govt.
Printer
in
full*