Govt. of {1883} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 17th January 1883, No. 137.

Bk. 323w 30-1-83

JANUARY.

Jail Manufactures.

Approving of the industries recommended by the Inspector-General for the Central Jails at Cannanore, and transmitting to the Public Works Department, for the issue of the necessary orders, the revised estimate for Rs. 1,750 for extending the workshop accommodation.

4. As regards the extension of the workshops, I find that a reduction of Rs. 200 can be made in the estimate as it will not be necessary to make the third workshop as long as the other two. The work will be carried out by convict labor under the direction of the Superintendent, and the whole cost will not exceed Rs. 1,750, for which sum sanction is requested. I re-submit the revised estimate for sanction.

5. I trust that the in-door industries for the Cannanore Jail as now remodelled will meet with the approval of Government.

ORDER—dated 17th January 1883, No. 137, Judicial.

In the special circumstances reported by the Inspector-General, the Government approve of the industries recommended by him for the Central Jail at Cannanore.

2. The revised estimate for Rs. 1,750, which is approved, will be transmitted to the Public Works Department for the issue of the necessary orders in modification of those contained in their Order, 16th October 1882, No. 2692 W.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.
„ Public Works Department, with estimate.

Exd. J. Wright.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Trivandrum, 23rd December 1882, No. 347.

Adverting to G.O., No. 1774, dated 4th November 1882, and in continuation of my letter, No. 303, dated 30th October last, I have the honor to report that, after visiting the Central Jail at Cannanore, and conferring with the Superintendent, I have come to the conclusion that the proposed extension to the workshop accommodation is necessary.

2. The Cannanore Central Jail is used as a convict establishment for life and term transportation prisoners who, from time to time, have been rejected by the Medical Committees as physically unfit for deportation to the Andamans. Thus, apart from the danger of employing such convicts outside the jail walls, these men are for the most part too old, or are otherwise unfit for severe extramural labor on public work gangs. In addition to our own transportation convicts there is a number of Burmese lifers, amongst whom are several desperate characters whose employment outside would be attended with danger.

3. It will thus be seen that a large proportion of the convicts at Cannanore must be employed within the jail, and it is impossible to dispense altogether with in-door labor. It therefore becomes necessary to consider in what way these convicts can be most suitably employed. In the selection of the industries to be carried on, I have endeavoured to meet the wishes of the Supreme Government as far as possible. It is, however, anything but an easy problem to devise suitable industries for a Central Jail, more especially when the jail, like that at Cannanore, is situated in an out-of-the-way place with no local market and where the means of communication are in a backward state. Some industries are unsuitable from a disciplinary point of view, while others are objected to as interfering with free labor. The weaving of fine cloth and the making of table cloths, towels, &c., has been abandoned, as such articles can be supplied by the Basel Mission Establishment; the weaving will now be limited to the manufacture of police and prison cloth for jail requirements. Boot and shoe making of superior description has been a special industry in the Cannanore Jail for many years. I made particular inquiries and found that it in no way interfered with the local trade nor with private enterprise, and, as it provides useful occupation for a large class of transportation prisoners, it must not be interfered with. The Burmese convicts are largely employed in carpentry and furniture-making. They are excellent workmen, and it would be difficult to find suitable occupation for these men if they were not employed in these trades. To remove any reproach of interfering with free trade, the jail will work for wholesale agents who will resell to the public at their own prices. Coir work, equivalent to "oakum picking," will be for men in cells, and a little rattan cane work must be allowed as occupation for aged prisoners and certain Burmese convicts. The articles of jail manufactures will be priced and disposed of according to the instruction laid down in the Resolution of the Government of India. For the rest of the prisoners, I propose to employ them largely in farming and gardening, but to do this, we shall have to take up additional land.