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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1294	— w	Press.
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	23-5-1884.		197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

to 9

23RD MAY 1884, No. 1294 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. MEAD, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Kodaikanal, 12th May 1884, No. 51 T.C. :—

With reference to paragraph 8 of G.O., No. 1044 W., dated 24th ultimo, directing to expedite the submission of plans and estimate for item No. 57 (district jail at Trichinopoly) of the Provincial budget, final issue, for 1884-85, I have the honor to report that the plans and estimate for this item were submitted with my letter, No. 258 T.C., of the 9th August 1883, *vide* G.O., No. 3592 W., dated 15th December 1883.

2. I find that a grant of Rs. 20,000 is provided in the current year's budget for the work above mentioned. In order to ensure the grant being fully utilised I request your permission to proceed with the collection of materials pending the sanction of the estimate by Government.

ORDER—dated 23rd May 1884, No. 1294 W., Public Works.

The Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, is authorised to proceed with the collection of materials for the proposed new district jail at Trichinopoly.

2. The Superintending Engineer's attention is drawn to the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 1054 W., dated 25th April 1884, relative to the employment of convict labor in the construction of this jail.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
,, Judicial Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated May, 23rd.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 23rd May 1884, No. 1294 W.

MAY.

District Jail at Trichinopoly

The Superintending Engineer authorised, with remarks, to proceed with the collection of materials for the proposed new —.

25TH JANUARY 1884, No. 225, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

G.O., dated 11th September 1883, No. 355 E., Public Works.

Read—the following papers :—

Letter from the Inspector-General of Jails, No. 101, dated 25th April 1883.

Memorandum from the Inspector-General of Jails, dated 18th May 1883.

Memorandum to the Inspector-General of Jails, No. 111 E., dated 20th May 1883.

Letter to the Superintending Engineer, VI circle, No. 1044 C., dated 1st June 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, VI circle, No. 158 T.C., dated 14th June 1883.

Letter to the Superintending Engineer, VI circle, No. 1261 C., dated 4th July 1883.

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, VI circle, No. 258 T.J., dated 9th August 1883.

Order—dated 11th September 1883, No. 355 E., Public Works.

Before passing final orders on the plans and estimates, amounting to Rs. 1,24,080, which have been submitted for constructing a district jail at Trichinopoly, further report will be called for in the Judicial department as to the necessity for so large a building. It is designed to hold 300 adult male convicts (separate provision being made for females), 30 under-trial prisoners, 12 civil debtors, and 15 quarantine prisoners, or 357 in all. The cost per head, supposing the jail to be fully occupied, would thus be over Rs. 347.

2. The number of adult males confined in the district jail during the years 1880, 1881 and 1882 should be reported, and it should be stated whether the arrangements have been approved by the Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Col., R.E.,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Judicial department.

From Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 5th November 1883, No. 312.

One book of plans.

One plan and section of enclosure wall.

One letter, dated 20th October, No. 1271, from the Sanitary Commissioner.

G.O., No. 355 E., dated 11th September 1883, Public Works department (returned).

With reference to the order noted in the margin, referred to me for report with your endorsement, No. 1764, dated 13th September 1883, I have the honor to state that I requested the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner upon the following points :—

- (1) As to the necessity or advantages of abandoning the present district jail and removing the prisoners into a jail in the vicinity of the central jail.

- (2) As to the proposed site for the new jail adjoining the central jail, and whether good drainage can be secured.
- (3) As to the general arrangements and disposition of the buildings, and as to the necessity of the accommodation proposed.
- (4) As to the water-supply.

2. I now enclose Deputy Surgeon-General Furnell's reply, and beg to offer the following remarks:—

- (1) In regard to the site, I prefer the original one (to the south of the jail) to that recommended by the Sanitary Commissioner, it being more sheltered from the strong feverish winds blowing for some months during the year, and also because the ground on the north side is rocky and the sinking of wells for water will be an expensive job. The objection as to the drains, as pointed out by Dr. Furnell, is undoubtedly a drawback.
- (2) The standard space laid down by the Government of India is 40 square feet and 600 cubic feet, or 36 superficial and 648 cubic feet of breathing space for each prisoner. The standard space for hospital accommodation is 54 superficial and 800 cubic feet per patient. Probably Dr. Furnell has confused these dimensions.
- (3) Samples of water from the various wells have again been submitted to the Chemical Examiner for analysis.

3. In regard to the present district jail, which is situated in the midst of the town, Government are aware that from time to time this jail has proved very unhealthy, and, although the health of the prisoners has lately improved, there is no guarantee that the sickness and mortality may not again be excessive. By bringing the district jail into the vicinity of the central jail, supervision will be easier and more effective; at the same time there will be a saving of expense in the prison staff, as no separate jailor will be required. The sick being treated in one hospital will greatly lessen the work of the medical officer.

4. It will be observed that it is proposed to build the cellular close prison attached to the central jail within the space enclosed by the boundary wall. This arrangement is made with a view of economising brick and mortar in the enclosing wall. The cellular prison is intended for long-sentenced convicts of the central jail during their period of probation. It will be quite distinct from the district jail, and the accommodation of the cellular prison must not be confounded with that required for the district jail, the former having nothing to do with the latter. In the district jail, it is proposed to keep the prisoners in association-wards in order to avoid expense. The district jail will be separated from the close cellular prison by a low wall surmounted by iron railing. Mr. Sewell, the District Magistrate, proposed that the two prisons should be separated by a masonry wall from 8 to 10 feet high, but I prefer the low wall with the iron railing, as it will not impede the circulation of air.

5. As to the extent of accommodation, although the women will be placed in the females' prison under the matron in the central jail, and the boys will likewise be kept in the juvenile block of the central jail, it is to be remembered that the subsidiary jail prisoners will have to be accommodated in the district jail. The accommodation was calculated on data of

G.O., No. 1418, dated 28th October 1872.

" " 20, " 4th January 1877.

the daily average number together with the maximum number of prisoners on any one day, as it was considered safer to allow a margin so as to avoid overcrowding, rather than to limit the accommodation sufficient for the daily average number of prisoners based on a calculation of averages for three years.

6. As directed in paragraph 2 of the order of Government, I append a statement showing the average number of adult male prisoners in the district and subsidiary jails at Trichinopoly during the years 1880, 1881 and 1882. If Government consider the proposed accommodation is excessive, Nos. 1 and 4 blocks, which now consist of 3 wards each, may be reduced to 2 wards each, similar to blocks Nos. 2 and 3. In like manner the accommodation for civil debtors (12) and for under-trials (30) may

be reduced by one-half. The quarantine block now consists of 15 cells. I requested the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner as to what quarantine accommodation was required, and whether the number of cells could be reduced or the quarantine block done away with, as by the latter arrangement the civil debtors might be placed in the corner opposite to the under-trials. I request instructions as to the quarantine accommodation, and whether cells or association-wards are to be provided.

7. I allowed 6 cells for punishment and for prisoners under sentence of death. This number of cells is doubtless large; but it is with a view to meet the wishes of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, who are opposed to the infliction of corporal punishment for breaches of prison discipline. The two workshops may be reduced in length by 20 feet each, making each workshop 50' x 26' instead of 70' x 26'.

8. There may be some reduction in the number of cells in the close prison; at present there are 3 blocks consisting of 33, 27 and 40 cells. If Government consider this accommodation excessive, I would propose 3 blocks of 26 cells in each block.

9. Whilst pointing out where reduction in the extent of accommodation can be conveniently made, I do not propose to reduce the area of the enclosure within the boundary wall, as it may be found necessary eventually to extend the accommodation.

ENCLOSURES.

STATEMENT showing the average number of male prisoners in the District and Subsidiary Jails at Trichinopoly.

Trichinopoly District Jail.						1880.	1881.	1882.
Classes of prisoners.								
Convicts	..	..	..	..	..	195.87	137.02	113.42
Under-trial	..	..	..	..	..	9.85	6.58	4.13
Civil	..	..	..	..	..	3.48	2.78	4.11
Security	..	..	..	..	..	1.66	5.45	2.40
Insane	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.05
State	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total						210.86	151.83	124.11
Add for Trichinopoly Subsidiary Jail						7.69	5.55	7.21
Grand total						218.55	157.38	131.32

From Deputy Surgeon-General M. C. FURNELL, M.D., F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Inspector-General of Jails, dated Madras, 20th October 1883, No. 1271.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 4475, of 17th September 1883, and quite recently, 15th October, of a book of plans of the proposed district jail at Trichinopoly, also correspondence as per margin

which, with the book of plans, is herewith returned.

2. My opinion is requested (1) "as to the necessity or advantages of abandoning the present district jail and removing the prisoners into a jail in the vicinity of the central jail." It would, I think, be advantageous in every respect if this were done. The prisoners in the district jail have suffered from indifferent health for some time past. The building is an old one, situated almost in the heart of the town, the drainage is indifferent, and the supervision, both medical and executive, owing to its distance from the central jail, entails a waste of time and must consequently be less efficient. For all these reasons I should say its abandonment—especially if, as is reported, the present building could be remuneratively sold—would be advantageous, even if not absolutely necessary.

3. (2) As to the proposed site. The one fixed upon by you to the south of the jail seems to me open to this objection; it is, and has been ever since the central jail was built, intersected by three, if not four, drains, and the soil must be more or less contaminated. I should prefer the open space on the north which is hard, dry, and from which drainage would naturally run. If

I am not mistaken it will, I think, be found this is the highest ground, whilst the ground on the south side is lower and towards it drainage and storm-water could naturally gravitate. The land should be surveyed to determine the levels and decide this point.

4. (3) As to the general arrangements and disposition of the buildings, I have carefully examined the block plan and I agree that the general arrangement and disposition of the buildings appear convenient. I would notice, however, that the cubic and superficial space should be 648 and 54 feet, respectively, if the standard is to be adhered to, and not 600' and 40'.

5. As regards the necessity of the accommodation proposed, I gather from the G.O., No. 355-E, of 11th September 1883, that a "further report will be called for in the Judicial department on this point." I think, therefore, it is not necessary for me to hazard an opinion on this subject.

6. (4) As to the water-supply, as far as the ordinary tests of color, transparency, odour, and taste go, the water in the central jail may be pronounced very good. Having in view, however, the great sickness which existed during 1882 (now sufficiently explained, I imagine, on other grounds), I think it would be advisable, if this has not been done, that samples should be sent for examination to the Chemical Examiner in Madras.

ORDER—dated 25th January 1884, No. 225, Judicial.

The Inspector-General of Jails should have submitted his proposals in the first instance to Government in the Judicial department, and this course should be followed in future. The Government now direct that, with reference to the objections of the Sanitary Commissioner, the Inspector-General will again report, after a further consultation with that officer, on the best site for the new buildings; the nature of the water-supply should be carefully examined.

2. In other respects the original proposals of the Inspector-General of Jails meet with the approval of Government in the Judicial department.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.

" Sanitary Commissioner.

Copy to the Public Works department.

Exd. J. Wright.

1294
34

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.

JUDICIAL.

no 303 waf. 5th Feb/84

Communicated
to the Supg: Engr. VI
Circle.

2. Inia b orders in
the Judl Dept will
be awaited
Sof. J.S.P.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th January 1884, No. 225.

no 303 waf. 5th Feb/84

JANUARY.

New District Jail at Trichinopoly.

Directing the Inspector-General to report, after a further consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner, and with reference to the objections of that officer, on the best site for the —, and intimating that in other respects the Inspector-General's original proposals are approved.

S.E. VI Circle
Judl. Dept

with order

25TH APRIL 1884, No. 1054 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

ORDER—dated 25th April 1884, No. 1054 W., Public Works.

The Inspector-General of Jails having called attention to the expediency of extending the employment of convict labor on the construction of jails, the Government desire that labor of this kind should be utilised whenever practicable.

2. In proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department (Judicial), No. 1873—80, dated 22nd December 1869,* it is stated that the first application of prison labor should, as a general rule, be in the service of the jail itself, and of other jails; and that the services of all prisoners must be given to the utmost extent to the State in this way, without charge. Applying this principle to Public Works, the services of convicts for jail works would be obtained without cost to the Public Works Department, and the estimates for works of that class would be correspondingly reduced.

3. It is not intended that arrangements already made for carrying out jail works by contract or otherwise should be cancelled, when inconvenience would thereby be caused; but in all cases where the employment of convict labor would be to the manifest advantage of the State, the services of prisoners should be availed of.

4. The Trichinopoly jail, for which a provision of Rs. 20,000 is made in the budget of 1884-85, and which has not yet been commenced, presents a favorable opportunity for trying convict labor on a large scale. The convicts would, perhaps, be best employed in digging foundations, carting bricks and lime, collecting sand, &c., and subsequently in aiding in the erection of the enclosure wall, and in any other work for which skilled-labor is not essential.

5. The arrangements for segregating the convicts, and otherwise maintaining discipline, can doubtless be efficiently managed by local officers acting in concert.

6. The special attention of Public Works officers is invited to the matter; and they will report how far these orders can conveniently be carried into effect as regards jail works entered in the budget of 1884-85.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To Superintending Engineers.
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Judicial Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated April, 25th.

Recd.

Encl

G.O., 25th April 1884, No. 1054 W

APRIL.

11944

Convict Labor

Ordering, with remarks, the utilisation of
on jail construction whenever practicable.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

6TH CIRCLE.

Kodaikanal 12/5/1884.

No. 5/T.C.

From

The Superintending Engineer,

6th Circle.

To

The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

Sir,

With reference to para 8 of
G.O. No. 1044 W dated 24th ultimo
directing to expedite the submission
of Plans and Estimate for Item
No. 57 (District Jail at Trichinopoly)
of the Provincial Budget, final
issue, for 1884-85, I have the
honor to report that the Plans
and Estimate for this Item
were submitted with my letter No.
258 T.C. of the 9th August 1883.
Vide G.O. No. 3592 W dated 15th
December 1883.

2. I find that a grant of

Rupers 20,000 is provided in
the current year's Budget
for the work above mentioned.

In order to ensure the grant
being fully utilized, I request
your permission to proceed with
the collection of materials
pending the sanction of the
Sobriate by Government.

I have the honor to be

Sir

your most obedt servt

 L. B. B.
Superintending Engineer

1294/57

In conveying the sanction which
has been granted to the
S.E. of the order to employ convicts
on this work as far as possible.

10/12/84
1615
1052 W of
25-4-84

P. W. D. 6TH CIRCLE.

From
The Superintending Engineer,
6th Circle.

(2)

To
The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

No. 51 T.E

Dated 12th } May 1884.
Received 16 }

Enclosure.

No. 1294 W of 23rd May

District Jail at Trichinopoly
states that the Plans
& Estimate were already sub-
mitted & request sanction
to collect materials for the

G. O. No 1044 W of 24-4-84
A. No 3592 W of 15-12-83
" 3034 W of 5-2-84
G. O. No 1054 W of 25-4-84

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23rd May 1884

READ the following

From the Supg. Eng. VI Circle H. E. No 512 C of 12th May 1884

The Supg. Eng.

VI Circle is authorized
to proceed with the
collection of materials
for the proposed new
district jail at Trichinopoly.

2. The Supg. Engineer's
attention is drawn
to the instructions
conveyed in para 4
of G. O. No 1054 W of
25th April 1884, relative
to the employment
of convict labor

in the construction
of this job.

Cd.

19-5-84

US
20-5-84

(2)

13-6-84

12-5-84

To
The S. E. VI Circle

" Ind. C. Dept

8/11

Cd.
18-5-84

19-5-84

20-5-84

1294
9

4148

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated

26/5/84

97

Recd.

Dist.

GO. 23 July 1884, No. 294

Dist. jail at Crick...

Mr S. E. attended
with remarks to proceed
with the collection
of materials for
the proposed work.

40
3

Subd. In. Dept. Secy