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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	53	Press / Mis.
Dated	8-6-1874	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 129. Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 12th May 1874, No. 1283.

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, Fort St. George, dated 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 superabundance 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 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 Amboor) numbering sixty-eight confined in this jail, and who being powerful and determined men might easily, if so 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.

5. I think that, without taxing the ingenuity of the Department Public Works overmuch, 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.

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.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

No. 130. Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 18th September 1873, No. 2309.

Read the following letter from J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevelly, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Courtalum, 27th August 1873, No. 75.

I have the honour to report that, while the iron doors for the jail at the new Taluq Cutcherry at Ambasamudram were being fixed, a question was raised by the Police as to whether the bars were not too far apart, and whether an ordinary cooly could not get through them. Mr. Grant tried the experiment and found several of the coolies were able to squeeze themselves through without difficulty.

2. The doors are made in accordance with the standard plan, dated September 1868, which shows the bars to be six inches apart from centre to centre. I have now had them altered to 4½ inches apart from centre to centre, and report the matter in case you should consider it advisable to modify the standard plan.

Communicated to District Engineers for information in order that they may not fail to adopt any necessary alteration of the kind.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th May 1874.

No. 131. ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1874, No. 915.

Communicated to the Magistrate of North Arcot, and to all Magistrates for information.

(True Extract.)

for Acting Chief Secretary.

To all District Magistrates.
,, the Revenue Department.
,, the Inspector-General of Jails.

Exd. J. Wright.

No 1801.

Revenue 1874 Departt

Govt. of. {1874} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

To

ALL DISTRICT MAGISTRATES,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 19th.

I. I. P. Sime End.

G. O., 19th May 1874, No. 915.

MAY.
Nos. 129—131.

Sub-Jails.—Proceedings in the Public Works Department directing District Engineers (in reference to a case brought to notice) not to fail to adopt any necessary alterations of defects in doorways in the construction of these jails, communicated to all Magistrates for information.

No 53.

Recorded
8 June 74