M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 861

Press ~~Mis.~~

710–711

Dated 31st March 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31*st March* 1869.

No. 710. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department :—

Sanctioning the estimated outlay of Rupees 833 for providing iron-barred doors and stone troughs in the Subsidiary Jails at St. Thomas' Mount and Homes' Gardens. (Here enter 15th March 1869, No. 421.)

No. 711. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1869, No. 861.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Judicial Department, No. 421.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1869 Madras

REVENUE

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated March 31st

Read

G. O. dated [illegible] 1868 No. 871

MARCH

Nos. 710-711.

Subsidiary Jail at St. Thomas' Mount and Homes' Gardens.—Order sanctioning estimates for providing iron-barred doors and stone troughs for them, communicated to Revenue Board.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, *15th March* 1869.

Read the following papers :—

No. 156. From the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 18th December 1868, No. 4573.

Adverting to G. O., No. 1575, dated 18th May 1868, I have the honor to forward estimates, as subjoined, for the works called for :—

Two estimates.
~~One plan.~~
One original letter.

	RS.
1. Providing iron-barred doors for Civil Debtors' ward and stone-troughs in all the wards, in St. Thomas' Mount Subsidiary Jail	770
2. Providing stone-troughs for the wards of the Subsidiary Jail at Home's Gardens	63

2. The iron-barred doors will be of the same pattern as those already provided for the other wards of the Jail.

3. The troughs for night conservancy will be in stone; but I cannot pass by this opportunity of recording my opinion of the disgusting arrangement which admits of places for carrying on the operations of nature in the very wards where convicts sleep! The plan followed in the Chittoor Jail, of well-secured recesses thrown out from the wards, seems to me to be far preferable.

4. I take this opportunity of forwarding a letter from the Assistant Engineer, Mount Range, wherein he fully disposes of the points raised by the Subsidiary Jail Committee.

5. I dismiss, as unworthy of notice, the remark made in paragraph 6 of the Subsidiary Jail Committee's letter, No. 112, of the 28th April 1868, suggesting that "another *attempt*" be made by this Department to build a drain, which, moreover, as it turns out, does not require reconstruction.

6. Funds for the estimates now submitted may be provided from the special assignments for Jail buildings, referred to in G. O., No. 3754, dated 2nd December 1868.

From the Assistant Engineer, Mount Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, Madras; dated Mount, 30th June 1868, No. 559.

Adverting to your endorsement, No. 880, dated 21st May 1868, on G. O., No. 1575, dated 18th May 1868, I have the honor to forward the following estimates :—

	RS.
1. Providing iron-barred doors for the Civil Debtors' wards and stone-troughs for all the wards of the Central Subsidiary Jail at the Mount, Estimate	790
2. Providing stone-troughs for the wards of the Subsidiary Jail at Homes' Gardens, Estimate	66

2. As already reported, the latrine at Homes' Gardens is asphalted.

3. I beg to record a strong, though respectful, protest against the statement of the Committee as to the drainage, and more particularly against the language in which the statement is conveyed. I was not aware that it was considered correct, as it certainly is not courteous, to write officially of the works of an Officer in this Department as "attempts;" especially without a thorough knowledge of the subject written upon, and without having offered an opportunity for explanation.

4. I enclose a plan which will show you what has been done. In paragraph 8 of their letter, dated 11th June 1867, communicated in your No. 1869, dated 12th July 1867, the Committee complained that the wards were damp. This arose from the fact that there was no proper channel to convey the storm water out of the square, and I adopted the obvious remedy of raising the floors of the wards, and building a catch-water drain round the square, which emptied into a drain leading into the road ditch. This was also enlarged and covered in.

5. They now state that this drain, "apparently intended to carry off a large volume of water," (it is of very modest dimensions, being only six inches wide and deep,) is entirely useless for the "washings."

6. "Washings" is a vague term. The Cantonment Magistrate understands it to mean the washings from the cookroom. From the plan you will see that these washings (at least those from the principal cookroom) at once enter the covered drain, and are conveyed by the shortest possible line to the nearest road ditch. There is no street sewer, although the Committee in paragraph 5 state there is. As the drain is covered, I do not see how there can be a smell, which there would be if "the very imperfect substitute" suggested in paragraph 6 was permanently adopted.

7. But from the statement that the smell was "noisome and offensive," I apprehend the washings meant are those from the privy. Surely the Committee do not think that I am going to take these into any road ditch; as I would then deliberately lay myself open to "a fine not exceeding Rupees 50, or to imprisonment not exceeding eight days, with or without labor," for a direct breach of Rule 3, Chapter III. of the Rules and Regulations for Military Cantonments (under Clauses 4 to 11 of Section 19 of Act I. of 1866). This would be all the more flagrant in me, being a Member of the Committee appointed to see these Rules carried out.

8. There are, however, tubs in the corners of the privies (vide plan) which are meant to receive the liquid refuse of the privies; and although some of the washings may get into the drain outside through the doorways, I trust that it is in no great quantity. The man in charge of the prisoners should be responsible for this.

9. The substitute proposed by the Committee would be still more imperfect with regard to these washings than with regard to those from the cookroom.

10. In paragraph 4, the Committee state that the dry-earth system was not efficiently carried out. Surely this in itself is sufficient to account for the "very noisome and offensive smell" mentioned in paragraph 5. Now that the system is better understood, the Serjeant in charge informed me that there was no smell whatever. I have failed to perceive any myself.

11. If you consider these explanations to be satisfactory, I earnestly hope that you will entreat Government to order the Committee to withdraw the very objectionable language in paragraph 6 of their letter.

Transferred to the Judicial Department.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Col., R. E.,
Secy. to Govt., P. W. D.

4th January 1869.

No. 157. From the Subsidiary Jail Committee, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 6th February 1869, No. 364.

We have the honor, with reference to your docket of the 4th ultimo, to recommend that the estimates aggregating Rupees 833, for erecting stone-troughs in the Jail wards at Saint Thomas' Mount and Homes' Gardens be sanctioned. The latter have already been constructed, but will require alteration, as we consider it better that the open end should be closed up.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of Colonel Boileau's letter to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated 18th December last, No. 4573, we beg to state that the troughs are intended only for night use.

3. With reference to the drainage of the Jail at Saint Thomas' Mount, we beg to repeat that, at the time of our visit, it was absolutely defective, and that there was a very offensive smell. The washings we alluded to were those from the cookroom, which were stagnating in a reservoir at A on the plan. The drain we referred to was from A to B. The dimensions of this are not given. We think they will be found to exceed six inches square. There was another drain not shown on the plan from C to A.

4. We adhere to our recommendation in paragraph 5 of our previous letter, No. 112, of 28th April last, as regards the washings from the men's cookroom.

5. At Homes' Gardens holes have been made in the wards and round reservoirs of stone erected outside to which water is conducted by a wooden shoot. We beg that these may be closed. It is possible that this arrangement was intended to carry off the water after washing the floor, but it is used as an urinal, which is highly objectionable. After the asphalte floor has been washed, there will be no difficulty in swabbing it dry.

No. 158. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1869, No. 421.

His Excellency the Governor in Council sanctions the estimated outlay of (Rupees 833) eight hundred and thirty-three for providing iron-barred doors and stone-troughs in the Subsidiary Jails at Saint Thomas' Mount and Home's Gardens.

2. The attention of the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, will be drawn in the Public Works Department to the remarks contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter from the Committee on Subsidiary Jails. Instructions will be also issued in that Department for closing the holes made in the wards of the Jail at Homes' Garden, referred to in paragraph 5 of the Committee's letter.

(True Extract).

R S Ellis
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department, with plan and two estimates.
,, Committee on Subsidiary Jails.
,, Magistrate of the Madras District.
,, Revenue Department.

Ex'd. N. C. Shunkor.

Revenue Dept.

Govt. of (1869) Madras.

W-918

JUDICIAL.

To

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 15th.

Recd. 23d.

G. O. 15th March 1869, No. 421.

MARCH.

Nos. 156—158.

Sanctioning the estimated outlay of Rs. 639 for providing iron-barred doors and stone troughs in the Subsidiary Jails at St. Thomas' Mount and H[illegible] Gardens.

With order

No. 861. 31 March /69

W-861

Commd. to the Revenue Board

31st March /69

[illegible]