

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1573	Press Mis.
8-9 Dated	2. 12	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th December 1857.

No. 8. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated 19th November 1857, No. 487.

SIR,

Ext. Mins. Cons. 21st October 1857, No. 1387.

In reference to the remarks of the Honorable Court of Directors on the Government review of my Prisons' report for 1855-56, I beg to submit information on several points.

2. Para. 47. The Government will recollect that in the alterations of the Jail of Poonah, a plan and description of which was forwarded with Extract from the Minutes of Consultation 20th February 1857, (No. 211, Judicial Department,) the system of separate cells in radial blocks was adopted and highly spoken of, the same system was adopted in the Prisons of Dhoolia and Rutnagherry, my plan the Government will observe obviates the objection to the term *Panopticon*, as applied to those Prisons and noticed by Mr. Bettington as a misnomer.

3. I cannot now refer to the document, but I recollect that in an account of the Agra Prison, mention of the commencement of blocks of separate cells was made.

4. If the Government order it, I shall be happy to go to Calcutta on my arrival at Madras, after visiting Salem and other southern Jails and see the system as adopted at Allipoor and also to Rutnagherry after visiting Bellary, as it will be very little out of my way from Honawar, I can very well do this visiting the western Jails before April, which is quite soon enough to allow of my arranging my calendar year's returns before the official year terminates.

5. Para. 48. The labor of Convicts, I have considered a secondary object, and in all my propositions, I never lost sight of the primary object, "the deterring from crime." I am glad to find that both this Government and the Honorable Court adopt this as a fundamental principle, which it will be my duty to keep steadily in view in any plans I may have.

6. Para. 49. Diet. In reference to the Court's remarks on this head, the report of the Medical Board for 1857, p. 7, my review of which is being copied for transmission, seems satisfactory. I paid great attention to the suggestions contained in the several reports of the Board for many years antecedent to my taking charge, I have perused also with attention the remarks of individual Medical Officers and have lost no opportunity of consulting those who paid attention to the subject, as well as such dietaries as I could obtain access to; I have not since my report was closed relaxed in interest on this subject and I am unable to add any thing to the observations already published. I have lately received from Dr. Davidson a further communication on this subject, in which a nice apportioning of food, in the case of each individual prisoner, was proposed, but this I consider impracticable, and I may here mention that it was a decrease in individual cases that was there proposed. The difference of opinion among Medical men, on this subject, it must be remembered, is a difference partly arising from the different classes and localities from which their respective experience is derived.

7. In regard to p. 51, I believe my words clearly shew that I am as averse as any man to the Government, or any Officer of Government, as such, encouraging proselytizing, I have seen the ill-effects entailed by such a system as that adopted by the Dutch, my object was to shew that if secular education were proposed as of itself sufficient to raise* the morals of any class, it would prove a failure, that if other than secular instruction were proposed, the Government must be passive in the matter. Whether Missionaries, as such, should be allowed to visit prisoners, was a question that had often been suggested and one that I felt it right should be decided, and it has now been decided that they shall not. I informed Mr. Holloway at Calicut some weeks since, when he proposed instruction that the Government desired, that it should be introduced and that if he could arrange for instructors, there would be difficulty in obtaining the necessary books. In my report just submitted I have also alluded to the subject.

*See also the remarks of the Inspector N. W. P. report for 1853, p. 75 on this head.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 8th December 1857.

No. 9. ORDER THEREON, No. 1573; dated 2nd December 1857.

Ordered that the above letter be brought to the notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors in reference to their Despatch in the Judicial Department, 12th August, No. 12 of 1857, paras. 44-51.

The Government approve the proposal of the Inspector to visit the Rutnagherry and Allipore Jails. Mr. Rohde will arrange accordingly.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge,

was of course filed and one that felt it right should be made - and it has now been decided that they shall not. I informed Mr. Holloway at Calicut some weeks since, when he proposed instructions that the Government desired - that it should be introduced - and that if he could arrange for instructions there would be no difficulty in obtaining the necessary books. In my report just submitted I have alluded to the subject.

Have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt

Rohde

Inspector of Prisons.

Noted and answered.
Inspector of Prisons
19th November 1857.

8215/13.

Ordered that the above letter be brought to the notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors in reference to their Despatch in the Judicial Dept. 12 Aug 1857 paras 44-51.
The Govt approve the
J.P.

27th Dec 1887
Copy to the Inspector of Prisons

for work of the on-
-spector to visit the
Antisiphery &
Alipore Jail - Mr
Rhon will arrange
accordingly
JP

Port St George
2^d Decemr 1887
Copy to the Inspector of Prisons
Dated 2^d

Special 1887 Department

From

The Inspector of Prisons
Cotacaimun

To The Chief Secy to the Govt of
Port St George

Dated 19th
Recd. 23rd Nov 1887 N^o 187

N^o 1940

Enclosures - None

Submitting information
on certain points with reference
to the remarks of the Hon^{ble}
Court of Directors under date
the 12th Aug^r 1887 N^o 12 and
communicated in A. No. C
dated 21st Oct^r 1887 N^o 1387

With an order

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