

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	732	Press Mis.
	36. 37	
Dated	27 — 6 — 18	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 30th June 1857.

No. 36. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated 17th June 1857, No. 218.

SIR,

I have the honor to request that you will lay before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the following proposition. It has long been my intention to apply for the three months' privilege leave to which I am entitled as soon as I can see that the executive have fairly commenced the Jail buildings which have already been approved by Government, my object was to spend one vacation with my children in England which would induce me to select the season of Christmas or mid-summer for that purpose. It has occurred to me that advantage might be

Probably I should take parts which could be best procured in England and construct the frame work in India.

taken of my being in England to allow of my passing one or two additional months *on duty* in making myself acquainted with the *details* of matters relating to prison arrangements and prison discipline, the *general* features of which I have studied from reports and other evidence, I could at the same time procure such machines and other appliances for Jail use, whether as patterns or otherwise, as my experience and knowledge of such matters would suggest.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor on my first appointment suggested my going to Calcutta and Agra, with the view to the introduction of such improvements as had been found advantageous there; it occurred to me however, and Lord Harris approved the idea, that it might be better that I should first become acquainted with the Jails under my control; on considering the matter fully with reference to the widely different circumstances of the Jails in this Presidency from those of the north, I became convinced that the prisons should be reformed on a different basis, and I suggested a modification of the system which in its integrity was found best suited to English penal discipline, I avoided those errors which I believe to have led to the partial failure of that system and I further changed the arrangements to meet the difference of climate and took advantage of this to introduce a plan which my knowledge of the habits and feelings of the Natives convinced me would tend much to the greater efficiency of the system, my views on all these points have met the approval of Government.

3. Had I leisure and means I have no doubt I could have devised machinery for enforcing hard labor, with profit to the establishment, which I desire to see introduced; I know what the country can supply in the shape of raw material and I know pretty well what uses that raw material can be put to, to ensure the best return; I know pretty well the way in which the Natives can best apply their powers and where they fail, and consequently the suitability or otherwise of such machines as I might find in use in England and the alterations needed to adopt them for use in our Jails, but I might be months or years in perfecting such machines which I myself originated, while a day might enable me with the article as in use in England before me to adapt it to my purpose. In like manner there are minutiae in the details of buildings, of fittings, of arrangements and of discipline which a month or two fairly devoted to the subject would elicit while many suggestions would be obtained from those who had experience, on all these points.

4. The advantages which in my opinion would accrue from this arrangement would under my proposition be obtained at no greater cost than the acting allowances for the short period I exceeded my privilege leave, and I must say that on public as well as personal grounds I should be glad if the proposition met the favorable consideration of the Government.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, No. 732; dated 27th June 1857.

Referred to the Civil Auditor for report.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

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Judicial Department

Nº 410

From The Inspector of Prisons.

Dated 17th June 1857.

For Orders.

The only objection I see

to Mr. Holde's proposition is that

his office would be left vacant

for some months.

Technically. I sh. doubt whether

privilege can be extended to an

Saturday to England.

The Court have already put a veto on the addition of privilege leave to the list of months she can now see. The Court have also ordered of the Court that she go home with the view on these terms with the consent of the Court. A decision was ordered of the Court to allow without leave. See note.

The question may be referred to the Court. If Mr. R. H. C. respect be accorded to it must be on special ground.

Ind. Dep. Secy. 19th June 1857
To the Chief Secy. to the Govt.
19th June 1857
10/932
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19th June 1857
10/932

In 24 Nov: 30 June
Judicial 1857 Department.
From
The Inspector of Prisons
To
The Chief Secy. to the Govt.
Port St. George
Dated 17th June 1857 No. 218
Dispt. 18th
Recd. 18th
No. 440

Enclosures None.
Requesting that the following proposition be laid before the Right Hon. the Govt. in Council in his applying for the privilege leave entitled to.
With an order

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