

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	880	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
	23-24	
Dated	25-7-1945	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th July 1857.

No. 23. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated 9th July 1857, No. 270.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 761, (3rd July 1857), conveying a letter from Mr. Glass, the Sessions Judge in charge of the Jail of Chicacole, objecting to the reduction of the Military Guard over that Jail unless a force numerically equal to that required to supply reliefs for the 24 Sepoys, 2 Naigues and 1 Havildar now on duty daily, be provided.

2. I should not have noticed this proposition as the Government had already decided that the Military Guard should not be withdrawn till the Sessions Judge certified his opinion that the peon guard was efficient. There is however a principle involved in Mr. Glass' proposition which I cannot allow to pass unnoticed.

3. I will not now stop to question the relative characters of the prisoners at Chicacole and those of Bellary and Guntoor where no Military guard is required.

4. Mr. Glass supposes that in addition to a guard of 19 peons a force of 91 armed men is requisite to restrain 204 prisoners, of all classes, in the Jail, and that this 91 of the guard, would, as peons, required to be relieved from duty for two days out of three, that is that the tour of a peon's sentry duty should not be more frequent than that of the Sepoy, such a proposition is utterly at variance with the practice of all countries.

5. The sentenced prisoners are generally under other guards, denominated the extra or working guard for 9 hours in the day, they are during 11 hours of the night locked up, there are therefore only 4, or at most 5, hours in the day during which all or the greater part of the permanent guard need be on duty.

6. I do not know that there is an instance on record of our Jail guards, having been forced, negligence alone has induced the greater number of the escapes from Jail, and that negligence, it must be remembered, is rather fostered by the present divided responsibility. I should rather say *supposed* division of responsibility, for in fact the Sepoy is no longer responsible except for the resistance of force by force.

7. In general, the proportion of prisoners in Jail, from whom any violence or forcible attempt at escape need be apprehended, is comparatively small, and if the arrangement I proposed, be carried into effect, of having responsible maistries selected from the prisoners themselves for all internal arrangements, there would be the less excuse for peons neglecting their proper duty.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, No. 880; dated 25th July 1857.

To be communicated to the Sessions Judge in charge of the Jail at Chicacole, with reference to his letter of the 20th June last, No. 137.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No 880

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H. H. communicated to the session
Judge in charge of the jail at Cheacole, with reference
to his letter of the 28 June last 1857.

Fort Saint George,
28th July 1857.

Wm

To the Sessions Judge of Cheacole - Despd. 30th.

35-37
7-7-57