

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	652	Press
	2-3	~~Mis.~~
Dated	11-5-1937	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
from 11th to 17th May 1859.*

No. 2. Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 3rd May 1859, No. 61.

1. I have the honor to forward an original letter which I have this day received from the Sheriff of Madras, in which he suggests that a Prisoners' Van might with advantage be provided for the conveyance of prisoners during the Sessions, from the Jail of the Supreme Court, and vice versa, instead of marching them on foot as heretofore. As I coincide in opinion with Mr. Wright, and as I should be glad to have the use of a carriage such as he describes for the conveyance of Convicts under sentence of transportation to the beach for embarkation, I take the liberty to request you to submit the Sheriff's letter to Government for consideration with my favourable recommendation.

2. If a Van, with a set of carriage harness be supplied to me, I will undertake to provide the horses and driver out of the Police Troop.

From W. S. WRIGHT, Esq., Sheriff of Madras; to Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Chief Commissioner of Police, dated 3rd May 1859.

During the late Sessions of the Supreme Court, in January and April last, I could not but observe the inconvenient manner, in which the prisoners were conducted from H. M.'s Jail to the Court House (and vice versa) as often as their presence was required by the presiding Judge, and by which a large Police force was necessarily employed, during the entire period of the Sessions, in the performance of a duty, which, with the modern appliances such as are used in England, and at a comparatively trifling outlay on the part of Government, could be much more efficiently and satisfactorily carried out. I allude to the use of a Prison Van, which may be constantly seen in all the principal towns of England, and which forms a part of the "materiel" of every Police Court in London.

Now it has occurred to me, that as your Department is exclusively concerned in the escort of prisoners to, and from the Jail, during the Sessions, and as the majority of the latter, after conviction, are brought direct from the Court to the Penitentiary under your charge, an application from you to the Government, for the supply of a properly constructed Prison Van, would meet with favorable consideration, especially as the present mode (although perhaps a time-honored practice) is neither a secure, nor a desirable one. It seems to me that circumstances might well arise, under which, it would be next to impossible for you to prevent communication between the prisoners and their friends, or even a well directed plan of rescue, and besides the public exhibition of these unfortunate creatures in the close narrow streets of Black Town, at all hours of the day (and some times of the night,) is neither edifying, nor in accordance with the usages of an enlightened age.

If you should think well of my suggestion, I would merely add, that in the event of your adopting it, two or three mounted Policemen to accompany the Van, would, in my opinion, be an ample force for the security of their charge.

If you had the Van, there would be, in addition, but a trifling charge to Government for keeping it in repair, and for the hire of horses, when it might be required.

Although my term of Office is but of short duration, I shall nevertheless be greatly pleased if I should be permitted, even indirectly, to contribute to the abolition of the barbarous custom, herein brought under your notice. Apologizing for this long letter.

No. 3. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1859, No. 652.

The Government authorize the construction of a Prison Van as recommended in the above letter. It will be built under the superintendence of the Commissioner of Police, who will on its completion, submit a bill for its cost.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 52.

The Govt authorize the construction
of a prison to be as recommended
in the above letter. It will be built
under the supervision & direction of
the Commissioners of Police who
will, on its completion, submit
a bill for its cost.

Wm. Fort St George
11 May 1859.

Comptroller of Police — }
Off of acct & audit } 21st 17th