M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 50-51	1157	Press Mis-
Dated	8-9-	19 1860.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1157

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 8th September 1860.

No. 50. Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 4th September 1860, No. 100.

Sentence.

Both guilty. First prisoner 2½ years' hard labor, 2nd prisoner 4 years' transportation.

Guilty. 7 years' transportation.

No. 1. Ramasawmy and *Nyaun*, labourers; committed by Thomas George Clarke, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, on the 27th day of April 1860; indicted for having feloniously and burglariously stolen from the dwelling house of one Ramalingum, one purse of the value of one Anna, five hundred Rupees, twenty Sovereigns of the value of two hundred Rupees, and one box of the value of one Rupee, the property of the said Ramalingum.

No. 2. *Cundasawmy Auchariy*, labourer; committed by Henry Colbeck Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, on the 9th day of June 1860; indicted for having feloniously attempted to administer poison, called white arsenic, to Soobramonia Auchariy, Apoorvapun, Sivagamy and Moonoatha, otherwise called Moonichee, with intent to kill and murder.

1st prisoner 7 years transportation, 2nd prisoner 2 years' hard labor.

No. 3. *Vencatachellum* and Veerasawmy Chetty, labourers, committed by Thomas George Clarke, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace on the 30th day of June 1860; the said Vencatachellum indicted for having feloniously stolen from the dwelling house of one John Tawse, one engine turned gold watch, one gold curb chain, one gold ring set with one ruby and two diamonds of the value of one thousand five hundred and forty Rupees, the property of the said John Tawse; and the said Veerasawmy Chetty, indicted for having feloniously received of, and from the said Vencatachellum the said property, knowing the same to have been stolen.

"With reference to your Memorandum, I beg to state that the three convicts named Venca-tachellum, Nyaun and Cundasawmy, all under sentence of transportation that have escaped from the Penitentiary, were last seen by the Daffadar No. 20 on his rounds last night at 12 o'clock, they were confined in the night case lock up, at the west end of the Jail, they got out of the cell by the means of obtaining a key that the para peon lost some 4 days ago (which he did not report) which key unlocked the cell they were in, and the door leading to the ward at present unoccupied on account of some alterations being made for the criminal prisoners that are expected from the Grand Jail, at the west end of the Jail, they then effected their escape by going through this ward to one of the cells where the bricklayer ministry's materials were kept, and broke off the lock of the cell, and took from it a hammer and chisel and a long rope, they then went through the new door in the yard of that ward, leading to between the two walls of the Jail, which rope they tied to the top of a scaffolding pole, and erected the pole on the outer wall in the north west corner of the Jail, also three or four palmyras which they erected side of the pole (the pole and palmyras were lying between the walls which the bricklayers use) they then climbed up the pole and palmyras till they got to the top of the wall, they then laid their cumblios on the top of the wall, in consequence of their being broken glass on the top, they then lowered themselves down by means of the rope that was attached to the top of the pole, no doubt some of them must have cut themselves, as there are traces of blood on the wall, from thence they proceeded to the grave yard north of the Jail, where they knocked off their chains by the hammer and chisel, which articles with the key I found this morning in the above said grave yard. When the report was made to me this morning I immediately sent off several peons in different directions in search of them, but proved unsuccessful as yet. The names of the men on duty last night are as follows:—

Daffadar	No. 20	Mahomed Jemall.	Peon No. 227	Davajee Row.
Naigue	,, 28	Madurasaigum.	,, ,, 370	Patcheappen.
,,	,, 30	Vencatarungum.	,, ,, 338	Goolam Dustagheer.
Peon	,, 314	Mahomed Cassim.	Actg. ,, ,,	418 Govindoo.
,,	,, 424	Shaik Dawood.	,, ,, ,,	219 Mootialoo.
,,	,, 425	Hyder Hoossain.	,, ,, ,,	421 Navoo Khan.
,,	,, 422	Balajee Row.		

No European Officer of the Jail went rounds last night, on account of my having been unwell, and being under Medical treatment for the last few days.

The locks and keys were examined last night at ½ past 10 o'clock by the Daffadar.

Peon No. 338 Goolam Dustagheer, was on sentry from the time the prisoners were last seen, up to the hour their escape was discovered.

I think it is possible that these men could escape over an 18 feet wall by the means that they had as above stated, although it was a full moon night, it was raining very much and it was dark, between the hours these men made their escape. It was the greatest degree of negligence and carelessness on the part of the peon that was on para over that cell. The keys of the cells are kept by the para peons so as to allow the prisoners out to answer the calls of nature."

Madras, Penitentiary, 31st August 1860.

I regret having occasion to inform you that three Convicts under sentence of Transportation escaped from the Penitentiary on the 30th of last month. By extract from letter sent to me by the Jailor on the following morning exhibited in margin, you will obtain a very fair account of the circumstance reported therein.

2. Mr. Deputy Commissioner T. Ramachendra Row was immediately sent by me to prosecute a strict enquiry into all the circumstances attending the escape of these Convicts, and he reports that it must have been effected through the treachery of two or more of the Police Officers on duty there, and the negligence of the superior Officers; he has placed two men in custody, and they will be sent for trial at the next Sessions if sufficient evidence to convict them is forthcoming; if not, I shall dismiss them from the Force. The Daffadar and Naigues of the Jail guard, on that night have all been reduced to the rank of a Peon.

3. The prisoners who have escaped were confined in the transportation ward, (called "Night Case Ward" from having been formerly used as such) which is closed by an iron door, and secured by a padlock, which they either unlocked themselves, with the consent of the sentries, or they were let out by them, and permitted to enter the ward on the north east angle of the premises, which is now being prepared, by the Engineer Department, for the reception of prisoners committed for trial; the inner door of which must also have been unlocked for that purpose either by or with the consent of the sentries. When there, their escape was easy,

there they helped themselves to the workmen's tools and procured the scaffolding, by means of which they got over the 18 feet outer wall.

4. Feeling sure that the Government would approve and sanction the act, I beg respectfully to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that I immediately offered a reward of 50 Rupees for the apprehension of each of those convicts, and that I caused a notice thereof, together with a Descriptive Roll, to be printed in three languages, which I largely circulated among the Magistrates and Heads of Police in the Mofussil, by the Post of Friday evening the 31st ultimo.

No. 51. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1860, No. 1,157.

Fifty (50) *Rupees for each Convict.*

The Government approve of rewards having been offered, and desire that every endeavour may be made to effect the capture of the three escaped Convicts.

2. His Honor in Council remarks that there must be a want of proper precautions and arrangements in the Penitentiary, if as stated, a Parah Peon could lose a Ward key, and the loss could remain undetected by the Jailor for four days—also, as shown, by the scaffolding having been left in a place where it could be made available for the purposes of escape, and not brought nightly into the prison and put under charge of a sentry.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 1157 - 8 September 1860 -

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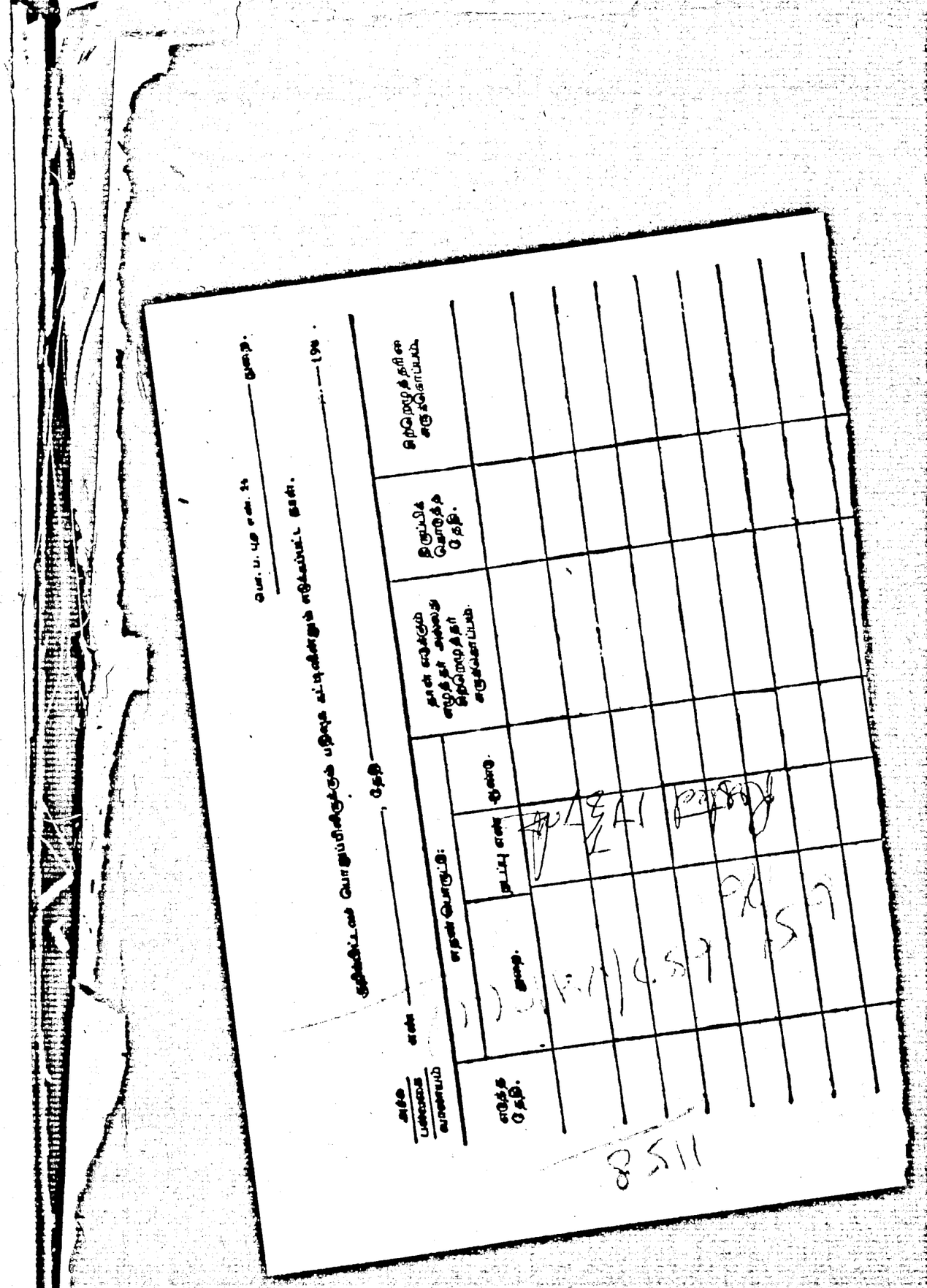
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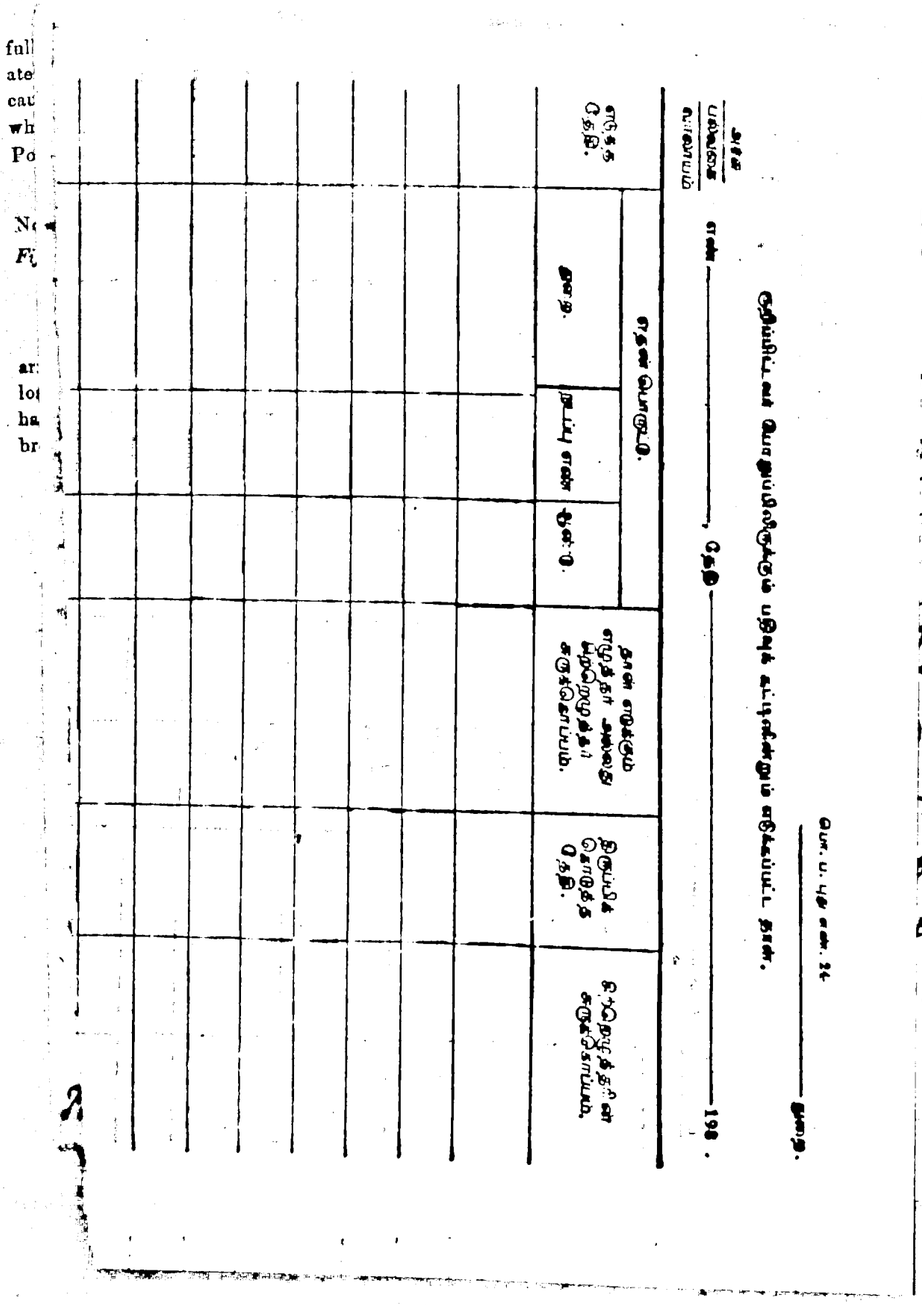
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The Commr. of Police.
" Civil Auditor.
" Accl. Genl.

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