

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 740

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Dated 12. 6. 1860 19

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th June 1860.

Read the following papers:—

No. 90. From GEORGE COUPER, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the North Western Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Nynee Tal, 21st May 1860, No. 1,274 A.

Judicial.

From Director General Medical Department, dated 12th March 1860, No. 2,470 and enclosure.

To Inspector General of Prisons, dated 11th April 1860, No. 778 A.

From Inspector General of Prisons, dated 24th April 1860, No. 55 and enclosures.

I am directed by the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor to transmit to you copies of the documents noted on the margin, relative to the sickly condition of 45 Convicts forwarded from these provinces under sentence of transportation to the Andamans, in a gang, under Medical charge of Dr. Colvin Smith, Assistant

Surgeon, Madras Rifles, and to request that with the permission of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council a requisition may be made on that Officer for a full report, on the nature of the sickness which so generally prevailed as supposed, causes, and his treatment of it.

From J. FORSYTH, Esq., Director General, Medical Department, to A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated Fort William, 12th March 1860, No. 2,470.

I have the honor to submit for the information of the Honorable the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, the accompanying letter in original, No. 36, dated 23rd ultimo, from the Civil Assistant Surgeon of Behar, bringing to notice that 45 sick up-country Convicts, intended to be sent to the Andamans, were left behind at Shergotty in a deplorable condition, and that several of the party have died.

2nd. Please return the enclosure when no longer required.

From J. B. ALLEN, Esq., Civil Assistant Surgeon, Behar, to J. BALFOUR, Esq., M. D., Superintending Surgeon, Dinapoor, dated 23rd February 1860, No. 36.

I have the honor to report that on Friday, 10th instant, 45 sick up-country Convicts, most of them life prisoners, proceeding in a gang under charge of the Madras Rifles to Allipore, their ultimate destination the Andamans, were left behind at Shergotty for transmission to the Sadr station, where they arrived upon the 11th instant, 44 in number, one having died of cholera at Shergotty. They were in a deplorable condition, emaciated, filthy, and many in a dying state, diarrhoea being the chief disease among them, 4 died the following day, and since then 7 more. The Convicts have been under Pals located in a tope of trees just outside the town, up to the 18th instant, when 16 of the stronger ones were sent into the Jail. Of the remaining 17 in Pals some half dozen still continue in a very weak and debilitated state, suffering from diarrhoea.

From A. R. THOMPSON, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Inspector General of Jails, dated Fort William, 21st March 1860, No. 1,067.

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter, No. 2,470, dated the 12th instant, and of its enclosure, from the Director General, Medical Department, bringing to notice that 45 sick up-country Convicts proceeding in a gang to Allipore for transportation to the Andamans, were left behind at Shergotty in a deplorable condition, and to request that you will issue the necessary orders to the Magistrate of Behar in regard to their proper treatment and disposal.

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No. 1,068.

Forwarded to the Government of the North Western Provinces for information.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 21st March 1860.

(Signed) R. THOMPSON,
Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. D. SANDFORD,
Offg. Mily. Secy. to Govt.,
North Western Provinces.

From G. COUPER, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the North West Provinces, to the Inspector General of Prisons, North West Provinces, dated Nynee Tal, 11th April 1860, No. 778 A.

Judicial.

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to forward the accompanying copy of a docket No. 1,068, dated 21st ultimo, from the Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, giving cover to correspondence which has passed relative to the sickly condition of 45 Convicts forwarded from these Provinces under sentence of transportation to the Andamans, who were left at Sherghotty in a deplorable state, and to request you to report fully all particulars on the following points regarding the despatch of these prisoners from Allahabad, viz :

- (1st.) On what date were they despatched, and what was the strength of the gang?
- (2nd.) Were they all examined individually, before despatch, and found to be in a condition of 'health justifying their despatch'?
- Extracts from the Register of Examination should be submitted.
- (3rd.) Were all the prisoners duly provided with clothing, blankets, &c.?
- (4th.) Who was sent in charge of the gang?
- (5th.) And what instructions were given in regard to diet?
- (6th.) Did any Native Doctor accompany the gang?
2. The sickness and mortality, I am desired to state, appear to have been deplorable and a thorough investigation is imperative.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. SANDFORD,
Offg. Mily. Secy. to Govt.,
North Western Provinces.

From STEWART CLARK, Esq., Inspector General of Prisons, North Western Provinces, to GEORGE COUPER, Esq., Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces, dated Nynee Tal, 24th April 1860, No. 55.

With reference to your letter No. 778, dated 11th instant, and enclosures, relating to the sickly condition of 45 Convicts, forwarded from these provinces, under sentence of transportation to the Andamans, who were left at Sherghotty, and requesting me to report fully, all particulars connected with their despatch from Allahabad; I have the honor to submit the correspondence noted in the margin, which contains the information required in your letter under reference.

Letter from the Superintendent Allahabad Central Prison, to Inspector General of Prisons, No. 62 dated 14th March 1860, with enclosures. Do. do. to do. do. No. 80, dated 18th April 1860, with enclosures.

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2nd. It appears from the correspondence noted above, that every possible care was taken by the Superintendent of the Allahabad Central Prison, to provide for the health of the prisoners in question during the march, and that the disease they suffered from must have broken out some time after they left Allahabad.

3rd. I have no means of ascertaining the treatment the prisoners were subjected to on the line of march, but I have applied to the Inspector General of Prisons, Lower Provinces, for a Nominal list of all those left behind at Sherghotty, with the view of ascertaining exactly the state they were in when despatched from Allahabad.

From J. C. BOW, Esq., M. D., Superintendent Central Prison, Allahabad, to STEWART CLARK, Esq., Inspector General of Prisons, North Western Provinces, dated Allahabad, 14th March 1860, No. 62.

In reply to your letter dated the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to state that the 319 Convicts despatched from this on the 20th January were several times inspected by me. I considered 52 of them from old age and debility unfit to travel on foot, they were therefore marked off to be conveyed in carts. There was not a single sick man sent from this, twenty-two men were detained on account of sickness. The Convicts were not inspected by the Civil Surgeon and Magistrate. Doctor Irving in reply to my note asking him when it would be convenient for him to come and inspect the Convicts said, referring to Secretary to Government North Western Provinces' letter No. 1620, dated 5th May 1859, he considered the rules had only reference to Convicts proceeding by river when no Medical Officer is in charge of them.

I enclosed his note (along with another received from the Superintending Surgeon regarding the Medical Officer being put in charge of the Convicts to Mr. Thornhill) and requested his opinion as to the bearing of the rules, I received no reply to this part of my letter. There was no time for reference to you. For my own satisfaction I requested Drs. Knight and Stewart who were at my house to look over the men with me, they did so, and fully concurred in the arrangements I had made.

From the reports received up to the 11th February, the day on which the sick were made over to the Magistrate of Sherghotty, I find that out of ten men who died, only two had been in hospital here, one with fever from the 8th to 12th December, the other with fever in November.

I sent with the Convicts 15 carts, so that after providing for the 52 men unable to march, there was accommodation to the amount of 25 per cent. for men who might fall sick or get foot-sore en-route.

I annex copy of a letter I addressed to the Officer Commanding the Madras column; at his request I sent him an extra Duffadar and six Burkundazes.

From J. C. BOW, Esq., M. D., Superintendent Central Prison, Allahabad, to Major MACDONEL, Commanding Madras Troops, Jhoosie, dated 20th January 1860.

I have the honor to inform you that I have despatched 319 Convicts to Jhoosie; of these 267 are strong and able to march, the remainder being old men or men who have been sick have been sent on carts. In the accompanying list I have made a mark opposite the names of the latter. The Jailor will make over the prisoners. I have sent with them one Duffadar named Rájub Ali and six Burkundazes, these men will look after the Convicts' food. Seven hundred Rupees will be made over to you, this I think ought to be sufficient for food, if not however an advance can be procured from any Magistrate en-route. At the suggestion of the Brigadier Commanding, the legions have been removed, the only exceptions being in the cases of two men who have frequently attempted to escape. A Compounder with a small supply of medicines accompanies the men. I wrote to the Superintending Surgeon and also to the Commissioner stating that I thought a Medical Officer ought to take Medical charge of the Convicts, probably ere this a

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communication has reached you on the subject. Enclosed is a memo. of the daily amount of food allowed to each man. I presume the tents will have to be made over to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General at Raneegunge.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. C. BOW, M. D.,
Superintendent Central Prison, Allahabad.

From J. C. BOW, Esq., M. D., Superintendent Central Prison, Allahabad, to STEWART CLARK, Esq., Inspector General of Prisons, North Western Provinces, dated 18th April 1860, No. 80.

With reference to your letter No. 725, dated the 12th April with enclosures, I have the honor to state that most of the information called for has been already afforded in my letter to you, dated the 14th ultimo, and the annexed copy of my letter to Major Macdonel, Commanding the Madras Column.

I shall now however answer the questions asked in the order they are put.

(1.) The gang left this on the 20th January 1860—strength 319.
(2.) The Convicts were repeatedly individually examined by me, and I marked off in the list those (52 in number) I did not consider strong enough to walk, though perfectly fit to travel on carts, which were provided for them. This list was given to Major Macdonel, who had the men accordingly separated. The men who were to march had no leg irons. At my request Drs. Knight and Stewart examined the prisoners the last time along with me. They fully concurred in the arrangements I had made.

(3.) All the prisoners were provided with the full complement of cold-weather clothing—they were also supplied with tents.

(4.) Two Duffadars and twelve Burkundazes were sent with the prisoners to look after their food, &c.

The gang was made over to the charge of Major Macdonel, Commanding Madras Column.

(5.) Hard labor diet including parched gram was ordered to be issued, a list of the articles and quantities allowed in this diet was given to the Duffadars and also to Major Macdonel.

(6.) I sent an experienced Compounder with medicines and at my request the Superintending Surgeon had Dr. Colvin Smith of the Madras Column put in orders to take Medical charge of the gang.

I have received no list of the men left behind at Sherghotty, so cannot say whether the majority of them were from among those men whom I had told off to be conveyed in carts. From the report of one of the Duffadars who has returned, it appears, that 45 men left at Sherghotty were the whole of the sick of the 319, not one sick man being detailed with the gang; 44 of these men were taken next day 10 coss in carts and did not arrive at their destination until 4 in the afternoon.

Upwards of six per cent. of the Convicts then in the Jail here were detained on account of sickness, and to the best of my knowledge not a single sick man was despatched; no death occurred in the gang until the 15th day after their departure; and of ten men, who died prior to reaching Sherghotty, only two had ever been in hospital here and that long before they were despatched.

From all accounts great sickness and mortality on the Grand Trunk Road is not confined to Convicts. Of the twelve Burkundazes who left this, seven were seriously ill, two died. The Duffadars and Compounder were also laid up. The latter and several of the Burkundazes have not yet returned.

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Extract of Brigade Orders issued by Brigadier M. G. Dennis, C. B., Commanding Allahabad,
19th January 1860.

5. The Madras Troops now here will commence their march from Jhoosie on Saturday the 21st instant, en-route to the Presidency, affording escort to three hundred Convicts from the Central Prison at this station; on this subject, Major Macdonel, Commanding the Madras Troops, is requested to communicate at once with Dr. Bow, Superintendent of the Prison.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. HUDSON, Captain,
Major of Brigade,

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. D. SANDFORD,
Officiating Military Secretary to Govt. N. W. P.

No. 91. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1860, No. 740.

Referred to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, who will furnish the report called for by the Government of the North Western Provinces.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

N^o. 740 - 12 June 1860 -

Referred to the Principal
Inspector Genl; Medl. Dept.,
who will furnish the report
called for by the Govt. of
the N. W. Provinces.

JP

The Principal Inspector Genl.
Medl. Dept. 3rd Sep 1860