M.R.C. 1—20,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1054 Press ~~Misc.~~

1142-1143

Dated 17— 8— ~~19~~ 1861

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 17th August 1861.

No. 142. Read the following MINUTE by His Excellency the PRESIDENT, dated 15th August 1861.

I examined yesterday the Prison now in progress here for the reception of the worst class of European Prisoners. The work seems very carefully executed and the internal arrangements appear to be perfect, but I am not so sure as to the external. The Prison contains or can contain thirty-six Prisoners, and there are only three yards; it follows therefore as a matter of necessity that more than one Prisoner must be in the yard at a time; now as these Prisoners are supposed to be of such bad character as to require all the most perfect arrangements for their security when shut up in their cells, it would seem to be rather incongruous to admit them to associate with each other in the yards, where they would be at liberty to concert schemes for escape, which the very rigor of their confinement would make more daring and dangerous.

I should wish to know from Mr. Rohde what system of discipline he proposes to introduce into the Jail, how he proposes to find employment for the Prisoners; whether they are intended to work in their cells, or in a workshop; what provision he proposes to make for their moral and spiritual wants; all these are matters which require careful consideration in connection with the system of separate confinement, and as the Prison approaches completion it will be necessary that the Government should have all these subjects clearly brought before them and determined, after reference to the Supreme Government, before any Prisoners are placed in this Jail, as nothing is so prejudicial to discipline as changes in a system to which Prisoners have been subjected.

(Signed) W. T. DENISON.

No. 143. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1861, No. 1,054.

In the above Minute His Excellency the President informs the Board that he has visited the Penitentiary now in progress at Ootacamund for the reception of the worst class of European Prisoners. The work seems to him to have been very carefully executed, and the internal arrangements to be perfect. He observed however that while the Prison is intended to contain 36 Prisoners, there are only three yards. It follows therefore necessarily that more than one Prisoner must be in the yard at a time, and as these men are supposed to be of such bad character as to require all the most perfect arrangements for their security when shut up in their cells, it would seem somewhat inconsistent to admit them to associate with each other in the yards, where they would be at liberty to concert schemes of escape, which the very rigor of their confinement would make more daring and dangerous.

2. Resolved that the Inspector General be requested to state in what manner he proposes to obviate the consequence above indicated, as also to explain generally what system of discipline he designs to introduce into the Jail; how he intends to find employment for the Prisoners; whether they are meant to work in their cells, or in a workshop; and lastly, what provision he proposes to make for their moral and spiritual wants.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

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In the above Minute His Excellency the President informs the Board that he has visited the Penitentiary now in progress at Ootacamund for the reception of the worst class of European Prisoners. The work seems to him to have been very carefully executed, and the internal arrangements to be perfect. He observed however that while the Prison is intended to contain 36 Prisoners, there are only three yards. It follows therefore necessarily that more than one Prisoner must be in the yard at a time, and as these men are supposed to be of such bad character as to require all the most perfect arrangements for their security when shut up in their cells, it would seem somewhat inconsistent to admit them to associate with each other in the yards, where they would be at liberty to concert schemes of escape, which the very rigor of their confinement would make more daring and dangerous.

2. Resolved that the Inspector General be requested to state in what manner he proposes to obviate the consequence above indicated, as also to explain generally what system of discipline he designs to introduce into the Jail; how he intends to find employment for the Prisoners; whether they are meant to work in their cells, or in a workshop; and lastly, what provision he proposes to make for their moral and spiritual wants.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

15 8 61

I examined yesterday the Prisoners now at present in for the reception of the worst class of European Prisoners - The work seems very carefully executed and the internal arrangements appear to be perfect. But I am not so sure as to the extent - the Prison contains 56 Prisoners and there are only three Yards or Airing grounds therefore as a matter of necessity that must mean one Prisoner must be in the Yard at a time - now as these Prisoners are supposed to be of such bad character

as to require all the most
perfect arrangements for their
security when shut up in
their cells it would seem
to be rather incongruous to
admit them to associate
with each other in the Gaol
when they would have little
to conceal between for escape
what the very purpose of their
confinement would make
hazardous & dangerous -
I should wish to know
from Mr Roche what system
of discipline he proposes to
establish with the Gaol
how he proposes to find
employment for the Prisoners

whether they are to
work in their cells or on a
workshop - what provision
he proposes to make for their
moral & spiritual wants -
all these are matters which
require careful consideration
in connection with the
system of separate confine-
ment - and as the Govern
approaches Completion it
will be necessary that the Gov
should have all these subjects
clearly brought before them
and determined, upon
reference to the Supreme
Govt before any Decisions
are placed in his hand - as
nothing is so prejudicial to

discipline or changes in
adoption towhich Prisoners
have been subjected.

W Denison

Judicial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following
Minute by His Excellency
the Governor dated
Ootacamund 15th August
1861.

Order thereon 17th August 1861. No 1054.

In the above Minute
His Excellency the President
informs the Board that
he has visited the Peni-
tentiary now in progress
at Ootacamund for the
reception of the worst
class of European Prisoners.
The work seems to him
to have been very carefully
executed, and the internal
arrangements to be perfect.
He observed however that
while the Prison is intended
to contain 36 Prisoners
there are only three
yards

yards. It follows there-
fore necessarily that
more than one Prisoner
must be in the yard
at a time - and as these
men are supposed to be
of such bad character
as to require all the
most perfect arrangements
for their security when
shut up in their cells,
it would seem somewhat
inconsistent to admit
them to associate with
each other in the yards,
where they would be at
liberty to concert schemes
of escape, which the
very rigor of their con-
finement would make
more daring and dan-
gerous.

2. Resolved that the
Inspector General be re-
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to

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the Prisoners; whether they
are meant to work in
their cells, or in a work-
shop; and lastly what
provision he proposes to
make for the moral
and spiritual wants.

To the Inspector General of Jails 22/6.

Proceedings
Judicial 1865 Dept.

No. 1054

Proceedings of Govt.

Dd 17th August 1865.

Ltr. 1425.

Requesting the Inspector General of Jails to submit certain information respecting the new Jail at Potacamund as respects the Discipline he proposes to introduce in it.—

142-143

C. J.