M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 419 Press ~~Mis.~~

237-238

Dated 26. 3. 1861 ~~19~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 26th March 1861.

No. 237. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th March 1861, No. 119.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, 1st March 1861, No. 412, relative to the withdrawal of the Convicts from the station roads.

2. The Convicts were not withdrawn, but the work was taken out of the hands of the Officer in charge of the Jail who was anxious for opportunities of employing the Convicts; he addressed me on the 1st November last, saying "I have up to the present moment received no "application for the labor of prisoners either from the District Engineer or from the Quarter Mas- "ter General, though I have repeatedly informed the authorities I am quite prepared to place "them at their disposal."

3. In reply I sent him a copy of the Order of Government, 10th August 1860, showing what had been done at Bellary under similar circumstances.

4. The fact is I am most anxious to get the Convicts employed and am at all times ready to direct their employment towards reducing the cost of any work, recognized as necessary, provided discipline can be maintained on it.

5. I enclose Mr. Harris' letter for perusal and return.

From T. I. P. HARRIS, Esq., Session Judge of Trichinopoly, to J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, dated 1st November 1860.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that I am at present unable to employ the prisoners in any extensive road-making or repairing, as I am without a single bullock cart.

2. Under an Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, dated the 10th May 1860, the 10 carts placed at my disposal were withdrawn on the 13th June following, and I see no prospect of their ever being restored, for by the G. O. G. under date the 14th August 1860, the roads in the Military Cantonment are placed under the surveillance of a Conservancy Committee, as far as I can ascertain however the main roads and many of the minor ones are not considered within the limits of the said Committee; and the consequence is a general break up and dis-repair of nearly all the roads within the boundaries of the Civil Cantonment.

3. I have up to the present moment received no application for the labor of prisoners either from the District Engineer or from the Quarter Master General, though I have repeatedly informed the authorities I am quite prepared to place them at their disposal.

4. There is no road fund here at present, it being the general opinion that the subscription thereto should be discontinued as soon as the Income Tax came into operation, and consequently the six bullock bandies maintained by the said fund are no longer available.

5. I am to the best of my endeavours, employing the prisoners in works in the Fort, and have given a large gang to the 15th Regiment Native Infantry, for the formation of the new lines.

6. There are only 4 small hand carts in the Jail and these are quite useless for the making and repairing of roads as the gravel has generally to be brought from a long distance off.

7. I have deemed it my duty to bring the matter to your notice, I have all along objected to the prisoners being employed inside the Fort if work can be found for them elsewhere, but without bullock carts I find a difficulty in employing them on the roads.

8. I take this opportunity of representing that 35 of the Jail Peons who lately petitioned you have been employed by the Superintendent of Police, and to the best of my belief not one of the men who thus petitioned contumaciously refused employment when offered them, on the contrary they were all continually coming before me requesting my interference, and on my at last writing privately to the Superintendent of Police he merely told me there were no vacancies but that he would give them situations as soon as vacancies occurred.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
26th March 1861.

No. 238. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1861, No. 419.

Communicated to the Public Works Department, in reference to paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, 1st instant, No. 412.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 419 — 26th March 1861.

Communicated to the Public Works Dept., in reference to para 3. of their Proc.s 1st Inst. No. 412.

The Pub. Wks. Dept.
" Inspector Genl. of Jails. with an Encl. } Desps 27-3-61.
Desp.h 27-3-61.