

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 651	Press ~~Mis.~~
107-108	
Dated 17.5.1861	19

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

17th May 1861.

No. 107. Read the following Circular:—

CIRCULAR No. 92.

1. The Inspector General of Jails notices, in several Jails, that the guards furnished by the Police are on a very expensive scale, costing more than the former guard; he trusts to all Officers in charge of Jails to bring to his notice all expense connected with the guarding of the Jail by the Police, that may seem uncalled for and which may be persisted in by the Local Superintendent, to whom the remonstrance should, in the first instance, be addressed.

2. In the case of most Jails it can hardly be necessary, when the system is fairly at work, to have any Officers above the rank of Serjeant on the standing guard over the Jail, or with working parties. The Jails being at the Head Quarter Stations, the Police guards will necessarily be under the eye of superior Officers, and the Jailor should in all cases co-operate with the Police, by reporting any irregularity to the Police Inspector, and, if necessary, to the Officer in charge of the Jail, with the view to its communication to the Superintendent.

3. By mutual co-operation there can be little doubt that efficiency and economy may be combined and the Inspector General of Jails would take this opportunity, at a season which induces a fear of much necessary additional expense, of begging each Officer in charge of a Jail, to check unnecessary outlay. This may in many cases be done by carefully ascertaining the real market prices of grain, by restricting its issue and that of condiment, to the minimum allowance, by resorting as far as may be done to the cheaper grains, as Ragee, Cumboo and Cholum, especially in those Districts in which such grains form the staple food of the people. By restricting the issues of such grain in the first instance and by varying it in the case of prisoners not accustomed to it, the use may be introduced into nearly all Jails.—Another very important item is the restriction of articles of diet, issued on Medical requisition, to the periods for which they are absolutely necessary.

4. The Inspector General of Jails has observed a gradual tendency to extravagance in dieting prisoners, both in resort to the more expensive grains and to meat diet, excess in condiment &c.; he has not satisfied himself that any advantage to the health of prisoners has been derived from persisting in high feeding, even in the unhealthy Jails; he finds many Medical men in charge of Jails, or who have had that charge, express the same opinion and he trusts to Officers in charge of Jails to use their influence to check this tendency to expense, especially at the present time when the most ordinary fare of the prisoners is better than that of millions of the people.

5. The attention of all Officers in charge of Jails is requested to the diet tables provided by the Circular of the 12th September 1856, No. 24.

6. It has been found that prisoners on first entering Jail do not digest the large allowance of dry grain issued, smaller quantities should be given till the prisoner can, with hard labor digest the ordinary allowance.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector General of Jails.

OOTACAMUND,
OFFICE OF INSP. GENL. OF JAILS,
2nd March 1861.

To all Officers in charge of Jails.

To the Chief Secretary to Government for information.

No. 108.

ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1861, No. 651.

The Government have received from the Inspector General of Jails a copy of his Circular No. 92, dated 2nd March last, relative to the great expense incurred in some Jails on account of the Police guards furnished to them, and on account of the diet of the prisoners.

2. This Circular has probably been communicated to the Inspector General of the Madras Police, but a copy will now be furnished to that Officer and his particular attention called to Mr. Rohde's remarks in the three first paragraphs of it.

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

3. The Officers in charge of Jails to whom the Circular has been sent, will also be instructed through the Inspector General, that the Government look to them to second his efforts in checking all unnecessary outlay on account of diet, and restricting it both in quantity and in kind to that which is absolutely necessary for maintaining the prisoners in health and vigor.

4. A copy of the Circular will also be sent to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, who will be requested to impress upon the Officers in his Department in Medical charge of Jails, all due care in respect to the ordering of expensive grain, meat, diet, and condiments to prisoners, so that the issue of such articles be restricted as much as possible consistently with the health of the prisoners.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Oblacimund 15th March/61

My dear Pycroft

I have discovered at Coimbatore a system of fraud in the Jail under sanction as I hear privately of an order of Thomas to his Tahsildar to report price currents to the Jail at 6 measures of grain per Rupee less than the real market prices. I had long been struck with the high prices at Coimbatore and spoke to Ward about them but he maintained that the superior article furnished caused the high price. twice however the Principal Sadr Ameen when in charge fined the Contractor under the terms of his contract for supplying unwholesome grain. In January last Cholera was charged at 9 measures per Rupee while

while I bought 13 here. I called Ward's attention to this and in confirmation of my suspicions mentioned that I had made enquiries and found 16 and not 9 measures to be the real quantity per Rupee as sold at and near Coimbatore; in reply he said that 13 was the real rate, not 16 that the Tahsildar when called upon produced an order from Thomas ordering him to understate the number of measures per Rupee by 5.

I have now taken up the matter officially and called on Ward for a full enquiry and report. I have urged the certainty of the enormous fraud having been shared

shared by others than the Contractor, and in view to ascertain what amount has been thus paid, I have called for detailed accounts since 1855 for copies of the contracts. I should explain that in default of contracts at fixed rates he, and I believe Roupell before him had contracted for supplies at the market rates.

I do not choose to undertake the enquiry myself in its present stage at least, as in the first place it is Ward's duty and, in the second, I have no machinery or authority; but, I wish to know if I am at liberty to order suits for recovery or criminal prosecution if

whi. I find grounds.
att. I had in 1855 found
of that a merit was furnished to Po
ha pell for condiments 25 per cent by
16 order above market rates, and then
rea I reported in para of my notes
an on Coimbatore. I understood that
he the system was then changed but it
rea was not till a few days ago that
wh I became fully aware, by semi
or official correspondence of the
to continuance of the practice.
in I shall as soon as I
in can quit my office for a few
in days, pay my ordinary visit to
he Coimbatore and you will be
re receive official notice of the
of matter which, I hope, ^{by that time} will

will have been engrossed into ^{written} ^{matter to}
I have ^{written} ^{matter to} stop the January contingent bill
which I had passed.
By this days post I
send you a circular on which
I wish you to hold proceedings.
The truth is that the tendency to
expense is very much on the
increase. In no single instance
that I recollect has a general
departure from the ordinary
prison rations been attended
with benefit.
I think the doctors
should be told that the Government
will regard with dissatisfaction
any excessive resort to high feeding
with

with the idea of maintaining
the health of prisoners although
willing to admit the necessity
for resort to a more generous
diet than that of the ordinary
prison fare in special cases.

Very sincerely &c

/Signed/ J. P. R. de

P.S. My report for 1859/60 was
delayed till February 7th by non
receipt of Medical report, and
since my Office have been un-
able to prepare all returns. I
hope to despatch it this month.

Judicial Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following Cir-
cular from the In-
specter General of Jails.

Here enter 2^d March 1861
No. 92

order thereon 17th May 1861. No. 151.

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W. V.

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JF

To the Inspector General
Madras Police

" Inspector Genl. of Jails.

" Principal Inspector
Genl. Med. Depart.

Dated 17-5-61.

W. H. K.

W. H. K.

Prosser May

Medical
Department 1861.

No. 157.

Proceedings of the Medical
Government.

Dated, 17 May 1861.

Following the presentation of
a petition of the Medical Government
of India to the Secretary of the
Colonization Society of India
relative to the great (expensive)
expense and time taken in
account of the Medical Government
furnished to them and are
account of the said of the
Government and issuing orders
orders.

10/9/1868