

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>881</i>	Press MIS.
<i>77-78</i>	
Dated <i>9. 7. 1881</i>	<i>19</i>

8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
9th July 1861.*

No. 77. Read the following Report from the Inspector General of Jails.
(Here enter 20th April 1861.*)

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1861, No. 881.

The Inspector General of Jails submits his Report for the official year 1859-60, and with it, that of the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, on the sanitary state of the Jails in the Madras Presidency for the same period.

2. The total number of prisoners in the several Jails at the end of the year reported on was 6,308, viz:—

Convicted by the Foujdari Adawlut, Session and Subordinate Courts and Magistracy...	5,423
Confined in default of furnishing Security...	...
State Prisoners...	341
Untried Prisoners...	34
Confined for debt or revenue default...	324
	186

3. From Statement A. it seems that 800 persons were in confinement for debt or in a few cases in default of payment of revenue in the course of the year 1859-60. Of these only 39 had been in confinement for periods in excess of six months, and 654 had been for periods below three months. The number of prisoners so confined at the beginning, and at the end of the year under report, should be stated in future returns.

4. Statement D. is headed "General Abstract of Convicts," but it also includes persons confined in default of furnishing security, and State prisoners. Columns 15, 16, 17 are headed "In solitary imprisonment, sentenced for 18 months to 1 year—1 year—6 months." It is not of course to be understood that the persons included in these columns are to be kept in solitary confinement for 12 or 18 months continuously. What was probably meant was that they had been sentenced to imprisonment for those terms, with solitary confinement at intervals during their periods of imprisonment, but this should have been explained in the heading.

5. Statement E, column 2 "Total number of prisoners." This would seem to be total number as it stood on the 30th April 1860 or at the close of the year reported on—but if so, it should have been so stated.

6. Mr. Rohde reports that the most important event of the year in connection with the Jails was the introduction of the new Police for guarding them. This, it is stated, is of much service. Further the result of the new system of Police generally has been to bring into Jail a different set of prisoners from those who have hitherto been its inmates, stout able bodied men "who as far as physical power went were quite capable of committing any amount of robbery." The introduction of the new Police has not however had the effect of diminishing the actual cost of guarding the prisoners and directing their labor, which is said to be much the same as before, the only set off against it being the pay and expenses of the Military guard, which in many of the Jails had already been dispensed with.

7. The Inspector states that he has no expectation of greatly reducing the cost of the Jail Establishment until secure and properly arranged buildings are provided, and the prisoners are restricted to the Courts of the Jail. He suggests (para. 9) that if a commencement of constructing new Jails is made at those stations where the cost of building is now least, the outlay will produce a return that will prevent the cost being any burden on the finances of the country. He proposes that for the present the outer walls, work-sheds and partition walls should be built, and the prisoners be lodged in the work-sheds, but he would recommend nothing in the shape of a temporary expedient to be hereafter removed.

8. His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to communicate this part of Mr. Rohde's report to the Public Works Department for consideration there. The Chief Engineer will report after reference to the Inspector General in what manner his plan could be carried out

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at two of the stations where Jails are most required, say Madura and Coimbatore—what would be the cost of a Jail of such size as may be needed at those places, allowing for the aid of convict labor, and the value of the materials of the present Jails, and within what time it could be built.

9. The Government would also wish Mr. Rohde to consider whether there are not some disused forts in parts of the country which might be fitted up for prisons at small cost. Thus the fort at Dindigul is believed to have spacious ranges of barracks and bombproofs. It should be explained whether this could not be adapted to prison purposes and the expense of a new Jail at Madura be thereby in a great degree saved.

10. The mortality has been heavy, 436 on an average strength of 5,541 prisoners, above 8 per cent. or nearly 2.4 per cent. in excess of the average in former years. This is mainly attributable to a serious outbreak of Cholera in the Calicut Jail in October and November 1859. There was also heavy mortality among the Combaconum prisoners, and those in the Masulipatam, Bellary and Salem (old) Jail. This last Jail has since been abandoned, and the prisoners transferred to the new prison.

11. The Government observe that this Report is dated the 20th April 1861 or a year after the close of the year which it reviews. The delay is ascribed to the late date, 7th February, at which the report on the sanitary condition of the prisons was received from the Principal Inspector General Medical Department. There seems no reason whatsoever why the Medical Officers in charge of Jails should not send in their reports to the Principal Inspector General in the course of the first month of the year following that which has to be reported on, and when these have been received, but a short time need be occupied in the Office of Principal Inspector General in putting them together and preparing the tables. One Statoment however or the "General return of the sick of the prisoners in the Jails under the Presidency of Fort Saint George for the year" is very voluminous and has probably tended in a great degree to retard the submission of this and previous reports. It does not seem to Government to be of use commensurate with the time and labor spent in its compilation, and may be omitted for the future.

12. In their late review of the Report of the Director of Public Instruction for 1859-60 the Government have adverted to the time and exertion wasted in the sending in of two Reports to Government every year, one for incorporation with the General Administration Report and one furnished late in the year of a more elaborate character, and have requested that for the future one Report only be sent in or that for the Administration Report, and that it may be made sufficiently full to answer all purposes. The Inspector General of Jails is requested to follow the same course.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following Report
from the Inspector General
of Jails.*

Received 20th April 1861

Order thereon 9th July 1861, No. 881.

*The Inspector General
of Jails submits his report
for the official year 1859/60,
and, with it, that of the
Principal Inspector Gene-
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on the sanitary state of
the Jails in the Madras
Presidency for the same
period.*

*2. The total number
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This, it is stated, is of
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42
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7. The Inspector
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Stations where the cost
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 will prevent the cost
 being any burden on
 the finances of the country.
 Mr. proposes that for
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His Excellency the
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 at two of the stations
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 places allowing for the
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9. The Govt. would
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 It should be explained
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In a letter from the
 Commissioner Jail the
 Government of Madras
 to the Government of
 Madras the following
 is given: The present
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 the purpose of a jail.
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10. The mortality has
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Prisoners - and those in
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new prison.

11. The Govt. observed
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There seems no reason
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12.- In their late review of the report of the Director Public Instruction for 1889/90 the Govt. have adverted to the time and exertion wasted in the sending in of two reports to Govt. every year: one for incorporation with the General Administration Report and one furnished late in the year of a more elaborate character - and have requested that

that for the future one report only be sent, in or that for the Administration Report, and that it may be ^{made} ~~made~~ sufficiently full to answer all purposes. The Inspector General of Jails is requested to follow the same course.

JP

To the Inspector General of Jails.
2nd Department, with copy of the Report of the
Inspector General Medical Dept. } Dec 10

Proceding

Provincial 1861. Department.

No. 387

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS
GOVERNMENT.

Oct 19 23/62
22 35

Dated 9 July 1861.

*Reviewing the Report of
the Inspector General of Pails
and that of the Principal
Inspector General Provincial
Dept. on the sanitary state
of the Pails in the Provinces
Reading for 339/60.*