

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>1802</i>	Press ~~Mis~~
<i>11-12</i>	
Dated <i>3. 11. 1862</i>	<i>49</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
2nd November 1862.*

No. 11. Read the following letter from J. RONDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 18th October 1862, No. 542.

I have the honor, in reference to an escape of 37 Convicts from a working party on the 20th ultimo, when one was shot by a villager, to remark that the Joint Magistrate, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, and the Inspector General of Police, concur in representing the escape as wholly attributable to the disgraceful conduct of the Guards.

2. These Officers all accept the statement that the whole party of Police were present, but so intimidated that seeing 3 of their number disarmed, the prisoners having possessed themselves of the Muskets, loaded, but without caps, that they neglected to take any steps to secure the prisoners.

3. The case is not one specially requiring notice, were it not that one of the escaped Convicts, was shot by a villager; the case will have been reported by the Joint Magistrate.

4. The Inspector General of Police demands sanction for an addition of seven men to the Police Guard of 33, over the 184 prisoners in the Vellore Fort.

5. I have directed that, until other provision is made, a small ward in the Jail shall be used for the sick now treated in the station Hospital, severe cases being sent in to Chittoor; this will remove the necessity for 3 of the extra establishment required.

6. The Deputy Inspector General, I observe, decided on keeping a standing Police Guard for Jail duties specially deputed from Head Quarters for the purpose. It is impossible however to pass over the fact that it was at the Head Quarter station that I observed the very course in the Police, which, at Vellore, no doubt, placed those on duty in the power of the prisoners—the Police Guard was insufficient force; whether all were really present is to my mind doubtful. I must also remark that a standing Police guard over Convicts, approaches to the very evil I found most faulty with under the old system, the constant association of the Convicts with the same Guards.

7. I have been much in favor of the new system, but the present case, and a general remissness and falling off, induces me to question whether the Police, as now constituted, does form the best description of force for guarding Convicts at labor. Officers in charge of Jails very generally find fault with the new system, but I must say that it has checked many irregularities; but the want of efficient check, which was the great fault of the old system, seems to me to be now equally prevalent in the Police. The absurd conduct of the Police at Chittoor, their negligence at Vellore, the absence of half the number, and gross irregularities I witnessed in visiting two gangs on the 3rd September at Coimbatore, never would have occurred had the guards expected a visit from an Inspector.

8. The Jails now pay for what they do not want—the services of men enlisted for general service. I am not all sure that Captain Hearn is not right, and that the Jail Guard should be composed of men with special training. I believe the Head Quarter duty under which a Police party had no duties except in connection with the Jail, Treasury, Courts, and Cutcherry, would be most popular, that the routine would afford sufficient change to obviate the constant association of Convicts with the same guard, unavoidable under the old system, and that the men would become acquainted with their duties, and attentive to them. At the same time the Jail would not have to pay for, what it would be better without, the services of men with such varied duties that they generally perform none satisfactorily.

9. Captain Hearn brought to notice the number of long term prisoners confined at Vellore; but in this there was no breach of rule. The Vellore Jail under the eye of a Joint Magistrate, and in a strong and garrisoned Fort, being considered quite as secure as any other Jail in the country; the absence of a Jail, properly so called, making it more secure; but I have called for explanation relative to the number of prisoners in the same case transferred from Chittoor to this Jail in direct contravention of repeated instructions. No less than 5 Convicts sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment in the same gang the year before last, are included in the number of those escaped.

16th July 1861, A

Chittoor,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd November 1862.*

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, 3rd November 1862, No. 1,802.

The Governor in Council sanctions an addition of four Constables to the Police Guard at the Vellore Jail.

2. The four last paras. of Mr. Rohde's letter will be referred for the remarks of the Inspector General of Police.

3. Mr. Rohde is requested to number the paragraphs in his letters.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 1802. Dated 3rd November 1862

*The Governor in Council
sanctions an addition
of four constables to the
Police guard at the Vel-
lore Jail.*

*2. The four last paras of
Mr. Rohde's letter will
be referred for the re-
marks of the Inspector
Genl. of Police.*

*3. Mr. Rohde is requested
to*

June 1860 in 6365
 Pro. 17th Oct 1862 Oct 1709

July 1862 Deputy
 from

number the paragraphs in his
 letters before forwarding them
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 The Inspector Genl. of Jails.
 Civil Engineer.
 Deputy Auditor Genl.

The Inspector Genl.
 of Jails
 to Mr. Pycroft Esq.
 Chief Secy.
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