

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2018

Press
~~Mis.~~

112-113

Dated 11.12.1962

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

112-113

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Archives 5.

ANNEXURE.
2

2018
112-113
for

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
11th December 1862.*

No. 112. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of M. Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 24th November 1862, No. 2,799.
General Department.

With reference to the Order of Government of 3rd instant, No. 1,802, I have the honor to remark.

2. The outbreak of Convicts at Vellore was not an unnatural consequence of congregating so large a number of long sentenced and desperate men together—men associates in the same crimes of violence—in a detached Jail, and of sending them to work at a spot holding out peculiar temptation and affording singular facilities for escape.

3. The Police guard in charge failed to suppress the outbreak and behaved in a thoroughly cowardly manner. It may be well to remark that this is the first instance of an outbreak of the kind in the two or three years during which most of the Jails have been in the charge of the Police. Also that during the year 1861-62, eight escapes only occurred amongst 7,000 Convicts, the great body of whom are worked on the public roads. Five of these were re-captured.

4. Mr. Rohde has no grounds for doubting that the proper guard was actually present, the full number has been convicted and sentenced.

5. The sweeping assertions contained in para. 7 of Mr. Rohde's letter are I hope not well founded. I do not think they are confirmed by results. Mr. Rohde has visited several Jails besides Chittoor and Coimbatore since the Police was in charge of them, and he has not seen cause to be dissatisfied. Indeed he has frequently expressed himself favorably.

6. I have myself inspected every Jail in the country frequently during the last two years, and I venture to state that I think that there is a gradual, though perhaps slow, improvement in discipline and efficiency. The Officers are diligent, and the inspection of Subordinates (still hard to procure) is improving.

7. I attach, however, the greatest value and importance to these visits of inspection of the Police arrangement at his different Jails by Mr. Rhode: and I only hope they will be frequent, minute, and extend to all Jails. The force is very young, and Mr. Rhode's practical instructions are always most useful; they are carried out so far as can be with punctuality. I would venture to suggest that the Jailer and his Deputy be required occasionally to visit the working gangs.

8. The suggestion of Mr. Rhode contained in his 8th para. is practically what actually occurs in every District. The Jail work is so severe on the men that constant relief has to be afforded. This is done by an alteration of duty amongst the men of the A Division at Head Quarters. The A Division includes the Treasury guards, &c. A large proportion of this Division in each District is composed of discharged Sepoys, in whom we find special aptitude for this kind of duty. There is nothing approaching to a standing guard over Jails.

9. Captain Hearn pointed out that this relief by men of special training could not be carried out at the detached station of Vellore, and to this attributed the failure of the Police on the occasion in question.

10. Instructions have again been circulated to all Officers together with copies of Mr. Rhode's letter.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 11th December 1862, No. 2,018.

It would appear from the foregoing letter that there is no material difference of opinion between the Inspector General of Jails and the Inspector General of Police in regard to the character of Police guard required for the Jails. The Police guards at the Jails, it would seem, are confined to the duties of guarding the Jail, Treasury, Courts and Cutcherry.

2. Mr. Robinson's remarks will be communicated to the Inspector General of Jails, whose attention will be drawn to the suggestion made in para. 7, that the Jailer and his Deputy be required occasionally to visit the working gangs.

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

Exd. T. McMootry.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from Insp^t Gen^l M. Police.

(New enter 24 Nov 1862 N^o 2799)

Order thereon 11 December 1862 N^o 2018

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W. A.

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To the Insp. Genl of Sails - } dep. 12
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Ph. Beer

Serial 1862. Department.

No. 2010

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 11th Decr/82.

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