M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 389 Press ~~Mis.~~

69-70

Dated 7.3.1862 ~~19~~ .

4/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MS

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th March 1862.

No. 69. Read the following letter from A. M. MONTEATH, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India; to J. D. SIM, Esq, Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 17th February 1862, No. 899.

Home Department.

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a Despatch* from the Secretary of State together with copy of the communication therein enclosed from a Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, requesting that steps may be taken for procuring information regarding the food of the industrial and laboring population of India, and respecting the Dietary in use in the Prisons—also copy of a Circular which the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department at this Presidency has been authorized to issue for the purpose of obtaining the required information.

* No. 146, dated 15th November 1861.

2. The Governor General in Council requests that, under the orders of the Governor in Council, similar information may be obtained and submitted to this Government in respect of the Madras Presidency.

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DRAFT CIRCULAR.

To the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals.

Under instructions from Government and from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, I have the honor by desire of the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to request that you will call upon all Medical Officers holding Civil charges in your Circle to furnish you with the fullest information it is in their power to obtain regarding the *nature, quantity, and mode of preparation* of the different alimentary substances consumed by the industrial and laboring classes in their respective districts, as well as the influence apparently exercised by them on the health of persons in the full enjoyment of liberty.

2. You will be good enough to direct them to supply you with similar particulars in *the established tabular form* respecting the Dietary in use in the Prisons under their care, and its effects on the health of the convicts subjected to it, the information being given under the heads and in the order above indicated.

3. As the enquiry, if zealously conducted, cannot fail to add much to our present knowledge of a very interesting and important branch of economic science, and as it is proposed to publish the result in a form to be available in Europe to all engaged in investigations on this and cognate subjects, the Principal Inspector General begs that you will bespeak for it the earliest and most careful attention of Medical Officers in your Division.

———

No. 70. ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1862, No. 389.

A copy of this letter and of the Circular received with it will be forwarded to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, in reference to Proceedings 23rd December last, No. 1,585.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

JUDICIAL.

No. 146.

FROM

THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR CHARLES WOOD, *Bart., M. P.,*
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

MY LORD, *Dated India Office, London, the 15th November* 1861.

I HEREWITH forward a copy of a letter* from a Committee of the British Association for the advancement of Science, and desire you will give instructions for the preparation and transmission of reports containing the information specified in the letter of the Committee, and similar in form to those made by Dr. Mouat on the Jails in Bengal.

* Dated 23rd October 1861.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. WOOD.

To

THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR CHARLES WOOD, *Bart., G. C. B.,*
Secretary of State for India.

SIR, *Dated London, the 23rd October* 1861.

IN compliance with the enclosed letter from the Assistant General Secretary of the British Association appointing us a Committee to make a representation to you on the subject therein specified, we have the honor to request your indulgence to the few remarks which we consider it our duty to offer in furtherance of the object in question. The food of man in various countries, climates and conditions has long been a subject of much interest to scientific enquirers, and is of great importance in every point of view economical, social, and political.

It is likewise one upon which chemists and physiologists of eminence in all countries are now engaged with a view to determine by the means and appliances at their command, many interesting points connected with its relations to health and disease that are still to a great extent undetermined. As a basis for such enquiries an exact knowledge of the nature, quantity, and modes of preparation of the different alimentary substances consumed by different races is essential. Regarding no people are such details of greater value and importance than of the inhabitants of British India, where the ordinary diet of the laboring and industrial classes is so simple, so little varied, and so little changed by the culinary processes to which it is subjected.

In no circumstances again can questions connected with diet be subjected to such rigid and exact scrutiny as in prisons, without in any way interfering with religious or caste prejudices, or rendering the dietary an instrument of punishment in excess of the sentence awarded by the law.

For these reasons we are of opinion that many advantages would result and much valuable information be collected if the Medical Officers in charge of prisons in all parts of India were to collect, as Dr. Mouat has done, reliable information regarding the food of the laboring population in their various districts, its nature, amount, mode of preparation, and influence on health when at liberty, and were in addition to furnish similar information respecting the dietary in use in the prisons of those districts with its influence on the health of the convicts subjected to it. We are convinced that such enquiries will be willingly undertaken by the zealous and intelligent Medical Officers serving in India when their attention is specially directed to it.

The result cannot fail to add much to our knowledge of a most important branch of economic science. We therefore venture to hope that you will be pleased to issue such instructions as you may consider calculated to secure the end in view, and that the result of the enquiry will be published in such form as to be available in Europe to all engaged in the investigation of so interesting and useful a branch of science and economy.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN DAVY.
„ EDWARD SMITH.
„ W. R. MILNER.

To

DR. JOHN DAVY, F. R. S.

SIR,

Dated Oxford, the 27th September 1861.

I AM directed by the General Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, to transmit to you the following copy of a Resolution, adopted at their late Meeting in Manchester, and to request your attention thereto.

That it be represented to the Secretary of State for India that inquiries into prisons similar to those made by Dr. Mouat on the prisons of Bengal, as detailed by him from his printed reports, be instituted in the other Presidencies of India, especially in those of the Punjaub and the North-West Provinces.

That Dr. J. Davy, Dr. E. Smith, and Mr. W. R. Milner be a Committee to make a representation in the matter to the Secretary of State for India.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN PHILLIPS,
Asst. Genl. Secy., British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Rec^d 16th Dec^r 1862

Rec^d 23rd Dec^r 1861
No 1423 & 1424

Judicial Letter to Engd dd 10th Nov^r
No 36 of 1863.
Replied to 16th Janry
84 of 1864.

Ind^a 1862 Dep^t
Sanitary Branch.

From
The Under Secy to the
Govt of India. Home Dep^t
879-

Dd 17th Feby.
Rd 3rd March 1862

No 428 Encs 2 & 6 separate copies

Forwards Copy of a Despatch from the Secy of State together with Copy of the Communication therein enclosed, requesting that steps be taken for procuring information regarding the food of the industrial population of India & respecting the Dietary in use in the Prisons, and requesting that similar information be obtained & submitted to that Govt in respect of the Madras Presy.
With an Order.

No 1423 of 1861

No 389-7 March 1862

A copy of this Letter & of the Circular received with it will be forwarded for the Political Sanitation Guard, Madras.

Dep^t, in reference to Proc: 23rd Dec. last.

No. 599

From A. M. MONTEATH, Esquire,
Under Sec. to the Govt. of India.

To