M.R.O. 1—29,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 436 Press ~~Mis~~.

123-124

Dated 15.3.1882 ~~##~~ .

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th March 1862.

No. 123. Read the following letter from R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George; to the Honorable T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 12th March 1862, No. 57.

* No. 381, 7th March 1862.

With reference to Proceedings of Government and Order* thereon marginally noted, I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that I have personally visited the Grand Jail, and inspected the Prisoners alluded to, and am of opinion that it is *not indispensably necessary* for their health to remove their irons; but I consider that the Surgeon, in communication with the Sheriff, should recommend those labouring under illness to have their fetters taken off, and that his certificate should be attended to.

2. This opinion, however, is offered, with the knowledge, that the incarceration of these Convicts at Madras, is to be of short duration. Should the period be long, there can be no doubt that the restraint of the fetters, restricting even still more the small amount of exercise which their narrow limits permit; together with the depressing mental influence of their condition; would greatly tend to the deterioration of their health.

3. I may add, what does not appear in the communications of the Sheriff and of the Surgeon of the Jail, that I was given to understand that fetters were not placed on the Convicts while in the Jail at Calcutta, but were imposed on board ship for security's sake.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1862, No. 436.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished to the Sheriff in reference to his letter of the 4th instant.

2. The Government observe that it was quite open to the Surgeon in charge of the Grand Jail to have recommended the removal of the fetters from those prisoners who might be labouring under illness, and such recommendation would no doubt have been attended to by the Sheriff without reference to Government. The Government however consider the recommendation of Dr. Van Someren that the chains should be removed from all the Convicts indiscriminately, without reference to their state of health, to have been quite uncalled for. It is known that many of the Convicts are most desperate characters, and that some of them have already broken Jail at Calcutta, and committed murder in the attempt to escape.

3. No measure tending in any way to lessen the precautions for their safe custody should have been advised by the Medical Officer unless on the strongest grounds of necessity, and it was not probable that their health would suffer generally from their wearing fetters for the short time that they were likely to remain in the Grand Jail.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F Cartledge.

Judicial Departt.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter from the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

Lr. R. 12th March 1862 No 577

Order thereon 15th March 1862. No 436.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished to the Sheriff in reference to his letter of the 14th instant.

2. The Govt observe that it was quite open to the Surgeon in charge of the Grand Jail to have recommended the removal of the fetters from those prisoners who might be labouring under illness, and such recommendation would

would no doubt have been attended to by the Sheriff without reference to Govt. The Govt. however consider the recommendation of Dr. Vanderia that the chains should be removed from all the convicts indiscriminately without reference to the state of health, to have been quite uncalled for. It is known that many of the convicts are ~~of the~~ most desperate characters, and that some of them have already broken Jail at Calcutta, & committed murder in the attempt to escape.

No measure tending in any way to lessen the precautions for their safe custody should have been adopted by the Medical officer unless on the strongest

Strongest grounds of necessity and it was not probable that their health would suffer generally from their wearing fetters for the short time that they were likely to remain in the Ground Jail.

To the P. J. Jail Med Dept.
Sheriff of Madras
Com[r] of Police
} dated 15.

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Judicial 1862 Depart

No 436.

Proceedings of Govt

436

2/15 March 1862

Stating that Government
do not think it necessary to
remove the Gang of the European
Convicts lately arrived from at Blackbay,
under except in cases of illness.

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