

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	687	Press
257-258		His
Dated	29.4.1862	th

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
29th April 1862.*

No. 257. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 7th April 1862, No. 198.

I have the honor to acknowledge the Proceedings of the Government enclosing a copy of His Excellency the Governor's remarks on his visit to the Jail at Trichinopoly.

2. His Excellency proposes the introduction of Machinery, worked by the power of wind, with the object of setting free, for other work, outside the Jail, the labor of Convicts now employed within the walls in beating paddy, raising water, &c.

3. Before answering the question I will briefly state that the cost of every Prisoner outside the walls is now more than one and a half Rupee above the cost of the same Prisoner confined within the walls and that knowing, as I well do, the difficulty of maintaining discipline in gangs working outside, it has been my aim to employ as large a body within the walls as possible.

4. The application of Machinery to husking paddy engaged my attention very shortly after my arrival in India, I was then stationed in Ganjam and a famine in the south induced a large demand for rice, the ports were crowded and the exportation was limited only by the extent of shipping available.

5. It was manifest that rice which occupies half the bulk of paddy would give a much larger profit than paddy, even though the latter was shipped in bulk and the rice in bags, but the supply of rice was limited by the delay in preparing it, which, in Ganjam, is done by a pestle worked by the foot.

6. On examining works within my reach, I did not find that any Machine was in use which gave satisfaction. If the report could be relied on, the best was a Machine in which the paddy, to be beaten, was received into a row of wire gauze cups, or mortars, where it was operated on by a row of stampers; I doubt not that among the numerous American inventions some satisfactory Machine has by this time been invented. There can be no difficulty in regard to windmills, in 1839 or 1840 I made one for Captain Buckle, then the Engineer Officer at Masulipatam, which cost 200 Rupees and worked well, it was of a very rough and in some respects faulty construction, but its use was abandoned from the silt in the water destroying the leather cone (of a Shalder's pattern pump) every four hours. This might have been remedied, but the work required was pushed on and we did not feel justified in spending more money in those days on the Machine. I subsequently designed a windmill for working over a well which required castings which I could not get and I did nothing more in the matter. It consisted of a tripod stand strongly braced running on a circular rail secured on the rim of a well with a crank above, to the end of which it was proposed to attach vanes; in another design I substituted a fixed tripod and a bevelled wheel and pinion for bringing the sails to the wind.

7. My impression is that in rice beating labor must be at a much higher rate than prevails on the plains to render the introduction of Machinery profitable, but I speak at random not knowing what Machinery is employed in America for the purpose.

8. Taking the value of Convict labor and considering all things, I much doubt if, in a Jail, the most profitable labor is not that, be it what it may, which keeps the Convict inside the prison walls, at the same time I should be well pleased with any opportunity for working their minds instead of employing their mere animal force.

9. Should the Government decide on employing the power of wind in any Jails, the preference should obviously be given to those in which the wind is most to be depended on, as Cuddalore, Tranquebar, Madras, Nellore, Tellicherry and Mangalore, in all these Jails paddy is used and I suppose that for five hours of daylight wind sufficient to work a mill may, during most months of the year, be depended on. I have omitted some Jails in which rice is consumed but which are too sheltered: of others in which the power might be employed in grinding, Ootacamund, Guntoor, Bellary, and Salem, might be named. At Rajahmundry water power would be preferred and the Jail is sheltered and the wind blows in eddies.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
29th April 1862.*

10. If the Government can spare me the loan of a drawing of Mr. Peile's windmill which His Excellency the Governor approved, I should like to see it.

No. 258.

ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1862, No. 687.

* Not Madras.

The Inspector General is requested to state which one of the Jails* mentioned in paragraph 9 of his letter he would recommend for trying the experiment of erecting wind machinery for the husking of paddy.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

End. F. Cartledge.

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I think Mr. Noble, after showing that Machinery might be employed to break the Paddy, and in this case, such poverty then for other work in the face than set per might be employed upon such work. anti-
the place where the Gap in much can be made that a matter of small for
the place to the fact of the steady rise in foreign labour it would
arise. looking to the fact of the steady rise in foreign labour - but of course
be desirable to devise some means of Economizing labour - but of course
it would be best to begin on distillate where labour bears a high value

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From The Inspector General of Sails.

Dated 7th April 1862

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Order 29th April 1862 No 684

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Inspector Jail
Jails

J.P.

Recd 29th

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