

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1029	Press
		His.
286-287		
Dated	30.6.1863	14

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

30th June 1863.

No. 286. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coonoor, 18th May 1863, No. 1,245.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit the report of an escape of a Convict of the Salem Jail.

2. It occurred from a Detachment out in tents. One tent gave way in a dark, wet and stormy night; and during the confusion one Convict escaped.

3. It is simply impossible to guard Convicts under such circumstances with an establishment which is calculated for watching men securely locked up in regular Jails.

From Captain W. S. DREVER, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, in charge of Salem; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police, dated Salem, 14th May 1863, No. 270.

1. I have the honor to report the escape of a Convict (under sentence to ten years' imprisonment for Dacoity,) on the night of the 12th instant, from the tents in which 200 prisoners temporarily detached from the Salem Jail were located at Koranga Chowdy, three miles from this station.

2. The night set in dark, wet and stormy, and the ridge pole of one of the tents giving way its inmates had to be divided amongst the others; the Maistries got out in their totals, the lamps could not be kept a light, and the Convict in question found it a very easy matter to crawl from under the wet canvass and got away unknown to the watchmen, who were no doubt trying to shelter themselves in their own guard tents.

3. There were but four watchmen to the twenty tents, had there been twice as many, no determined Convict could have had much difficulty in effecting his escape, and I do not therefore consider it either necessary or just to put any man on his trial for this escape. I congratulate myself that ten did not go instead of one.

4. I immediately marched all the Convicts into Jail and sent every available Policeman to scour the country; but regret that we have failed in obtaining any trace of the fugitive.

5. You are aware that owing to the crowded state of the Salem Jail it was deemed necessary to detach 400 Convicts in different directions, round and about Salem. These have now all returned to the Central Jail, and cholera may of course again break out to-morrow.

6. We have not therefore in any way improved matters, we have only practically learnt that the prisoners must either be left to die in Jail, or allowed to escape when out, and this last must continue, so long as it is not thought in any way necessary to locate prisoners securely and at the same time provide decent accommodation for those who guard them.

7. The only real means of relieving ourselves and our overcrowded Jails, is by transferring 1,000 or 1,500 Convicts to Sedasheghur in Canara, where I should hope the Bombay Government would be as glad to receive them as we should to get rid of them.

No. 287.

ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1863, No. 1,029.

To be recorded with reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 25th June 1863, No. 1,002.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. T. McMootry.

Pro. Amc
June 1863 Depart

From
W. Robinson Esq
Insp Genl of Cal

To, A. J. Arbutnot Esq
Chief Secy to Gov
Fort St George

Dated 18th May 1863
Recd 22^d - - -

N^o 1245

Enclosure 1
N-1083

Submits Report
from the Deputy Insp
General Western Range
on the escape of a
Convict from the
Salem Jail

30th June 1863 N^o 1099
Jas Reardon. W.
data submitted to the Secy. of the

2860287

C. J. June
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