

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1118	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
111-112		
Dated	10 - 7 -	1887

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Not to be folded or roughly handled*27*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
10th July 1863.

No. 111. Read the following letter from Colonel JOHN IMPETT, Sheriff of Madras ; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 9th July 1863, No. 37
I have the honor to forward, for the information and orders of Government, copy of a letter*

from the Surgeon of the 1st District, and of its enclosure† relative to the accommodation of Criminal prisoners in Her Majesty's Grand Jail.

I may here state that the Officer in charge of the Jail at Salem has intimated to me that the 200 convicts will be despatched from Salem on Monday next the 13th instant.

From W. J. VANSOMEREN, Esq., M.D., Surgeon 1st District ; to the Sheriff of Madras, dated Madras, 8th July 1863, No. 187.

I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter, this day addressed to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, regarding the accommodation of Criminal prisoners in Her Majesty's Jail.

From W. J. VANSOMEREN, Esq., M.D., Surgeon 1st District ; to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Presidency Division, dated Madras, 8th July 1863.

With reference to your Memorandum, No. 1,287, dated 4th July 1863, and its enclosures, herewith returned, I have the honor to state that Her Majesty's Jail is divided into two parts—the one for Debtors and the other for Criminals. The former is at present occupied by thirty-two persons, while the latter is wholly unoccupied, and contains the following wards available for the accommodation of prisoners, whom it is proposed to transfer from the Salem Jail hither.

No. 37 has a cubic area of 2,000 feet and can accommodate 5 prisoners.

„ 38	do.	1,035	do.	2	do.
„ 39	do.	2,530	do.	5	do.
„ 40	do.	1,936½	do.	4	do.
„ 41	do.	3,190	do.	6	do.
„ 42	do.	1,280	do.	3	do.
„ 43	do.	2,185	do.	4	do.
„ 44	do.	5,980	do.	12	do.
„ 45	do.	5,980	do.	12	do.
* „ 46	do.	880	do.	0	do.
† „ 47	do.	3,630	do.	9	do.
† „ 48	do.	4,510	do.	11	do.
„ 49	do.	2,090	do.	4	do.
„ 50	do.	5,472	do.	11	do.
„ 51	do.	1,452	do.	3	do.
„ 52	do.	1,320	do.	3	do.
„ 53	do.	1,452	do.	3	do.
„ 54	do.	1,440	do.	3	do.
Verandah	do.	840	do.	2	do.
„ 55	do.	1,320	do.	3	do.
„ 56	do.	1,440	do.	3	do.
Verandah	do.	672	do.	1	do.
‡ „ 57	do.	3,300	do.	9	do.
§ „ 58	do.	3,300	do.	8	do.

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* This is a small cell with no ventilation but a dead wooden door which, when closed, bars all access of air and effectually prevents its renewal.

† These wards are fairly ventilated, and therefore permit a smaller allotment of cubic space to each inmate.

‡ This ward is well ventilated and I have therefore allotted 9 occupants to it.

§ The ventilation here is not quite so good as in the ward next to it.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
10th July 1863.*

2. Besides the foregoing wards, if the southern door of the Debtor's ward, 27, were removed to the north side, and its place occupied by a window, a fine airy chamber would be rendered available, with a cubic area of 11,000 feet, capable of accommodating at least twenty-two prisoners.

3. It will thus be seen that there is accommodation for only 148 inmates in the Criminal wards, and more than these cannot, in my opinion, be kept in them with safety.

4. In furnishing the foregoing estimate of the cubic area of the several wards, I beg to state that the figures are only approximatively correct; but they show (I believe invariably) a larger cubic space than actually exists, as I have made no allowance for the bomb-proof ceiling, nor for the large pials and pillars, which diminish to a considerable extent, the otherwise available space in the several wards.

5. As respects ventilation, most of the wards are very defective, and in anticipation of the incoming-draft of prisoners, I beg to urge that grated openings be made in the dead walls separating contiguous wards, as a means of remedying, to a partial extent, the defect complained of.

6. In some of the cells I observe hollow spaces, which I suppose intended to receive the excrements of the inmates at night. To their being used for such a purpose I most earnestly beg the interdict of authority, and to recommend the use of urinals, which can be introduced every night and removed every morning. And, while on this subject, I venture to urge the advisability of removing all the *excreta* once or twice daily to a distance from the Jail, in carts provided for the purpose.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) GEO. SHAW,
Deputy Sheriff.

No. 112.

ORDER THEREON, 10th July 1863, No. 1,118.

Under the circumstances stated, the Officer in charge of the Jail at Salem will be instructed, by telegraph, to forward only 148 (instead of 200) prisoners.

2. Orders will be issued in the Department Public Works for the immediate execution of the work mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 5 of Dr. vanSomeren's letter. No time should be lost in this as the prisoners are expected on the 13th instant.

3. Dr. vanSomeren's suggestions in paragraph 6 will also be strictly followed.

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

Exd. T. McMoctry.

Judicial Department

No. 11286

From the Sheriff of Madras

Dated 9th July 1863

For Orders

*I am not clear that there is much
for in Dr. vanSomeren's objection
to the number of prisoners (200)
proposed to be sent down, but it
will not do to disregard them be-
-cause if we do, and serious
sickness should break out we
shall soon hear the last of it -
I would therefore reduce the number
- to 148, and telegraph to Salem
accordingly - Dr. vanSomeren's suggestion about*

ventilation & air may should on
a kind of screen, and only
passage for the air in the D.P.W. for
making openings - fitting for the
- but the removal of the prisoners
- on need not be delayed on
that account.

J.P.
H.

10 July 1863 No. 1118.

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Under the circumstances stated, the
Officer in charge of the
Jail at Salem will
be instructed by telegraph
to forward only 148
(instead of 200) prisoners.

Orders will be issued in the
D.P.W. for the immediate
execution of the work
mentioned in paras 2 & 5
of Dr. Van Someren's letter.
No time should be lost in

To the Sheriff of Salem
See page of Salem
Jail Report of 1862
Public Works Dept.
Commissioner of Police
Superintendent of Prisons
St. George's Fort, Madras

Proceedings of the Madras Government, J
10th July 1863.

Pro. 25th June 1863 No. 1002

Judicial 1863 Departt

From, The Sheriff of Madras
To, The Chief Sec^y to Govt.

Dated 9th July, 1863
Recd 9th 3

this as the prisoners
are expected on
the 13 instant.

Dr. Vauvrouere's
suggestions in para
6 will also be
strictly followed.

No 37.

Enclosure one
No. 1486

Forwarding, copy of letter
from Surgeon 1st District
& of its enclosure relative
to the accommodation of
criminal Prisoners in
H. M. Grand Jail.

Feb. 15016
15017-2571
Send only 148 or twice
74 prisoners to Madras
cg only
1270.

111/112.

With an Order.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Ju
10th July 1863.

Exd. T. McMecky.