M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1583 Press ~~1118~~

9-10

Dated 2.10.1863 ~~1118~~.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 9. 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 Madras, 12th March 1863, No. 478.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit the report of the Deputy Inspector General of the Ceded District Range, on a recent escape of a Convict from a working gang at Bellary. The man has been re-captured.

2. It occurred in consequence of a single Constable (he was probably negligent besides) being left to guard six Convicts at a great distance from the gang to which the Convict belonged and in a most dangerous locality. The abuse had existed for some time.

3. The rule is that not less than 36 Convicts are to be together. The Judge was made aware of the irregularity by the Superintendent, who had brought it to notice. It was his duty to have put a stop to it. Major McMaster has left the Police service, and I have no explanation from him, but it was not his duty, but that of the Officer in charge of the Jail to enforce the observance of the rules of the Inspector General of Jails.

4. I venture to solicit the distinct expression of the views of Government in the matter.

5. The Constabulary guard on the scale of one Policeman to six Convicts; instead of our to four as was the former scale. The minimum gang being set at 36 Convicts.

6. A proposition is now before the Government to guard on the scale of one Policeman to seven Convicts, on condition of raising the minimum number of the gangs to 50 Convicts.

7. Mr. Rohde always insists on the gangs being kept above minimum strength (36) when any difference occurs between Jail Officers and Police Officers about sending out small gangs; and he will no doubt adopt the higher minimum proposed (50), especially as it will save 12 per cent. of the present cost of guarding.

8. It is impossible to guard Convicts with a low rate of Police, unless the gangs are kept large.

9. Most Judges are most considerate and meet the views of the Inspector General of Jails and myself cordially.

10. But Subordinate Jail Officers constantly break up the gangs after they are sent out, as has been done in the cases, or endeavour to send out smaller gangs than the authorized number; and Police Officers have an invidious task to perform when they refuse to take charge of such parties, &c., and occasional ill-feeling is the consequence.

11. A priggish adherence to rule is not sought. The detail of 12 Convicts under two Constables as instanced by Captain Hearn is permitted everywhere, when not accompanied by danger. The Jail scavengers, sweepers, and washermen go out in small and convenient parties. And the Government may depend on there being no injudicious cramping of the convenience required for effective labor.

12. But an approval of the principle would strengthen the hands of Officers who are responsible for safe custody, and on whom falls all the odium incurred by an escape for which the direct infringement of the Jail rules by Jail authorities is really at fault.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 2nd October 1863, No. 1,583.

In the foregoing letter, adverting to the escape of a Convict from a working gang at Bellary, which appears to have occurred in consequence of a single Constable having, in breach of the Jail rules, been left to guard six Convicts at a distance from the gang to which the Convicts belonged, the Inspector General of Police refers to a proposition, which, he observes, had been made by him, that the number of guards should be reduced from one Policeman to every five Convicts, to one Policeman to every seven Convicts, subject to the proviso that the minimum strength of the gangs should be raised to fifty Convicts.

2. The proposition in question had not been laid before Government when the Inspector General wrote, but it was subsequently submitted in his letter of the 17th March, and has been adopted by Government. It was not however accompanied by the proviso above referred to, that

the strength of the gangs should, as a general rule, be raised to fifty. This point will now be referred for the consideration of the Inspector General of Jails, who will issue such orders on the subject as he may deem proper in commnication with the Inspector General of Police; at the same time drawing the attention of the Officers in charge of Jails to the necessity for a careful observance of the rule in regard to the strength of gangs sent out to work.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMootry.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
Letter, from the Insp^r Genl.
of Police.
(Rec^d Date. 12^th March /63 No. 478)

Order thereon No 1583. of 2^d Oct^r /63.

In the foregoing letter
adverting to the escape of
a Convict from a working
gang at Bellary, which
appears to have occured
in consequence of a single
constable having, in breach
of the Jail rules, been left
to guard six convicts at a
distance from the Gang
to which the convicts belong
the Inspector General of
Police refers to a proposition
which, he observes, had
been made by him, that
the number of Guards
should be reduced from
one

one Police man to Every
five convicts, to one Police
man to Every seven convicts,
subject to the proviso that
the minimum strength of
the Gangs should be raised
to 50 Convicts

2. The proposition
in question had not
been laid before Govern-
ment when the Inspector
General wrote, but it was
subsequently submitted
in his letter of the 17th
March, and has been
adopted by Government.
It was not however ac-
companied by the proviso
above referred to, that
the strength of the Gangs
should, as a General
rule, be raised to 50.
This point will now
be referred for the con-
sideration of the Inspector
General of Jails, who
will issue such orders
on the subject as he
may deem proper, in
communication with
the Inspector General of
Police. at the same time
bringing the attention of
Officers in charge of Jails
to the necessity for a
careful observance of
the rule in regard to
the strength of Gangs
sent out to work.

To the Inspr-Genl of the Police } Despd 32
— Inspr-Genl of Jails. } 21

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Judicial 186 . Department.

No. 583

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 2 Oct 1823.

Passing orders relative to the proposition of the Inspector General of Police for the reduction of Guards places in charge of Convicts.—

9-10