M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1612 Press ~~Mis~~

54-55

Dated 7.10.1883 ~~19~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

ARNOLD

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தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.
(ஆராய்ச்சிக் கூடம்)

332

ஆவணங்களுக்கான கோரிக்கை.

ஏட்டின் விவரம்.

தொகுதி எண். / அ.ஆ./வ.நு. எண்.	ஏட்டின் எண்.	தேதி.
JUDICIAL	54-55	7 OCT. 1863

தேதி: 6/1/90 ஒப்பமிடுபவர்.

குறிப்பு.—(1) ஒரே கோரிக்கையில் ஒன்றுக்கு மேற்பட்ட தலைகளோடு தொடர்புள்ள ஆவணங்களைச் சேர்க்கக்கூடாது.

(2) கோரிக்கை இரட்டைப்படிகளாக எழுதப்படவேண்டும்.

Archives 3(a)—85,006—1-9-80.

Jail Mortality

ARNOLD

பிரதி.

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்
(ஆராய்ச்சிக் கூடம்)

332

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Jail Mortality

No. 54. Read the following letter from T. J. KNOX, Esq., Session Judge of Chicacole; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government in the Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chicacole, 24th September 1863, No. 279.

1. When human life is at stake, the usual forms observed in official routine must give way, and I hasten to lay before the Government a letter from the Medical Officer in charge of the Gaol, copy of which I have also sent to the Inspector General of Gaols; but I cannot wait the delay that must occur when a letter has to travel through Ootacamund ere it reaches Madras.

2. I have always known what a risk of losing his life any hill man incurred who was incarcerated in this Goal; but such a state of things as the present has never before occurred.

3. My own opinion is that not one single hill man now in Goal will be alive four months hence; it is impossible to say how fatty degeneration of the heart, as Beriberi has been defined, can be endemic; but the recent death of every man who has gone into Hospital has produced a superstitious fear in the minds of this class of prisoners, which will as certainly as the most fatal disease cause their death should the simplest disease require that they should be detained in the Hospital. No remedy but one will now avail to remove the mental despondency induced by the knowledge that all who enter the Hospital never come out of it save when carried to their graves.

4. I beg to urge upon Government the necessity of, without any delay, ordering the removal of these prisoners by telegram.

5. I have no doubt the energetic Agent of Ganjam will, at a very small cost, prepare a place to receive them all at Russelcondah, and even if they were released or escaped it would be better, than the inhumanity of keeping them here to die.

From Assistant Surgeon R. W. COCKERILL, Zillah Surgeon, Chicacole; to T. J. KNOX, Esq., Civil and Session Judge, Chicacole, dated Chicacole, 22nd September 1863 No. 31.

1. With reference to your letter, No. 258, dated 12th September 1863, I have the honor to inform you that I have given my best attention to the subject of the mortality in the Jail during the present year.

2. In order to ascertain if the mortality affects all classes of prisoners equally or only the hill men, I have had all the Gaoler's records examined for the last three years, and from the information so obtained, I have prepared the accompanying table, by which you will see that with the increase of the number of prisoners, there has been an enormous increase of mortality among the hill men; while the death rate of the present year among the low country people has slightly decreased.

3. The immediate cause of the great mortality is dropsy of the chest following fatty degeneration of the heart; formerly this disease was called Beriberi, and was said to be endemic among the people of the Northern Circars.

4. According to the evidence of these prisoners this disease is not common on the hills, and they are unable to assign any reason for its prevalence here; on their first arrival they seem a healthy strong set of men, and the disease generally commences without any outward change being visible.

5. One of the first symptoms is a pale bloodless state of the inner covering of the eyelids, which is soon followed by the swelling of the feet and trunk. Both these symptoms are due to an impoverished condition of the blood, which parts with its serum or watery constituents, and it is the accumulation of this fluid in the chest that impedes the action of the diseased heart and produces death.

6. If the disease had attacked all classes equally, I should attribute it to the rice diet, and under this impression I advised that mutton be given to the prisoners twice a week, and I have since issued four ounces of mutton daily to many of the patients in Hospital; but I cannot say that it has had any marked beneficial effect.

7. I first observed this disease becoming general among the hill men in May. At this time the weather was very hot and the Gaol crowded; as the Gaol is not by any means a well ventilated

building, it seems to me probable that the close noxious air of the cells produced the cachexia and the seeds of the disease once laid, the clearing of the Gaol was not sufficient to prevent it running its course.

8. Whatever may be the cause of the disease its effects do not appear likely to pass off. A great proportion of the Hill prisoners are now in a weakly state, and as they derive little benefit from Medical treatment, I fear the mortality will go on.

9. As I think that these people will always suffer if confined in a Gaol on the plains, I would recommend that accommodation be provided for them in their own country. In the meantime, however, as tents are inadmissible on account of the symptoms being increased by damp, I would suggest that a current of fresh air be thrown by a thermantidote, through their cells at night time, in all close weather.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Session Judge.

	Average number of prisoners.	Average Number of		Deaths in	
		Hill men.	Low country men.	Hill men.	Low country men.
1861.	$162\frac{1}{12}$	$47\frac{1}{12}$	$114\frac{1}{12}$	7 or 14 89 per cent.	8 or 7 89 per cent.
1862.	$206\frac{1}{12}$	$39\frac{1}{12}$	$166\frac{1}{12}$	9 or 23 per cent.	9 or 54 per cent.
8 months of 1863, January to August 31st.	$276\frac{1}{4}$	$73\frac{1}{4}$	$202\frac{1}{4}$	26 or 35 per cent.	8 or 39 per cent.

CHICACOLE,
22nd September 1863.

(Signed) R. W. COCKERILL,
Zillah Surgeon.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Session Judge.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1863, No. 1,612.

The Sessions Judge of Chicacole has been directed by telegraph to transfer all Hill prisoners to the custody of the Agent in Ganjam, who also has been apprized of the order by telegraph.

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

Exd. T. McMootry.

Judicial

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read letter from the Sessions Judge of Chicacole Dated 24th Septr. '63 No. 279-

Order — 7 October 1863, No 1612

The Sessions Judge of Chicacole has been directed by telegraph to transfer all Hill prisoners to the custody of the Agent in Ganjam, who has been apprized of this order by telegraph also.

The Sessions Judge of Chicacole.
" Agent in Ganjam.
" Inspector Genl of Jails.

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Sit. from Oct.

Judicial 1863. Departt

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Proceedings of Govt.

F. №2300.
Dated 7 October 1863

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