

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	107	Press ~~Mis.~~
	163-164	
Dated	26.1.1864.	19

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
26th January 1864.*

No. 163. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chicacole, 31st December 1863, No. 49.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, with remarks by the Deputy Inspector General of the Range.

Special report by Superintendent of Police.

Remarks by Deputy Inspector General.

Convicts have lately been located in sheds in the jungle between Mettapolliam and the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut. A temporary Jail has also been established at Mettapolliam. Mettapolliam is a notoriously unhealthy locality.

A shed was erected for the use of the Police Guard, but it is not weather proof, and the end walls are reported to have fallen in altogether.

At present out of a complement of 60 Convicts and 12 Constables, there are 19 Convicts and 6 Constables sick.

Within the last two months, from Mettapolliam alone 20 Constables have been sent in to Coimbatore sick; of these two died, two completely lost their health, and it is very doubtful if the remainder will ever regain theirs. Of course the services of these men are lost.

The supply of Convicts may be unlimited, but Policemen are not to be had for duty even in healthy localities, and when the present men die out, which they will very shortly, there are none to re-place them.

It may be remarked that the present is not by any means the most sickly season at Mettapolliam.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspector General of Police.

The matter alluded to by Captain Weldon is an important one. I quite agree with him that it is impolitic to employ our Police on duties which for a certainty entail either loss of life or loss of health. Government lately sanctioned, on the recommendation of the Inspector General, extra batta to the Policemen employed on the Mettapolliam and Coonoor road, at the rate of six Pies per diem to Constables and one Anna to petty Officers; this offer, however, is an insufficient inducement to men to risk their lives by remaining in such unhealthy localities.

The Assistant Engineer in charge of the work would, I believe, gladly dispense with the Convicts' services altogether if permitted to do so: as coolies can be procured to the best of my knowledge in almost any numbers, and they do the work required better than the Convicts, and are much less troublesome to manage. I would therefore recommend that the Convicts working in the Mettapolliam road be withdrawn.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspector General of Police.

2. I beg that the Government will have inquiry instituted as to the facts as regards the health of the Convicts and expediency of the employment of Convicts in the temporary Jail at Mettapolliam. Of course the guards must be supplied if the Jail is to be kept up; but while on my last tour I heard, (I write under correction for I did not see the statistics of health) reports of the unhealthiness of the part, &c., that make me very doubtful as to the practical expediency of the measure.

3. The statements as to the effect of the climate on the Police force are correct.

No. 164. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1864, No. 107.

Referred to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, through the Public Works Department, and to the Inspector General of Jails for report.

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

26 January 1864 N^o 107.

Referred to the Superintend
ing Engineer, 7th Division, thro'
the Pub. Works Dept., & to the
Inspector General of Sails for
report

C. J. Hunt
Ch Secretary

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The Pub. Works Dept.
" Inspector Genl }
" of Sails }
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