M.R.O. 1—23,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

General DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1172	Press Mis.-
5H-55 Dated 9-8-	19

3/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd August 1864.

Read the following letters :—

No. 60. From W. G. McIVOR, Esq., Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 8th July 1864, No. 107.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will be good enough to submit, for the consideration of Government, that for some time past great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient labour to perform the works connected with the Chinchona Plantations, and as this difficulty is still increasing, I would respectfully solicit the favour of being furnished with about 500 prisoners, to be located on our plantations, making the principal station at Neddiwattum. Here it would be necessary to build a temporary prison, a Plan and Estimate of which will be submitted after consultation with the Inspector of Prisons.

2. I understand that Chinese convicts can be procured from the Straits Settlement ; these perhaps would be better suited to work in this climate than Natives from the plains, and being generally good and careful cultivators, they will probably prove more useful.

3. Not only is the scarcity of labour severely felt and the cost enhanced, but the labourers now refuse to perform their ordinary tasks, and thus unless by the assistance of the prisoners, it will, I fear, be impossible to perform the operations of the present year within the estimated cost.

4. The Dodabetta Plantations being situated within two miles at the farthest point from the Native Jail of Ootacamund, here accommodation might be afforded for 100 prisoners appointed to work on these plantations.

No. 61. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 14th July 1864, No. 63.

SIR,

1. In acknowledging your Memorandum of the 9th July 1864, on Mr. McIvor's letter of the 8th idem, therein enclosed and now returned, I have the honor to state that I consider that officer's suggestion, as more fully detailed in his letter of the 12th instant, and Memorandum therein enclosed, unobjectionable. I should be disposed to relax discipline in the case of prisoners so employed; but, if the full establishment of guards is to be maintained, I think it probable that the arrangements with the Police may be a hindrance. As far as the Prisons Department is concerned there is no difficulty.

2. Mr. McIvor will provide suitable accommodation, his plans for which meet my approval.

3. I have said convicts from the Jail cannot conveniently work at the Dodabetta Plantation, on this point Mr. McIvor is satisfied.

4. Mr. McIvor spoke to me about the Chinese Convicts, I have already stated myself favourable to their employment in Government Plantations (see Proceedings of Government, 3rd September last), and see no reason to change my views.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1864, No. 1388.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Governor in Council is of opinion that, with reference to the great scarcity of free labour on the Neilgherry Hills, the labour of convicts may with much advantage be made use of on the Chinchona Plantations now in progress.

2. Mr. McIvor will submit, through the Inspector General of Jails, Plans and Estimates of the prisons he proposes to erect, providing accommodation for 500 persons to be employed on the plantations at Pycara, Neddiwattum and Melkoondah. Mr. Rohde, when forwarding these plans, will state definitely and in detail the arrangements he would suggest for guarding the prisoners, maintaining discipline, &c.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations.

" the Inspector General of Jails.

" the Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Encl. 12 to Desp. 18th

Encl. in Madras Govt. Desp. No 1388 dated 5th Aug. 1862 Rec'd 5th Aug. 1862

Encl.

Encl. in Madras Govt. Desp. No 1388 dated 5th Aug. 1862 Rec'd 5th Aug. 1862

No. 1595

Sanctioning the Employment of Convict Labor in the Govt. Cinchona Plantations at Ootacamund.

54-55

Copy with an Order.

No. 1199 – 8th August 1862 –

Communicated to the Inspector General of Police.

The Inspector Genl. of Police. dispd 9/8