M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1411 Press Mis.

196-198

Dated 27-9- 19.1864

3/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th September 1864.

Read the following papers:—

No. 196. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kotagherry, 12th September 1864, No. 1892.

General Department.

With reference to Government Order, No. 1313, dated 31st August, paragraph 3, I have the honor to state that I have been in personal communication with the Inspector General of Prisons and Mr. McIvor, the Superintendent of the Plantations.

2. Mr. Rohde tells me that he has no intention of sending convicts to the Chinchona plantation, who really require guarding at work or in Jail; that he will detach only such convicts as, from having worked out by far the greater part of their sentences, are not likely to attempt escape for fear of the penalty of prolonged imprisonment; that the convicts will be worked by their own convict gangers without Police guards and aid; that the Police will not therefore be personally and criminally responsible for the safe custody of the convicts; and that all he requires is a small body of Police to put down sudden out-breaks, and enforce discipline in case of concerted resistance by any formidable body of convicts.

3. If these are the understood conditions of the service, a small body of 12 men to 100 convicts, or 15 to any number short of 150 convicts, to be increased in the ratio of 1 Constable to 10 convicts, if the gang exceed the latter number may suffice.

4. But the condition of non-responsibility for safe custody must be clearly understood and laid down; for the law in regard to the offence of negligent escape is very severe, and much against the responsible guard. The mere fact of an escape having taken place is evidence of the offence. The man must be criminally tried, and nothing else requires to be proved for the prosecution. The law will imply guilt, and the guard has little chance of escape. Experience has shown that the utmost vigour of the law is invariably enforced against Constables. One hundred and thirty-three Police men were criminally convicted last year of this offence alone, although in many cases no English Jury would have convicted, as the lock-ups are insecure and the men over-worked. Again, these detached camps are very insecure. About 20 convicts—I leave out those who escaped when on the march from one place of confinement to another—broke Jail last year. Of these five only escaped from regular convict establishments, or probably not more than one in 800 or 1000; while 15 escaped from these temporary camps, or about 1 in 80 or 100.

5. The Police would, of course, use every exertion to re-capture the escaped convicts. They re-captured 43 out of 56 who escaped last year. But it must be understood that the only man to be criminally tried, except when connivance can be established, shall be the escaped convict.

No. 197. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kotagherry, 12th September 1864, No. 1897.

General Department.

Just received.

With reference to Government Order, No. 1619, dated 6th September, I think that my letter of this day's date, already despatched, affords a full reply.

2. I omitted to add that the same batta, as is allowed to Police at the Lawrence Asylum, must be allowed at the Chinchona Plantation establishment.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th September 1864.

No. 198. ORDER THEREON, 27th September 1864, No. 1411.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails, with reference to Proceedings 6th and 8th instant, Nos. 1619 and 1340, Revenue and Judicial Departments.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" Inspector General of Police.

Exd, J. Tulloch.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read letter from the Inspector Genl. of Police ——— Jnters 12th Sept. 64 Nos. 1892 & 1897.

Order. 27th September 1864 No. 1411

Communicated to the Inspector Genl. of Jails with reference to Pros: 6th & 8th Inst. Nos. 1,619 & 1,340. Rev. & Judl. Depts.

Proc. 1313
31.8.64
47-48
6.9.64
3
6.63.

The Inspector Genl. of Jails. } despatch
Inspector Genl. of Police. }

No

6th

To

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Edd, J. Tulloch.