M.R.O. 1—80,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1436	Press Mis.
245-247 Dated	30-9-1942	

8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 245. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Salem, 30th August 1864.

In acknowledging the Order of Government, No. 1209, 23rd August 1864, I have the honor to request that it may be ascertained whether the objections to the transporting of convicts to Port Blair continue. I cannot recommend any temporary expedient other than the detention in the existing Jails of all convicts under sentence of transportation until the Supreme Government declare a place for the reception of the transported convicts, and, should it be necessary, the occupation of one of the Mahals at Vellore by convicts in excess of the proper number in Jails selected from those no longer fit for hand labor. I would, however, submit to the Government, as an exceptional measure, the release of all convicts sentenced to terms of seven years and upwards who have passed two-thirds of their term in Jail, and who, from age or infirmity, are objects for the compassionate consideration of Government, and for whose release the Magistrate of the District has no reason to apprehend mischief.

2. Should the Government adopt this course, the Jails would be relieved of much that tends to their unhealthy state.

3. Able-bodied prisoners of this class will be available for Public Works, on conditions favorable to them.

No. 246. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 10th September 1864, No. 172.

I have the honor to submit my notes on a visit during the past week to the Vellore Mahals.

2. I omitted to note the date of my letter in return to the Order of Government, No. 1269 (23rd August 1864), proposing the immediate occupation of these buildings, as they are for the accommodation of the aged, infirm, and other prisoners; thus making room for the increasing numbers of convicts in the Zillah Jails.

3. The questions for consideration are the proposal for the transfer of the buildings, the establishment, and the steps necessary to ensure the proper supervision of the Prison.

4. I do not propose interfering with the labor gang now in Vellore; at present it would not be expedient to amalgamate it with the gang in the Mahals.

VELLORE, *6th and 7th September* 1864.

My object in visiting this station was principally to ascertain what progress had been made in the preparation of the plan of the Mahals called for in the Order of Government, 9th September 1862, p. 7, and to satisfy myself, by a further inspection of those buildings of their suitableness, without any extensive repairs or expensive additions, to the purpose proposed in my late letter to Government (date not noted), namely, as a place of confinement for prisoners who from age, infirmity, or other causes, were unfit for hard labor, but who necessarily occupy space in the Zillah Jails, already over-crowded, and which are likely to become more so from the necessity of retaining in them, prisoners sentenced to transportation, for whom there is no proper provision. I was also desirous of ascertaining by personal conference with Mr. Hathaway, now acting as Joint Magistrate, what arrangements for the accommodation of the remaining dependants of the families of Hyder Alli and Tippoo Sultan would be most desirable.

Last by reductions with establishment

2. Another object in congregating the prisoners of the class I propose only within the walls, and employing them only so far outside as may be necessary for the proper conservancy of the building, is the economy with which they may be guarded.

3. The plan of the building was prepared in the Range Office, whence I was favoured with a trace, the copy of which, now forwarded, shows the ground floor of the building; the upper storey is similar to it, the double cells will certainly accommodate six, the single four prisoners each, without occupying the verandahs. With improved ventilation the inner cells would each accommodate four, but my object is to use the building as it originally was, after knocking away innumerable dens and walls of all descriptions, sorts, and sizes which have been built during the last 50 years by the occupants.

4. One old woman now occupies the building intended, probably, for 1000 of the slaves and servants of slaves of Hyder Ally, seven occupy the quarters designed for probably 2000 of Tippoo's dependants and their servants, for these there is abundant accommodation in the smaller Mahals, the only question is their distribution with due regard to their tempers. On this point Mr. Hathaway has undertaken to consult Ramoonissa Begum, and to ascertain what arrangements are likely to be most acceptable.

This is since satisfactorily settled. J. R.

5. To whatever use the buildings are applied, the immediate necessity for clearing them of the rubbish and dirt, and accumulation of native buildings is evident; with this, the patching up of holes, which every occupant seems to have made at discretion, the removal of blockings up of door-ways, the cleaning of the rooms and administration of a coat or two of white clay-wash. I propose to do all that is needed. This I have requested Mr. Hathaway to carry out pending the issue of any orders on the occupation of the building.

6. I have specified a wash of white clay, which used to be abundant in the neighbourhood, because a lime wash is affected by smoked walls, the tar passing through and discoloring the wash.

7. The questions for the consideration of Government are:

1st.—The occupation of the building as a prison.

2nd.—The class of prisoners to be transferred. This would be merely a departmental arrangement were it not that it involves a question of expense proportionate to the establishment to be maintained.

3rd.—The mode of employment of such prisoners which involves a similar question.

8. The only argument in favor of the occupation of these buildings, already proposed, which has not been already adduced, is the increased and increasing demand for prison accommodation beyond all the available means of meeting it. I am exceedingly averse to schemes of having old buildings in out-of-the-way places, patched up at the leisure of the Engineer officers, or the building of small temporary jails, with no very special object, or within any definite period, for fifty or more convicts; but the present design which would at once place at my disposal a building far better suited than most of our jails to the purpose, and which might well accommodate from 1200 to 1500 prisoners, I consider fully deserving the favorable consideration of Government.

Vide letter to Chief Secretary, 23rd August 1864, No. 439.

9. As to the class of prisoners, their employment, guards, &c., I would have here the aged, infirm, and non-laboring prisoners, prisoners unfit for transfer to gangs on Public Works, and generally such as would not be likely to attempt an out-break. I would, as I have above stated, employ these generally within the prison walls.

10. Within the walls I should seek no aid from the Police, whose ordinary duties would be to guard the walls and gates, and escort the scavenger and other gangs, never exceeding 100 of the whole number confined.

11. Spinning, weaving, mat and basket-making, picking and cleaning cayar and any trades known to the prisoners would form, in addition to the prison duties, their occupations.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
30th September 1864.

12. Under this system I should consider it necessary that a trustworthy and zealous young European Assistant should be appointed to North Arcot, with the understanding that he should be at all times at the disposal of the Joint Magistrate in charge of the Jail, which should thus never be left without a competent officer to supervise and control its management. That a jailer on the same pay as a Zillah Jailer (50 Rupees), a Deputy, a Writer, 2 Head Warders and 20 Warders should conduct all the duties of the establishment.

13. Mr. Robinson, Inspector General of Police, will be better able to consider what arrangements he would propose for guarding, when the buildings are clear of rubbish and stepping stones which might now facilitate escapes.

	Rs.
1 Jailer.....	50
1 Deputy.....	30
1 Writer.....	20
2 Head Warders at 9 Rs.	18
20 Warders at 7 Rs....	140
Total...	248

14. The question for immediate consideration is whether the buildings at Vellore shall be made over to the purpose proposed or not, and whether Government will sanction the expense of the establishment, viz., Rupees 248 monthly.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspr. Genl. of Jails.

No. 247. ORDER THEREON, 30th September 1864, No. 1436.

The Inspector General of Jails proposes, with a view to relieve the Jails of their crowded condition, to transfer from them convicts unfitted by age or other causes for out-door hard labor to the Mahals at Vellore, now tenanted only by a few State detenues.

2. The proposal appears good and practical; but the Government desire, before authorizing the transfer, to be informed what Jails Mr. Rohde proposes to relieve; what are the numbers now confined in them, and what the present average cubical space available for each prisoner; what number would be removed to Vellore under the suggested arrangement; and what would then be the average cubical space for the remaining prisoners.

3. The Governor in Council wishes also to be informed which of the two Mahals, that of Tippoo Sultan or Hyder Ali, the Joint Magistrate of Vellore proposes to employ for the reception of the detenues, and what arrangements will be necessary for their proper accommodation.

4. A specific report of the number of Police guards required must also be submitted by Mr. Rohde, in communication with the Inspector General of Police, when he has ascertained how many convicts would be transferred to Vellore under his plan.

5. Mr. Rohde must state whether or not it is possible to meet, wholly or in part, the cost of his contemplated establishment, Rupees 248 per mensem, by reductions in the Jails to be relieved.

6. In the meanwhile he will give instructions for placing forthwith, at the disposal of the Joint Magistrate at Vellore, a gang of prisoners to be employed in cleaning the Mahals, removing the temporary erections of the present tenants, and otherwise putting them in order.

7. It appears to Government that if the Mahals be in the condition reported, their accommodation, and secure position within a strong Native fort, indicate them

as a fitting place of confinement for any class of convicts, except, perhaps, the most desperate, and not for those only whom Mr. Rohde proposes to confine in them. Mr. Rohde will report on this point also.

8. The Government cannot admit the Inspector General's proposal in his letter of the 30th ultimo, to liberate all convicts sentenced to terms of seven years and upwards, who have passed two-thirds of their term in Jail, and are old and infirm. Any special cases may be submitted as heretofore.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" Inspector General of Police.
" Joint Magistrate of North Arcot.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

The proposal to relieve some of our Southern Jails by transferring from them to the Vellore Jail convicts unfit for hard labor seems to on prima facie ground.

But we must first know from Mr Rohde what Jails he proposes thus to relieve, what are the numbers now confined in them, and the average sentence each now awaiting. How many would be removed from them to Vellore under his suggested arrangement and what average sentence of each will then be left for the lodgement after us.

We should know too from the Joint Magistrate at Vellore what view of the case Mr Lushington or Mr Ives is likely to form on employing for the reception of the detenus, and what arrangements he would make for their accommodation there.

The Inspector general of Jails when he has ascertained how many convicts would be transferred to Vellore under his plan, should also in communication with the Inspector general of Police report specifically what Police guard will be required.

He should also state what the cost of his contemplated establishment of 248 persons would be and whether or in part by reductions of the establishment

who have passed 2/3rd of their term in Jail &c
in old Licensee cannot be admitted. Any cases
demanding special consideration may be submitted
to Govt now as heretofore - but we can take no
sweeping measures of this sort.

22/9/64

J.P.

For Orders

S. No. 1486

If the Mahals are as reported the accommodation which they afford and the security of their position under a strong native Fort would seem to indicate them as a fitting place of confinement for any class of convicts - except perhaps the most desperate - and for those only who are decrepid or beyond work - Mr Rohde might report on this point also -

Meanwhile a small gang of Prisoners might be placed at the disposal of the Joint Magistrate at Tehri, who might accommodate above clearing the Mahals and bringing

Book.

We [illegible] have already applied for information as to whether anything can be done to [illegible] Plans. I shall be glad to [illegible] can act as the [illegible] in the 2nd [illegible] which information as to the present state of the [illegible] I have not [illegible] any more [illegible] from.

Yours

[illegible]

[illegible] subscribed by [illegible]

[illegible] Letter to the [illegible] tenants

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails

Recd entd 30th Aug 1860. 9 — and pd

Order Thereon No 1430 of 30 Sept 60

The Inspector General of Jails proposes, with a view to relieve the Jails of their convicts condition, to transfer from them convicts unfitted by age or other causes for out door hard labour to the Jail at Vellore — now tenanted only by a few state detenues.

2 The proposal appears good and practical, but the Govt desire, before authorizing the transfer, to be informed what Jails Mr Rohde proposes to relieve; and what are the

Numbers are confined
in the meanwhile that the pre-
sent inadequate cubical space
available, what number
would be removed to Vel-
lore under the suggested
arrangement, and what
would then be the average
cubical space for the
remaining prisoners.

3 The Gov. in Council
wishes also to be informed
which of the two Mahals
that of Dipfos Sultan
or the older Ala; the
Joint Magistrate of Vel-
lore proposes to employ
for the reception of the
detenus; and what arrang
ments will be necessary
for their proper accommo-
dation.

4 A specific report of
the number of Police Guards
required must also be
submitted by Mr. Rohde
Gaol Inspector
Gaols in communi-
cation with the Superin-
tendent of Police, when he

has ascertained how
many convicts can
be transferred to Vellore
under this arrangement
5 Mr. Rohde must
state whether or not
it is practicable to
erect, shortly or in
part, the cost of the
contemplated Establish-
ment, # 248 for which
by reductions in the
Gaols to be relieved.
In the meanwhile
he will give instructions
for planting at the Hos-
pital of the Joint Ma-
gistrate at Vellore a
gang of Prisoners, to
be employed in cleaning
the Mahals, removing
the temporary erections
of the present tenants,
and otherwise putting
them in order.—

7 It appears to Govt.
that of the Mahals
be in the condition
reported, their accommo-

detion, and secure posi-
tion within a strong
Nature Fort, indicate
them as a fitting
place of confinement for
any class of convicts, ex-
cept, perhaps, the most
desperate — and only
for those whom Sir Rohde
proposes to confine in them.
Sir Rohde will report
on this point also.
& the Govt cannot admit
the suspec. finl's proposal
in his letter of the 30th
alt. to liberate all convicts
sentenced to terms of 7 years
and upwards; who have
passed two thirds of their
time in Jail, and are old
and infirm — Any
special cases may be
submitted as heretofore.

A.W.

Council Chamber
at Delhi

desps 5/10

{ To the Inspector General of Jails
— do — of Police
— Lieut Govr of North West.

245 e 247