

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	290	Press ~~Mis.~~
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Dated	2 3 -	19 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
2nd March 1864.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 40. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 8th February 1864, No. 558.

I have the honor to request that provision may be made in Madras for the receipt and detention of convicts sentenced to transportation, as much inconvenience is occasioned by their being detained in the Provinces, the opportunity for transporting them being lost.

2. Should this be impracticable, I would suggest that at stated times Steamers or other vessels should be obtained, and that officers in charge of Jails should be apprized of the dates on which convicts so sentenced would be received.

3. The Government are aware that the Zillah Jails are so crowded that no provision for their lengthened detention can be there made. In one instance 15 Khond convicts have necessarily been transferred from Vizagapatam, from whence transfer by sea was easy, to Rajahmundry consequent on the inability of the Commissioner of Police to receive them (see Gazette p. 1140, 22nd December 1863).

Referred to the Commissioner of Police for report as to the number of convicts sentenced to transportation, who can be admitted into the Penitentiary, and for any further remarks that may occur to him on the subject of Mr. Rohde's letter.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
13th February 1864.

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

No. 41. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 17th February 1864, No. 30.

I have the honor to return the letter of the Inspector General of Jails, dated 8th instant, No. 558, referred to me on the 13th idem.

2. I herewith forward a Statement showing the extent of accommodation at present available in the Penitentiary for Native convicts, but there is an upper story now being built upon the High Court Ward, as recommended in paragraph 10 of my letter of the 12th November 1862, No. 134, which will soon be ready, and will contain about 80 prisoners.

3. I do not therefore apprehend that I shall again find myself unable to receive convicts from the Mofussil, but I would strongly advise the erection of a separate Ward for convicts under sentence of transportation, as the building now used as such is not well adapted for the purpose, having been built as a Workshop for European convicts, and consisting simply of one large room walled at the back and sides, and closed in front by an iron railing. At the time I wrote the letter above quoted, I was of opinion that the present Transportation Ward would suffice with the additions to the High Court Ward then recommended, but the number of convicts from the Mofussil has increased beyond my calculations; and although I have no doubt I shall be able to manage with the present accommodation, yet a separate building for the transportation convicts is very desirable, as the present Ward, and the High Court Ward would then be available for the purposes for which they were intended.

4. It may be proper for me to explain here the cause which led me to issue the notification of the 21st December last, to which Mr. Rohde alludes. On the 20th of that month, upon which date there were 365 Native prisoners in the Penitentiary, I received a letter from Tinnevely informing me that 36 convicts had been despatched, and as I had reason to believe that a number might be expected from other Jails, and had also ascertained that there was no probability of procuring a passage to the Andamans for some time, I thought it prudent to request that no more convicts might be sent until further notice. It so happened that the 36 men from Tinnevely did not arrive, they having attacked their escort en-route; but I received 44 from other quarters as I anticipated, and the number shipped on the 22nd January amounted to 94, exclusive of those sentenced by the High Court.

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5. On the 23rd January I issued another notice, to the effect that I was prepared to receive convicts as heretofore, and as the interval between the notifications barely exceeded a month, I trust that but little inconvenience was occasioned.

6. It will be observed that the number of persons allowed for each room in the Statement now forwarded is, with one exception, considerably less than that shown in the Statement which accompanied my letter of the 12th November 1862; but the present calculation has been made in communication with the officer in Medical charge of the Penitentiary, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Extract Minutes of Consultation noted in the margin, and the Circular from the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, dated 17th July 1863.

Judicial Department, No. 435, 28th June 1863.

Statement showing the accommodation available in the Penitentiary for Native Convicts.

No.	Names of Wards.	Number of rooms.	Number of persons each room will contain.	Total.
1	Female.....	5	8	40
2	Juvenile.....	5	8	40
3	Misdemeanor.....	5	8	40
4	Felons' first offence.....	5	8	40
5	Do. old offenders.....	5	7	35
6	High Court*.....	5	7	35
8	Transportation.....	1	48	48
				278

* The new block now being built consists of ten rooms, each of which will contain eight convicts.

MADRAS POLICE,
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
17th February 1864.

(Signed W. J. WILSON,

Commissioner of Police.

No. 42.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1864, No. 290.

The Governor in Council directs that the foregoing letter from the Commissioner of Police be communicated to the Inspector General of Jails.

2. The Government do not consider it necessary at present that a new building should be erected for the transportation convicts. It is understood that the European prisoners have the use of a shed which sufficiently answers the purpose of a workshop.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

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

Exd. J. Tulloch

Judicial Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
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Here enter 17th February 1864 N. 30

Order thereon 2nd March 1864 N. 290-

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The Commissioner of Police }
The Inspector General of Jails. } despatch 7/3

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