

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 380	Press
198-200	~~Mis.~~
Dated 15-3-1864	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th March 1864.*

No. 198. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 3rd March 1864, No. 35.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from Surgeon W. Aitken, in Medical charge of the Penitentiary, in which he recommends that all native convicts sentenced to imprisonment for any period exceeding six months, should be allowed four ounces of meat three times a week, as the present allowance of 96 cents, out of which meat or fish is purchased is insufficient to procure more than a very small quantity of those articles.

2. I have since ascertained from Dr. Aitken that he means that this addition should be allowed from the commencement of the sentence, as the prospect of prolonged confinement affects the convicts from the first.

3. I should not myself recommend the issue of the increased allowance to any convict, until after he had completed the first six months of his imprisonment, and as the existence of two different scales of diet in the same Jail appears open to objection, I would leave it with the Medical officer to direct the increased allowance to be given as a special thing to those men whose condition might in his opinion require it.

From Surgeon W. AITKEN, M. D., in charge Penitentiary; to Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police, Madras, dated 1st March 1864, No. 39.

I have again to direct your attention to the small portion of Butcher meat at present served out to the native prisoners on the days on which they are supposed to be allowed meat curry.

2. I find that the portion of the daily allowance reserved for the purchase of this, condiments, &c. is now, owing to the high price of meat altogether, inadequate to procure more than the smallest morsel, probably not half an ounce in weight, for each individual. I do not think, however, that it is either necessary or advisable to interfere with the dietary of short sentenced prisoners, which may with perfect safety be permitted to remain as at present; but I think that those who are sentenced to periods exceeding six months require a more liberal allowance of this article to enable them to resist the morbid and depressing influences to which they are exposed and become subject, and also to enable them to maintain such an amount of health and vigor as the tasks imposed on them require.

3. Believing as I do that the comfort already to be found in the Jail is an incentive to crime of no mean importance with the pauper and criminal classes, which furnish the largest proportion of the inmates, I readily admit that any alteration in the dietary, especially an improvement, requires much careful consideration as being likely to lead to an increase of crime.

4. I therefore, whilst I make this representation, fully recognise the importance of the principle that the regimen as well as the discipline of the Jail should have a punitive intention, but at the same time I conceive that the application of the principle requires modification in the case of the class of prisoners before referred to (namely, those whose sentence exceed six months), as I have observed that whilst the prisoners, whose sentences do not exceed six months, continue to enjoy a fair state of health, or even to improve; after that period deterioration begins, and unless the diet is supplemented by extras, the loss of health becomes marked and serious.

5. I therefore beg to recommend that all prisoners who are sentenced to periods exceeding six months, should have four ounces of meat served out to them three times a week, in addition to their present rations; and that those for any period less than six months should continue to be dieted as at present.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. J. WILSON,
Commissioner of Police.

Referred to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, for his opinion.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th March 1864,
(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

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The Medical Dept. S*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th March 1864.*

No. 199. From J. SHAW, Esq., Inspector General of Hospitals, for Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Fort Saint George; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 12th March 1864, No. 78.

Referring to correspondence accompanying your Memorandum of 7th March, I have the honor to observe that I concur with the Medical officer in recommending that long sentenced prisoners in the Penitentiary should be allowed four ounces of meat three times a week.

2. I agree with Lieutenant Colonel Wilson in thinking that this extra allowance should be given only to those men who have been six months in confinement of course; the Medical officer being empowered to order any extra diet he may consider necessary for convicts at any period of their imprisonment.

3. The great improvement in the physical condition of the Salem convicts (long sentenced men), under the diet now in experimental use, has been so great, that I have no hesitation in recommending that native prisoners in the Penitentiary, sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment, be granted an allowance of animal food, their present rations being unfitted to sustain health for any lengthened period.

No. 200. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1864, No. 380.

The Governor in Council sanctions the arrangement recommended by the Inspector General, viz., that prisoners in the Penitentiary under sentence for longer periods than six months shall, after the expiration of the first six months, be allowed four ounces of meat three times a week.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Police.
,, Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

Edw. J. Talloch.

Judicial Department,

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following:-

*Letter from the Commissioner of Police. Recd. enter 3^d March 1864 N^o 112
Letter from the Principal Insp^t }
General of the Medical Dept. } - & - 12th March 1864 N^o 112
Order thereon 15th March 1864 N^o 380.*

*The Governor in Council
sanctions the arrangement
recommended by the Inspector
General, viz. that prisoners
in the Penitentiary under
sentence for longer periods
than six months shall, after
the expiration of the first
six months, be allowed 4
ozs. of meat 3 times a week.*

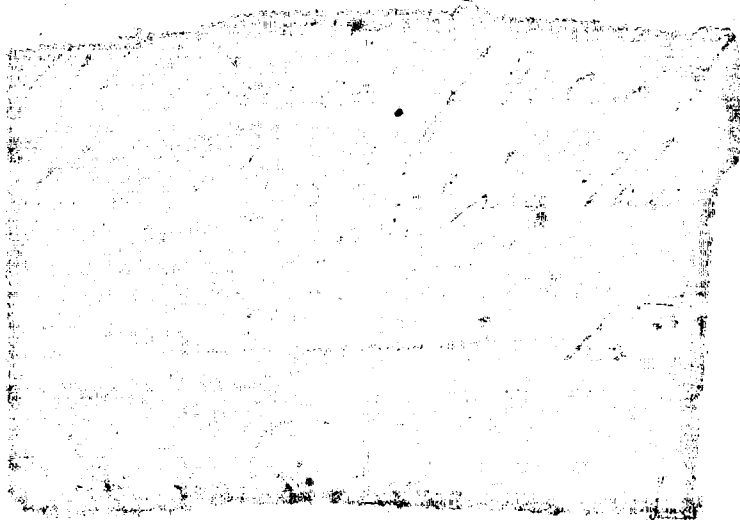
MB

Edw

JK

*To the Commissioner of Police
The Principal Inspector Gen^l } despt. 19/3
of the Medical Dept.*

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Statement of Receipt
to Treasurer in the
Secretary.

Dated 15th March 1864

FFA 1330/15

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

No. 300

Judicial 1864. Department.

3 Copies of Schedule forwarded
with Guid. by the Com.
of 28th Sept. 24. 30
of 1863.

Sept 13 1863

Pro. Sept
Judicial 1863
From
Administrative Council
March 30 1863

Patent 25 Sept 1863
Recd
Cuer.
No. 2145

Forwarded in triplicate
copies of Schedule for half
year ended 30 June 1863 of
the Estates and Trust Com.
=mitted to his charge

2770272

With an Order