M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	137	Press / Mis.
223-224 Dated	25-1-	19 1865

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
25th January 1865.

No. 223. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 21st December 1864, No. 406.

I have the honor to acknowledge the Order of Government, 23rd November 1864, No. 1685, demanding categorical answers to several questions recapitulated in the order.

1*st.*—What Jails it was proposed to relieve.

2*nd.*—The number of prisoners now confined in each of the Jails in question, and the average cubic space available for each prisoner in such Jails.

3*rd.*—The number of prisoners to be removed to Vellore.

4*th.*—The average cubical space that would be available for the remaining prisoners in the Jails thus relieved.

5*th.*—Which of the Mahals, Tippoo's or Hyder's, should be converted into a prison; and what arrangements would be required for the accommodation of the prisoners.

6*th.*—The number of Police guards.

7*th.*—Whether the cost of the Jail establishment proposed by Mr. Rohde for the Mahals would be met by reductions in the Jails to be relieved.

8*th.*—Whether the Mahals would not be suitable places of confinement for any class of convicts, except perhaps the most desperate, and not for those only whom Mr. Rohde proposed to confine in them.

2. In reply, I can only say that the answers to the 1st, 2nd, and 4th headings must necessarily be uncertain. When the Mahal is ready and made over as a Jail, I shall transfer to it such prisoners as at *that* time it is most necessary to send. At this moment the Cuddapah Jail is, perhaps, the most in want of relief; but there is not a single Jail south of the Kistna which is not over-crowded, and with 2,726,685 cubic feet of space (roughly estimated) for the accommodation of 7691 prisoners, it is hardly possible for me to say, pressed as I am for space everywhere, what Jails I may find it most necessary to relieve two or three months hence.

3. In answer to the 4th query, I should state that I do not wish above 500 prisoners moved to Vellore in the first instance; they will occupy the upper story of the larger Mahal. If the measure is successful the two Mahals or blocks, containing Hyder Ali's and Tippoo Sooltan's Mahals, may be made to accommodate 1200

prisoners, perhaps 1500. There are 440 habitable rooms, each measuring 12 feet by 9 superficial. I do not know the exact height; but with three men in each room that has a window or door, and two in those with borrowed air and roof ventilators, I think I am not wrong in saying that, when the rubbish is thoroughly cleared away, 1200 prisoners, and perhaps more, may be accommodated. Until the place is clear, I really cannot pledge myself to any more definite statement.

4. In regard to the 5th query, I have already stated that the block containing the general quadrangles of both Mahals and their offices should be appropriated. The first arrangement required is a thorough cleansing, the second will be ventilating; beyond this and some trifling repairs, I do not at present propose further changes.

5. The reply to the 6th query, Mr. Robinson has given in the letter quoted in the Government Proceedings, No. 213. The 4th paragraph of that letter, and the 11th paragraph of my letter quoted will have already answered the 8th query.

6. The Government will understand that I am fully prepared in my own Department to make all necessary arrangements for the relief of the Jails under my jurisdiction on having the Mahals handed over to me as a Jail, with sanction for the establishment proposed, for the cost of which I can* immediately make no provision by reductions elsewhere.

* Eventually the Vellore and other gangs may be absorbed with their establishments.

7. I have no intention *presently* to propose any general Depôt for female prisoners. I stated that this could not be till the Railways have been extended; by that time it may be hoped that increased accommodation for male prisoners in Central prisons will have been provided.

8. The accompanying Statement, prepared for Colonel Strachey, will show the present crowded condition of the Jails, but excepting Cuddapah, Coimbatore, and Madura, it is difficult to say which may most need relief two months hence.

9. The nearest approximation I can afford to the information required is.

There is now accommodation in all the Jails for 5545 prisoners, of which class 7691 have to be accommodated; that the surplus is 2146, of whom 1200 may be lodged in the Mahals if the experiment be successful, which will leave 946 in excess of the total accommodation at 360 feet on the hills, and 500 feet on the plains approximately.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
25th January 1865.

Statement showing the number each Prison, under the Madras Presidency, is capable of containing, the cubical contents, and the present average number of all classes in Jail, prepared with reference to the O. G., dated 4th October 1864, No. 1451.

Jails.	The number of prisoners the prison is capable of containing.	Cubical contents.	The present average daily number of all classes in Jail.	Remarks.
Zillah Jails.				
Berhampore...	153	76,500	233	* Central Jails under construction.
Vizagapatam...	...	.....	334	
Rajahmundry*.	116	58,000	134	
Masulipatam...	112	56,000	124	
Guntoor.	186	93,000	221	
Nellore...	322	161,000	436	
Kurnool.	95	47,500	246	
Cuddapah.	194	97,000	412	
Bellary...	231	115,500	499	
Chittoor	372	186,000	395	
Chingleput....	228	114,000	328	
Cuddalore.	477	238,500	342	Mostly vaults.
Tanjore...	130	65,000	128	
Tranquebar...	84	42,000	188	
Trichinopoly..	259	129,500	379	
Madura...	173	86,500	271	This Jail has been condemned. The greater part of this space is not fit for human habitation.
Tinnevelly	102	51,000	194	
Salem...	430	215,000	417	
Coimbatore*	228	114,000	382	Quite unfit for the number, (condemned).
Ootacamund	100	50,000	68	
Calicut...	230	115,000	375	
Mangalore	217	108,500	285	
Tellicherry....	130	65,000	143	The greater part not suited to human dwelling.
European prison...	36	18,000	26	
Subsidiary Jails temporarily established for gangs which cannot be accommodated in Zillah Jails.				
Russelcondah	60	30,000	...	For Hill prisoners only; present number unknown.
Vellore...	75	37,500	177	
Guindy...	80	40,000	95	
Paumben	130	65,000	155	
Cochin...	50	25,000	38	Part out of repair.
Paulghaut	90	45,000	121	
Cannanore	125	62,500	112	
Lawrence Asylum works in progress.	335	121,685	436	Temporary Jail for convicts employed on the works not finished.
Total...	5,545	2,726,685	7,691	

(True Copy).
(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector General of Jails.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 25th January 1865.

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1865, No. 137.

The Governor in Council is constrained to observe that the reasons given by Mr. Rohde in the [redacted] foregoing letter, for his inability to furnish specific replies to the questions put to him in the Proceedings of Government, under date the 30th September last, are not satisfactory. Mr. Rohde had applied for authority to convert the Mahals at Vellore into a prison, in order that he might relieve some of the most crowded Jails. In reply, he was directed, among other points, to report what Jails he proposed to relieve; the number of prisoners now confined in them; the cubic space contained in them; the number of prisoners to be moved to Vellore; and the cubic space that would be available for the prisoners remaining in the Jails thus relieved. The reason which he assigns for his inability to give this information, is that it is impossible for him to say what Jails will be most in need of relief when the Mahals are ready. This is obviously not a valid reason for the Inspector General's omission to furnish the information called for by Government. His reply could, of course, only have reference to the actual state of things existing at the time he wrote; but it was, or ought to have been, quite in his power to state what arrangements he proposed making with reference to the existing state of the Jails, leaving such modifications to be made in those arrangements as might be rendered necessary by subsequent changes in the numerical strength of the Jails. The Governor in Council again directs that Mr. Rohde will furnish clear and specific replies on the several points above adverted to.

2. Meanwhile, the Governor in Council authorizes Mr. Rohde to transfer 500 prisoners to the Vellore Mahals, as soon as they are ready to be occupied as a Jail; and to employ an establishment at a cost of Rupees 248 per mensem. The Jail will be placed for the present under the charge of the Joint Magistrate. Mr. Rohde will report the transfer when it has taken place.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" Civil Paymaster.
" Deputy Auditor and Accountant General.
" Magistrate of North Arcot.
" Inspector General of Police.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

[redacted]

Mr de Ins Ufsham —

The Statement
refd to in Line 3, Para
2 of Judicial Proc
No 122 of 21st Jany 1865
has not been sent —
Will you kindly see
that it is sent
by the Revenue
& Police

Geo Smyth

26-1-65 J. Broch

[redacted]

P 30 No 212-214
23.11.64

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

From the Inspector Genl of Jails dated 21 Decr 1864 Nos 4305 & 4306.

Order thereon 25 January 1865 No 137.

The Governor in Council is constrained to observe that the reasons given by Mr Rohde in the ~~annexed~~ letter for his inability to furnish specific replies to the questions put to him in the Proceedings of Govt under date the 30th September last, are ~~by no means~~ satisfactory. Mr Rohde had applied for authority to convert the Mahal at Vellore into a prison, in order that he might relieve some of the most crowded jails. In reply, he was directed, among other points,

to report what jails he proposed to relieve; the number of prisoners now confined in them; and the Cubic space contained in them; the number of prisoners to be moved to each; and the Cubic space that would be available for the prisoners remaining in the jails thus relieved: the reason which he assigns for his inability to give that information, is the impossibility for a day. A jails will be most in need of relief when the Mahals are ready. This is obviously not a valid reason for the Inspector General's omission to call for by Government. His reply could, of course, only have reference to actual state existing at the time he wrote

but it was not to have been quite in his power to state what arrangements he proposed making with reference to the existing state of the jails; leaving such modifications to be made in those arrangements as might be rendered necessary by subsequent changes in the numerical strength of the jails. The Governor in Council again directs that a Return be furnished clear and specific replies on the several points above adverted to.

2. Meanwhile, the Governor in Council authorizes Mr. Rohde to transfer 500 prisoners to the Vellore Mahals, as soon as they are ready to be occupied as a jail, and to employ an Establishment at a cost of Rs 248 per mensem. The jail will be

Ed C 1865. *Department.*

No. 137.

PROCEEDINGS *of* GOVERNM

Feb 930-
" 1740-

Dated 25. January 66