E.R.O. 1—20,000—16-12-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1392 Press

Dated 28.9.1865 19 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 200. Read the following letter from Æ. R. McDONELL, Esq., Magistrate of Trichinopoly, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Trichinopoly, 11th September 1865, No. 33.

Referring to the Order of Government, quoted in the margin, I have the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying copy of my Acting Head Assistant, Mr. Comyn's, communication to my address, reporting on the working of the convicts placed at our disposal by the Session Judge of this station during the last month, in pursuance of the above Order, for the sanitary improvement of the town of Trichinopoly.

10th June 1865, No. 836.

2. One hundred and twenty-four convicts were supplied to this Department, on the 10th ultimo, for the purpose in question, and the average daily number of prisoners placed at our disposal, from and after that date, amounts to 133. These men were employed in clearing away the thickly grown prickly-pear on the western side of the town, and burying the same in the Fort ditch. Some 500 cubic yards of earthwork has been completed, while pulling down a portion of the Ramparts in that locality.

3. I advanced 50 Rupees, out of the Local Funds, for contingent expenses. Of this, a sum of Rupees 34-7-8 was spent in repairing the implements, and purchasing slippers for the use of the convicts.

4. The work is conducted under my general superintendence, and under the immediate supervision and orders of Mr. Acting Head Assistant Comyn, within whose charge the town is situated. I have personally visited the work on several occasions.

5. Independent of the above number of convicts, Mr. Harris has given a party of 36 prisoners, for the purpose of digging a well, in a place selected by us for the proposed Central Jail, in view to ascertaining the suitability, or otherwise, of that locality for the intended object. Another gang of prisoners is at the same time spared by that officer for the use of the Department Public Works, for procuring granite stones from the demolished fortifications of the Fort, the same being urgently required for the lower annicut in the Tanjore District.

From W. H. COMYN, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Trichinopoly, to Æ. R. McDONELL, Esq., Magistrate of Trichinopoly; dated Trichinopoly, 6th September 1865, No. 31.

With reference to your letter, No. 80, dated 17th June 1865, directing me to submit periodical reports, as called for in the Order of Government, 10th June 1865, No. 836, relative to the working of the convicts placed at my disposal, for sanitary improvements in the town, I have the honor now to submit a report on the subject for the last month.

2. The convicts were made over to me on the 10th ultimo, on which day, and on all subsequent days during the past month, I have employed them in cutting down, and clearing away, the prickly-pear, which had spread over the ramparts on the western side of the town, and in burying the same in the Fort ditch. The ramparts themselves have also, to a small extent, been pulled down.

3. The Town Sub-Magistrate, Cuddapah Kristna Iyer, to whom, as suggested in your letter under reference, I have entrusted the immediate supervision of this work, subject to my general

superintendence and order on the subject, was directed to furnish me daily with a brief report, showing the number of convicts placed at our disposal, and the nature and amount of work turned out by them per diem.

STATEMENT showing the amount of work performed by the Convicts from the 10th to 31st August 1865.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Particulars of Works.	Extent. Square yards.	Number of days.	Aggregate Number of Convicts.	Average Number of Convicts per diem.	Average rate per of work diem.
Cutting down Prickly-pear	11,015¼	19	2,533	133·2	550
Burying do. in Ditch	7,380				385
Earthwork	500 cubic yards				26

4. I have now the honor to submit a tabular Statement founded on these reports, which exhibits the average daily number of convicts furnished to us, and the average amount of work performed by them. This Statement also shows the aggregate number of convicts employed, and the particulars, as well as the total, of work turned out by them.

5. I have made a point of visiting the scene of operations two or three times a week, and have had opportunities of directing and supervising the works.

6. The appearance of the western side of the Fort has undergone a complete change. The whole of the prickly-pear has been removed from the ramparts (on this side), which are about three-quarters of a mile in length, and average from 15 to 30 feet in height, and from 20 to 100 feet in breadth, and are at the same time built of the strongest masonry.

7. Two-thirds of this prickly-pear so removed had, on the last day of the month, been deposited in the Fort ditch, and covered over with earth taken from the Ramparts. The remainder of the prickly-pear is now being buried, and though, originally one gang of Convicts was employed in demolishing the Ramparts, I have, owing to the sudden appearance of rain, utilized their labor also, in burying the prickly-pear bushes, which would otherwise rot away, and in all probability turn out a greater nuisance to the neighbourhood than they ever were when standing.

8. Owing to the wonderful solidity and massiveness of the Ramparts, it will take a long time to level them with the ground, and to expedite this work, it will require a far larger number of Convicts than have as yet been placed at our disposal.

9. Some two or three dozen snakes, large and small, and more or less venomous, have been killed in the prickly-pear bushes which skirted a much frequented pathway leading to the Main Guard, and there is reason to believe that many more will be brought to light, as the demolition of the Ramparts progresses.

10. A gang of Convicts from the Jail is also at work in removing the large stones which form the exterior of the bastions; but as these Convicts have been placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department, the labor performed by them has not been included in the Statement (margin, paragraph 4).

11. Of the sum of Rupees 50 supplied by you, at my request, out of the Local Fund for contingent expenses, Rupees 34-7-8 has been expended in repairing the implements used by, and in purchasing slippers for, the prisoners, without the latter it would be manifestly cruel to employ the Convicts in cutting down the prickly-pear bushes.

12. Judging from the amount of work that has already been performed during the past 20 days by the limited number of Convicts placed at our disposal, I have no doubt but that if all the Convicts in the Jail that are available for hard labor (by which expression I understand *all* Convicts in the Jail who have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, and who are not prevented from going to work, by sickness or other cause) are made over to me for sanitary improvements in the Town, I shall be able from time to time to report extremely favorably of the progress of the various works in which they may be employed.

13. Some delay has been occasioned in submitting this letter, owing partly to the non-arrival of some of the daily reports from the Sub-Magistrate's office, and partly to my time being fully taken up in making arrangement for, and in superintending, the Special Test Examination, which is now going on.

(True Copy).
(Signed) Æ. R. McDONELL,
Magistrate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
28th September 1865.

No. 291. ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1865, No. 1302.

The Governor in Council is pleased to find that the work of improvement at Trichinopoly is steadily progressing, and directs that no change be allowed in the special arrangements ordered for the employment of convicts in the Town, in consequence of the transfer of the charge of the Jail to the Cantonment Magistrate.

2. Referring to the last paragraph of the foregoing letter, it appears to His Excellency in Council that the excavation of a well is not a suitable work for convicts, who have chains on their legs. Any well which may be required for the proposed Central Jail, will properly form part of the estimate of that work. The labor of the 36 convicts who are engaged in digging a well, should, therefore, be applied towards expediting the destruction of the prickly-pear and demolishing the ramparts.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Magistrate of Trichinopoly.
" Inspector General of Jails.
" Superintendent of the Trichinopoly Jail.
" Session Judge of Trichinopoly.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the Magistrate of Trichinopoly — Jutes 11th Sept. 65 No. 33.

Order — 28th September 1865 No. 1392.

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Pro: of Legr
Judicial 1865. Department.

No. 1392

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Fek. 2128- 2641.

Dated 28 September 1865-

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The Magistrate of Ipichi-
nopoly
The Inspector Genl. of
Jails.
" Superintendent of
the Ipichinopoly
Gaol
Settlement Surgeon of Ipichinopoly

desd No 2/10