M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-12-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1823 Press Mis.

1747-75

Dated 19—12— ~~19~~ 86

5/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 174. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 30th November 1865, No. 572.

In acknowledging the Proceedings of Government, dated 24th instant, No. 1683, calling on me to explain a statement which appeared in the *Excelsior*, of the 16th idem, relative to a conspiracy among the Chinese convicts, I have the honor to state that, not being acquainted with any circumstance of recent occurrence which could in any way countenance the exaggerated statement, I called on Messrs. Framjee, to inform me to what the article referred; from their reply,* it does not appear that any ground for the statement existed. I have, of course, declined to contradict the statement, having no knowledge of the facts alluded to. Captain Hankin has given a full statement of the conduct of the Chinamen from the day he received them. From this, it will appear that, upwards of six months before the date of the article in question, there was a combined refusal to work among the Chinese at Lovedale, that three of the number were punished, and that from that day to this the men have been uniformly well conducted.

Copy enclosed. 29th November.

Vide letter, dated 29th November 1865, No. 101 enclosed.

2. The carelessness of assertion manifested in the article in question was shown in another marked instance, in the statement that the Pykara bridge (which has remained uninjured) had been washed away.

From Messrs. FRAMJEE NESSERWANJEE & Co., Ootacamund, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated 29th November 1865.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 559, dated 27th instant, and, in reply, beg to inform you that we have no further information to give relative to the alleged conspiracy amongst the Chinese convicts than appeared in the *Neilgherry Excelsior* of the 16th instant, and which was written by the Editor on some reports that had reached him. We will, however, be glad to give a contradiction, through the same medium, if there was no foundation for these reports.

From Captain F. G. HANKIN, in charge of Convicts on Lawrence Asylum Works, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 29th November 1865, No. 101.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 1682, dated 24th November 1865, I have the honor to report as follows:—

Ten Chinese convicts were received from the Native Jail at Ootacamund on the 5th April 1865, where they had, I was given to understand, been giving some trouble, for which reason they were sent here, with a view of breaking up a clique it was supposed existed among them.

2. They went to work on the 6th, but did not finish nearly the task laid out for them. On the 7th, I laid off a task for them myself, and told them that it was less than the other convicts were doing, but I did not expect them at first to do as much as men who were perfectly accustomed to the work, and who were used to use wheelbarrows, whereas all natives they had hitherto worked with had only carried the earth in baskets; this lesser task was not done. I again laid off their task on the 7th and 8th, and although I assured them it was less than that given to other convicts, they refused to believe me, and evidently thought they were being unfairly treated. On the 8th, on visiting their work, I was told by the Police that the Chinese convicts had stuck their crowbars, &c., into the ground, and had threatened to use them against any one who approached them; these were, however, removed before I came, but I could see that

the men were very excited. This was Saturday evening. I directed the Jailer carefully to watch their proceedings on the Sunday, and said that, as I expected they would refuse to go to work on Monday, I would be at the Jail myself before the gangs were marched off. On Sunday morning, the 9th April, however, I received a report from the Jailer that they had tied up all their clothing in bundles, had refused to receive their food, saying that they intended to do no more work or take any more food, that they had retired into one of the cells by themselves, and would not let any natives go near them.

3. As I believed these men, who were chiefly Malays, to be desperate characters, two being transported for life, and the rest for long periods, and as I believed that they were so excited that they would not allow themselves to be coerced by the native guard without serious resistance on their part, I thought it best to take measures at once to show them that they must yield to authority, and that resistance would be utterly useless. I therefore went to the Superintendent of Police, and asked him to accompany me to the Jail. He at once consented, and we rode out at once to the Lawrence Asylum Works, where Major Farewell joined us. Then, with two other Europeans from my works, and the Police Inspector, all went to the Jail. The Chinese convicts were brought out; they positively refused to take their food or go to work. Three were seized and flogged, when the others gave in and took their food. They went to work the next morning, and from that day to the 29th November, when they were transferred, no convicts could have behaved more quietly or worked better.

N. B.—The Order of Government is herewith forwarded.

No. 175. ORDER THEREON, 19th December 1865, No. 1823.

The Governor in Council desires to be informed whether the statement made by Captain Hankin, in the 3rd paragraph of his letter of the 29th ultimo, to the effect that the prisoners referred to were chiefly Malay, is correct. The Government were under the impression that no Malay convicts had been sent to the Neilgherry Hills.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

No 101
1865

Lawrence Asylum Works
Potacamund 29th November 1865

From

Captain Fly. Hankin
In charge of convicts on
Lawrence Asylum Works

To

The Inspector General of Jails
Potacamund

Sir.

With reference to the order of Government No. 1682 dated 24th November 1865 I have the honor to report as follows.—

Ten Chinese convicts were received from the Native Jail at Potacamund on the 5th April 1865 where they had I was given to understand been giving some trouble, for which reason they were sent here with a view of breaking up a clique it was supposed existed among them

2. They went to work on the 6th but did not finish nearly the task laid out for them. On the 7th I laid off a task for them myself and told them that it was less than the other convicts were doing but I did not expect them at first to do as much as men who were perfectly accustomed to the work, and who were used to use wheelbarrows, whereas all natives they had hitherto worked with, had only carried the earth in baskets; this lesser task was not done, I again laid off their task on the 7th & 8th and although I assured them it was less than that given to other convicts they refused to believe me, and evidently thought they were being unfairly treated. On the 8th on visiting their work I was told by the Police that the Chinese convicts had stuck their crowbars &c into the ground & had threatened to use them against any one who approached them, these

were however removed before I came but I could see that the men were very excited. This was Saturday evening. I directed the Jailor carefully to watch their proceedings on the Sunday & said that as I expected they would refuse to go to work on Monday I would be at the Jail myself before the gangs were marched off. On Sunday morning the 9th April however I received a report from the Jailor that they had tied up all their clothing in bundles, had refused to receive their food saying that they intended to do no more work or take any more food, that they had retired into one of the cells by themselves & would not let any natives go near them.

3. As I believed the men who were chiefly Malays to be desperate characters & being transported for life and the rest for long periods. And as I believed that they were so excited that they would not allow themselves to be coerced by the native guard without serious resistance on their part, I thought it best to take measures at once to shew them that they must yield to authority & that resistance would be utterly useless, I therefore went to the Superintendent Police and ask'd him to accompany me to the Jail he at once consented and we rode out at once to the Lawrence Asylum Works where Major Farewell joined us, then with 2 other Europeans from my works & the Police Inspector, all went to the Jail. The Chinese convicts were brought out — they positively refused to take their food or go to work 3 were seized & flogged when the others gave in & took their food & they went to work the next morning and from that

Pro: 24th Nov. 1865 ct. 208

1st List 9 Jan 4/66.

Govt. Examiner, Penang.
Captain Rawlins, Collr.: Enclosure to them.
Powers.

Penang 15th Dec. 74.75

Pro: Dec.
Judicial 1865 Department
From
The Inspector of Jails
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George
Dated 30 November 1865
Rec'd 6 Dec.
No. 572

Enclosures Two

No 2593

Replies to Order of Government dated 24 Instant No. 1683 regarding the conspiracy amongst the Chinese Convicts at Lovedale referred to in the Letter of Secy Eccelsr of the 16 Inst.

Over

With an Order

Encl
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Order thereon. 19th Dec.r 1823.

The Governor in Council desires to be informed whether the statement made by Captain Hankin in the 3d para of his letter of the 29 ultimo to the effect that the prisoners referred to were chiefly Malay, is correct. The Govt were under the impression that no Malay Convicts had been sent to the Neilgherry Hills.

Sup.r Genl of Jails desp.d 24/12