

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>281</i>	Press Mis.
<i>184-185</i>	
Dated <i>21-2</i>	<i>1865</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3/4

No. 281.

To

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, COLOMBO.

SIR,

With reference to a letter addressed by Major General O'Brien, administering the Government, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, I am directed to transmit, for the information of the Government of Ceylon, the annexed copy of a Memorandum by the Superintendent of Marine, describing the practice observed at Madras, in regard to the provision of accommodation on board ship for Native convicts sentenced to transportation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Chief Secretary.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st February 1865.

MEMORANDUM.

There are no specific rules under which Native convicts are embarked for transportation from Madras; but the practice is to select a sound substantial vessel, having a lower deck and proper ventilation. One that would not pass survey for troops would not be engaged for convicts. On the lower deck is built a prison, and if there are any women of the party, a separate prison is put up for them; each plank of the bulkhead being an inch or two apart, to allow of ventilation, and 9 to 12 square feet being assigned for each prisoner.

2. Endeavours are always made not to have a large number of prisoners in any one ship, 20 to 30 being the average; although, occasionally, it is necessary to embark larger parties. It is usual to select a vessel having troops (details) on board, from which a guard can be furnished; but if no troops are going, a small guard is put on board expressly for the purpose.

3. During the voyage, the prisoners are permitted, by batches, to take exercise on the upper deck.

4. There is no rule regulating the quantity of provisions to be shipped. The Superintendent of Marine decides what supply is required, and no instance has occurred of the quantity being insufficient; nor has any out-break or misadventure occurred, during the past 20 years, in connection with the transportation of convicts from this Presidency.

(Signed) J. J. FRANKLIN,
Superintendent of Marine.

MADRAS, 21st February 1865.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

despatched by the
P.O. Steamer "Hermes".

judicial department.

No 281.
To the Colonial Secretary
Colombo.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter addressed by Major General C. Brown, Administrator of the Government of Ceylon, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, and am directed to transmit for the information of the Government of Madras, the annexed copy of a report submitted by the Superintendent of Prisons describing the arrangements proposed for the accommodation on board ship for Native Convicts sentenced to transportation.

WON
For St. Lucie
21st

1860-1861

1861-1862