

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 377

Press
~~Mis~~

32-51

Dated

10.3.19-865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

10th March 1865.

Read the following papers:—

No. 50. Abstract of Petition from RAMASAMY, LAKSHMANAN, and others, residing in Chittoor, in North Arcot; dated 2nd November 1864.

State that they cannot express the injustices done by Mr. Duncan, the Jailer at Chittoor; that a short time ago Mr. Duncan appointed Appavoo, one of the prisoners, as a maistry over all the other prisoners, and afterwards did so for having taken himself a portion of the bribe which he extorted from the prisoners for Mr. Duncan; that the Jailer now extorts bribes by means of Sabapathy Moodelly and Viswanada Pillai, the prisoners, and causes those who refuse to give him bribes to be beaten and who give him bribes to sit in the Jail and keep reading in the Jail without sending them out to work; that every convict is obliged to give him Rupees 14, or he complains against the things they send; that these facts will be proved by the said maistry if any inmate be offered to him. I pray that Mr. Duncan may be suspended, and the Peons and others who are concerned in these affairs be punished, as great dissatisfaction at present exists among the natives at the state of things in the Jail.

No. 3173 of 1864.

Referred to the Session Judge for report through the Inspector General of Jails.

(By Order).

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
4th January 1865.

(Signed) C. G. WALKER,
Under Secretary to Government.

No. 51. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 21st February 1865, No. 543.

In returning the petition forwarded under endorsement from your office, on the 4th January, relative to alleged abuses in the Jail at Chittoor, together with Mr. Roberts' report thereon, I have the honor to state that I went very fully into the matter with Mr. Roberts, who had drawn up the details of his inquiry with great minuteness; that I was satisfied that the result he arrived at was correct, and that whatever abuses there may have been it is impossible to obtain proof or satisfactory evidence of them.

From C. A. ROBERTS, Esq., Session Judge of Chittoor, to J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; dated Chittoor, 13th February 1865, No. 2.

In reply to the Order of Government, dated the 4th ultimo, on Petition* No. 3173 of 1864,

* Herewith returned.

I have the honor to state that the said petition is pseudonymous. I have been unable to discover the petitioners in spite of various inquiries, and am led to think that the petition emanated from the convicts themselves, or from some member of the Jail establishment.

2. The parties therein specified as witnesses have with one exception denied all knowledge of the alleged corruption on the part of the Jailer. It would be seen from the inquiries I have made that the convicts alluded to, as unjustly favored, have been treated with undue leniency; but as the Jailer has of necessity a certain latitude in the management of the Jail, whatever suspicions may be entertained, no corrupt motive can be proved against him in this respect.

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The same may be said with regard to the alleged misappropriation of grain. For 40 days in December and January last, the supplies to the convicts were by my orders tended by the Police, and during this period the surplus of paddy, &c., carried to the credit of Government was greatly in excess of that hitherto exhibited in accounts. I am unable, and I believe it is impossible, to detect how much of this undue perhaps slight variation in the mode of measurement, in which Natives are notoriously expert. Such may have been introduced under the influence of interested parties, and such being possible, no certain inference can be drawn as to the correctness or otherwise of the former accounts.

Under these circumstances, I can see no prospect of following up the inquiry with any hope of a satisfactory result.

No. 51A.

ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1865, No. 377.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

ARBUTHNOT,
Chief S.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Income 1865 Dep.

Recd - 22nd -

WP 453.

*C. J. Mark
R. "*

50-57.

*10th March 1865 No. 377.
J.P.
(W.D.)*