

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	507	Press Mis.
³⁻⁴ Dated	1-1-19	197865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st April 1865.*

No. 3. Read the following :—

MEMORANDUM.

BELLARY, 19th, 22nd, 26th, and 28th January 1865.

This Jail has been enlarged by the enclosure of the former subordinate Court House, the wall extending from the south-east corner of the hospital enclosure to one in extension of the eastern wall of the Jail; the Court House was, however, only partially available for prisoners, as the Jailer's house had been pulled down, in anticipation of the completion of a new house outside the enclosure, and he and his family occupied one-half of the Court House. This wall now encloses the several buildings which had been erected for weaving, store-rooms, &c. In addition to this, and to the west of the Jail, was a yard similarly enclosed, and intended as a privy.

2. The hospital, as now built with the precautions required by my Circular of Instructions of the 7th November 1855, answers its purpose well, and is a very good specimen of what Jail wards should be, and still more so of the way in which Jail wards should be kept; not the slightest taint or smell could be detected in the whole building.

3. In the yard west of the building, which had been designed as a privy, the dry earth system was in use; but I remarked that the yards sloped towards the hospital and yard recently enclosed in front of the Jail, into which only it opened. In wet weather the surface drainage was necessarily to this yard, and the dry earth which is removed daily being spread on the surface soil, it is impossible, in wet weather particularly, to avoid the communication of animal matter from faeces, urine, &c., to the ground, which, falling towards the south, would taint the ground in front of the Jail.

4. The interior of the old Jail had been cumbered with ranges of cooking sheds, which not only impeded perfilation, but are the cause of a great deal of vegetable refuse being introduced into the enclosure.

5. The filter designed by me some years ago, in hope that the water might thereby be deprived of impurities, to which I thought the guinea worm might be attributable, still remained open on the side into which the water was received.

6. The batten doors of the cells remained.

7. When I last visited this station it was with the expectation that a new Jail, suited as a Central prison for the Ceded Districts and Kurnool, would long since have been completed. Nothing that could be avoided was attempted towards patching the old building. The excessive over-crowding, however, compelled an extension, which has added a two roomed building with verandahs, which may be used as dormitories, to the accommodation. At present only one room of this building is available.

8. The Jailer's house was being built with convict labor, but, owing to the extraordinary rise in the price of timber, cannot be completed for a sum very much in excess of the original estimate. When the probable cost is ascertained, the sanction of the Government to the excess over the 500 Rupees already sanctioned in my Department will be applied for; it may be met from unexpended funds provided for such charges in my estimates.

1st April 1865.

9. The removal of the cook-rooms from the interior of the old Jail to the space newly enclosed, the erection of a guard-room at the entrance to the new enclosure, the erection of a privy platform for the reception of troughs, in which ordure and the dry earth will be together removed (instead of having many tons of dry earth repeatedly used, and moved backwards and forwards daily, as at present), the fitting of a grating to the receiving side of the filter, to prevent the use of water from it, and the fitting of the cell door-ways with iron doors, which will be available whenever a new Jail may be erected, are the only works on which it seems desirable to incur any expense at present. Most of these will be proceeded with by convict labor.

10. The Jail contains:—

4 Wards	31 × 14 × 11½ feet = 19,964
11 „	24 × 11 × 11½ „ = 42,504
„	20 × 14 × 11½ „ = 3,220
10 „	14 × 14 × 11½ „ = 36,064
2 Cells	14 × 9 × 10 „ = 2,560
7 Wards totaled	140 × 9 × 10 „ = 12,600
	<u>1,16,912</u>

The total area, at 500 cubic feet to each man, would give accommodation to two hundred and thirty-three persons, to which may be added twenty for the room in the old Court, making accommodation, exclusive of the hospital, 253 persons of all classes.

11. There were actually in confinement, during the past twelve months, from 532, the highest, to 485, the lowest monthly average, being about twice the number which ought, at 500 cubic feet to each, to be in the Jail.

12. The deaths were 30 in all, which, on an average number for the year 1864 of 508, would give a ratio of deaths to strength of 6.9 in the 100.

13. The deaths during the year have been from

Atrophy and Anæmia	5
Diarrhoea	10
Dysentery	5
Cholera	1
Guinea worm	2
Fevers	4
Other diseases	3

Statement of the present state of the Jail, 18th January 1865.

Sentence.	Number of Prisoners.					
	With labor.			Without labor.		
	Males.	Females.	Juveniles	Males.	Females.	Juveniles
Life	7	..	..	..	..	..
14 years and upwards	73	..	..	..	..	..
7 do. and under 14	116	4	1	..	..	..
2 do. do. 7	126	16	1	1	..	..
1 year do. 2	57	6	3	1	..	..
1 month do. 1 year	49	3	1	8	2	..
Under 1 month	2	..	..	..	..	..

14. Of 477 sentenced prisoners, six were "juveniles," 31 were women of whom 29 were liable to labor, 430 were men liable to labor, and 10 men sentenced to simple imprisonment, as more particularly shewn in the margin.

15. On looking over the list of Maistries, I find many who had not fulfilled the term of two-thirds of their sentence, though all had fulfilled the one-third, to which, previous to November 1863, the minimum had been limited. It is remarkable that in this, as in almost all Jails, the selection of maistries has fallen on prisoners of the very classes which the Prison Discipline Committee of Calcutta would exclude from the privilege—men convicted of dacoity, highway robbery, &c. Of the maistries in this prison, three stand convicted of thuggee, four of murder, 12 of highway robbery, four of gang robbery or dacoity, four of house breaking, one of arson, and one of receiving. Prisoners so sentenced, as a matter of course, are the longest in Jail. They are the most skilled and useful maistries. I do not wish to discuss the question of selection here, as it has already been noticed by me in reviewing the Calcutta Report, but I do not now think it desirable, where the selection of maistries was sanctioned by existing rules, to remove those who have, as maistries, been well conducted.

16. There has been introduced into the Jail a very useful branch of their culture, that of cumblies, for prison use; but the amount of labor expended in their production is great; the wool is bought in the yolk, and washed, teased out, spun, and woven by hand. From May to December inclusive, 733 Rupees worth of material was purchased, the out-turn being 708 cumblies, worth about 2 Rupees each. The cumblies are good of their kind: 10,948 days' labor has been expended in making these 708 cumblies, being at the rate of 15½ days' labor for each cumby, which would give about 1 Anna as the value of each day's labor. I did not find that at Bangalore the labor in this work was much more successfully economized, though I think it likely that, by the introduction of a few simple implements, much might be done in this respect: at present I must say that I think the experiment, all things considered, satisfactory. The introduction of proper looms will not only expedite the work, but tend to economize space in the sheds, and allow of the extension of the manufacture. The wool is of a very short staple, indeed it could hardly be called wool, and I must ascertain the best mode of treating it before I can make any further suggestions on the subject.

17. I had no complaints from any of the prisoners worthy of notice. I desired that the cumby cap or hood should be substituted for the second cumby, as laid down in the rules, and that breeches should, according to the custom of the District, be substituted for the cloth. This should, at present prices, be attended with some saving.

18. Cumblies of the quality now made should be made to last two years, when used as is intended, by night only.

19. It will be necessary to supply the prison with at least ten carts for the labor of the convicts, but just now that the Irrigation works draw away all labor by high wages, it is hardly possible to procure any Artificers to build them. At Kurnool I was charged more for country cart wheels than I could have got equally strong coach-wheels built for by a Madras Coach-builder. The baskets used by the prisoners were too small.

20. There were two lunatics in Jail. The case of one "Paupa" had, I found, been already the occasion of a correspondence with Government; her release had been recommended, but, on a Medical opinion subsequently recorded, the recom-

1st April 1865.

mentation was withdrawn. This woman seems inoffensive, provided she can be debarred from noxious stimulants. She begged me to let her go to Madras, where her friends are; and I determined on transferring her to the vicinity of Madras, and, if possible, to the Asylum, with the view, in case her being set at liberty is not there thought objectionable, that she should be made over to her friends, under such precautions as may be deemed necessary.

21. The other lunatic is a patient in hospital, where he must for the present remain.

22. Of the prisoners 234 were employed on the public roads, or other improvements, and 50 at the Jailer's new house; the rest were employed inside the walls, 15 sick and 15 worn out prisoners excepted.

23. The messing system has now been fully introduced, but metal cooking pots are wanted.

24. It is to be regretted that neither the Cantonment authorities or the Engineer Officers will provide the supervision for the convict work on the public roads. A Serjeant was so employed, on a small salary of, I think, Rupees 25 for several years, and the roads were efficiently repaired by the prisoners, no charge being made for their labor, though an allowance for the maintenance of the roads is provided. If the old system were reverted to, the authorities and community might ensure a better state of the roads at a very trivial cost.

25. The state of the Jail generally was as satisfactory as it could be in such a building.

26. I cannot say that I consider the Jailer either here or at Kurnool efficient, both seem far too dependent on their subordinates. Neither the one or other keeps his own books, and, in the present case, these had not been written up to date.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Insp. Genl. of Jails.

To the Chief Secretary to Government Fort Saint George.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1865, No. 507.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Scrib.

BELLARY

This Jail enclosure of the Court House.
all extending from the South-east corner of the hospital enclosure to one in
the Jail; the Court House is partially attached to the Jail.

I been the complete new house
outside the enclosure. The family occupied one-half of the Court House. This wall now
encloses the several buildings which had been erected for weaving, store rooms, &c. In addition
to this and to the west of the Jail was a yard similarly enclosed, and intended as a privy.

2. The hospital, as now built with the precautions required by my Circular of Instruc-
tions of the 7th November 1855, answers its purpose well, and is a very good specimen of what
Jail wards should be, and still more so of the way in which Jail wards should be kept, not the
slightest taint or smell could be detected in the whole building.

3. The wall west of the building which had been designed as a privy the dry
earth was marked that the yards sloped towards the hospital and yard
recently enclosed in the Jail, into which only it opened. In wet weather the surface
dried, and the dry earth which is removed daily being spread on
the ground in front of the Jail.

4. The
not only impeded circulation but also the ground in front of the
into the enclosure.

5. The filter designed by me some years ago in hope that the water might thereby be
deprived of impurities, to which I thought the guinea worm might be attributable, still remain-
ed open on the side into which the water was received.

6. The batten doors of the cells remained.

7. When I last visited this station it was with the expectation that a new Jail, suited
as a central prison for the Ceded Districts and Kurnool, would long since have been completed.
nothing that could be avoided was attempted towards patching the old building, the excessive
overcrowding, however, compelled an extension which has added a two-roomed building with
verandahs which may be used as dormitories to the accommodation: at present only one room of
this building is available.

8. The Jailer's house was being built with convict labor, but, owing to the extraordinary
rise in the price of timber, cannot be completed for a sum very much in excess of the ori-
ginal estimate: when the probable cost is ascertained the sanction of the Government to the
excess over the 500 Rupees already sanctioned in my department will be applied for, it may
be met from unexpended funds provided for such charges in my estimates.

Removal of the cook-rooms from the interior of the old Jail to the space newly
enclosed, the erection of a guard room at the entrance to the new enclosure, the erection of a
privy platform for the reception of troughs in which ordure and the dry earth will be together
removed (instead of having many tons of dry earth repeatedly used and moved backwards and
forwards daily as at present,) the fitting of a grating to the receiving side of the filter to prevent
the use of water from it and the fitting of the cell door-ways with iron doors which will be avail-
able whenever a new Jail may be erected, are the only works on which it seems desirable to incur
any expense at present most of these will be proceeded with by convict labor.

10. The Jail contains

4 Wards	31 × 14 × 11½ feet	= 19,964
11	24 × 14 × 11½	= 42,504
1	20 × 14 × 11½	= 3,220
16	14 × 14 × 11½	= 36,064
2 Cells	14 × 9 × 10	= 2,560
7 Wards totalled	140 × 9 × 10	

the total area at 500 cubic feet

1,16,912

to each man would give accommodation to two hundred and thirty-three persons, to which may be added twenty for the room in the old Court, making a total of accommodation, exclusive of the hospital, for 253 persons of all classes.

11. There were actually in confinement, during the year 1864, from 532 the highest to 485 the lowest monthly average, being about twice the number bought, at 500 cubic feet to each, to be in the Jail.

12. The deaths were 30 in all, which, on an average number for the year 1864 of 508, would give a ratio of deaths to strength of 6.9 in the 100.

13. The deaths during the year have been from

Atrophy and Anasarca.....	5
Diarrhoea.....	10
Dysentery.....	5
Cholera.....	1
	2

Fevers.....

Other diseases.....

Statement of the present state of the Jail, 18th January 1865.

Sentence.	Males.			Females.			Juveniles.		
	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.
Life.....	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 years and upwards.....	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 do and under 14.....	116	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 do do 7.....	126	16	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
1 year do 2.....	57	6	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
1 month do 1 year.....	49	2	1	8	2	...	...	...	...
Under 1 month.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

prisoners six were "ju-
women

of whom 29 were liable to labor, 430 were men liable to labor and 10 men sentenced to simple imprisonment, as more particularly shewn in the margin.

15. On looking over the list of Maistries, I find many who had not fulfilled the term of two-thirds of their sentence, though all had fulfilled the one-third to which, previous to November 1863, the minimum had been limited. It is remarkable that in this as in almost all Jails, the selection of maistries has fallen on prisoners of the very classes which the Prison Discipline Committee of Calcutta would exclude from the privilege, men convicted of dacoity, highway robbery, and murder; of the maistries in this prison 3 stand convicted of thuggee, 4 of murder, 12, of highway robbery, 4 of gang robbery or dacoity, 4 of house breaking, 1 of arson, and 1 of receiving, prisoners so sentenced, as a matter of course, are the longest in Jail, they are the most skilled and useful maistries, I do not wish to discuss the question of selection here as it has already been noticed by me in reviewing the Calcutta Report, but I do not now think it desirable where the selection of maistries was sanctioned by existing rules to remove those who have, as maistries, been well conducted.

16. There has been introduced into the Jail a very useful branch of manufacture, that of cumblies, for prison use, but the amount of labor expended in their production is great, the wool is bought in the yolk and washed teased out, spun and woven by hand. From May to December inclusive, 733 Rupees worth of material was purchased, the out-turn being 708 cumblies worth about 2 Rupees each, the cumblies are good of their kind: 10,948 days' labor has been expended in making these 708 cumblies, being at the rate of 15½ days' labor for each cumby, which

would give about 1 Anna as the value of each day's labor. I did not find that at Bangalore the labor in this work was much more successfully economized, though I think it likely that, by the introduction of a few simple implements, much might be done in this respect: at present I must say that I think the experiment, all things considered, satisfactory, the introduction of proper looms will not only expedite the work but tend to economize space in the sheds and allow of the extension of the manufacture. The wool is of a very short staple, indeed it could hardly be called wool, and I must ascertain the best mode of treating it before I can make any further suggestions on the subject.

17. I had no complaints from any of the prisoners worthy of notice. I desired that the cumby cap or hood should be substituted for the second cumby as laid down in the rules, and that breeches should, according to the custom of the district, be substituted for the cloth, this should, at present prices, be attended with some saving.

18. Cumblies of the quality now made should be made to last 2 years when used as is intended, by night only.

19. It will be necessary to supply the prison with at least ten carts for the labor of the convicts, but just now that the Irrigation works draw away all labor by high wages it is hardly possible to procure any artificers to build them. At Kurnool I was charged more for country cart wheels than I could have got equally strong coach-wheels built for by a Madras Coach-builder. The baskets used by the prisoners were too small.

20. There were two lunatics in Jail—the case of one "Paupa" had, I found, been already the occasion of a correspondence with Government, her release had been recommended, but on a Medical opinion subsequently recorded the recommendation was withdrawn; this woman seems inoffensive provided she can be debarred from noxious stimulants—she begged me to let her go to Madras where her friends are, and I determined on transferring her to the vicinity of Madras, and, if possible, to the Asylum, with the view, in case her being set at liberty is not there thought objectionable, that she should be made over to her friends under such precautions as may be deemed necessary.

21. The other lunatic is a patient in hospital, where he must for the present remain.

22. Of the prisoners 234 were employed on the public roads or other improvements, and 50 at the Jailer's new house, the rest were employed inside the walls, 15 sick and 15 worn-out prisoners excepted.

23. The messing system has now been fully introduced, but metal cooking pots are wanted.

24. It is to be regretted that neither the Cantonment authorities or the Engineer Officers will provide the supervision for the convict work on the public roads; a Serjeant was so employed on a small salary of, I think, Rupees 25 for several years, and the roads were efficiently repaired by the prisoners, no charge being made for their labor, though an allowance for the maintenance of the roads is provided. If the old system were reverted to, the authorities and community might ensure a better state of the roads at a very trivial cost.

25. The state of the Jail generally was as satisfactory as it could be in such a building.

26. I cannot say that I consider the Jailer either here or at Kurnool efficient, both seem far too dependent on their subordinates, neither the one or other keeps his own books, and, in the present case, these had not been written up to date.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,

Inspector General of Jails.

24

10-471

W.D.
1st April 1865 No. 507
Rev.

344
C. 29. March
R. 1. April