

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	512	Press
		Mis.
11-12		
Dated	3. 4.	1865

5/6

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Government {1865} of Madras.
JUDICIAL.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

} 1865.

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G.O., No. 512, 3rd April 1865.

APRIL.

Nos. 11, 12.

Salem Jail.

A report of his visit to this Jail on the 7th ultimo, submitted by the Inspector-General.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

No. 11.

MEMORANDUM.

SALEM, 7th March 1865.

I again visited this station, in consequence of several references from Mr. Sullivan, and reports of the increasing unhealthiness of the prisoners.

Occasion of visit.

2. One of the questions which, in the present crowded state of the Jail, is important, is the continuance of the practice of using the Jail as a Police lock-up.

Abuses of the Jail.

The Procedure Code provides for the commitment to Jail of cases cognizable by the Sessions Court, but nowhere provides for the detention, except in Police custody, of cases remanded by, or sent up to, the Magistrate, or Principal Sudder Ameen in his Magisterial capacity. The practice has been attended with very great inconvenience and risk to the health of the large body of prisoners confined. As this risk of infection is of course in exact proportion to the numbers so passed into Jail, and when it is remarked that the admission of the cases will of necessity be in general in the evening, after the Court rises, the precautions usually taken become inoperative. It is argued by the Police that the Jailer must obey the Sub-Magistrate's warrants of committal, but it is forgotten that in such cases a Sub-Magistrate has ordinarily no authority (see paragraph 6, Proceedings of High Court, 22nd December 1864, —see also Section 276, Procedure Code). In short, the Procedure Code contemplates no Magisterial commitment of prisoners under trial, except to the Court of Sessions.

3. Another question of similar intent arises from the practice adopted by the Police of bringing into Jail prisoners transferred by Rail, when halted for the night at Shoranoor; thus marching men, often in a weak state of health, 8 or 9 miles unnecessarily, and short-coming the hours for food and rest. I told Mr. Ablett, Police Inspector, that this was not to be done; that the Police must make their own arrangements for the security of prisoners arriving and proceeding by Rail; but that in the case of arriving from, or proceeding to, stations not on the line of Rail, they were in the ordinary course to be lodged in Jail, for inspection and orders.

4. Mr. Sullivan informed me of his having discovered, on the complaint of some prisoners transferred from Mangalore for transportation, that the Warder in charge had given them no food for two days, except a few plantains, though he asserted that he did purchase rice which there was not time to cook, but which he was unable to produce; he therefore deprived him of his belt, reporting the circumstance to the Judge of Mangalore, and sending on one of his own Warders in charge.

5. There has been great confusion in respect to these transfers lately. The old Rules were clear; under them the whole charge of prisoners in transit devolved on the Magistrates, a single Peon or Daloyet of the Court, whose presiding Officer had charge of the Jail from which the transfers are made, having charge of the warrants and orders to which he as well as the Magistrate's officials were bound to conform. On the introduction of the New Police, the duty of the Magistrates in respect to the transfer of prisoners devolved on the Police Superintendents, but the Inspector-General of Police first insisted on being relieved of all responsibility of his officers on account of the expenses. On a subsequent occasion, consequent on the escape of some prisoners whose escort the Police had undertaken, he insisted with Government on having the entire charge and arrangements left with his officers. On the Government Order to this effect being promulgated, he again remonstrated, and I am not sure to what extent the Rules defining the relative duties of the prisons and Police authorities are now held to be in force. The matter will be considered in Committee with Mr. Ellis, in the adaptation of the Code prepared by the Calcutta Committee for all India to this Presidency.

6. Mr. Sullivan desired to make a partition in the guard-room, to screen off a small compartment for the European Constable. I gave instructions for this being done.

7. The arrangements directed on my late visit are not yet commenced.

Progress in new buildings.

8. Satisfactory progress had been made in the two remaining blocks, which there is every prospect of having complete by the end of April, or middle of May.

9. The urgent need of a hospital Court outside the walls is becoming greater; 126 prisoners were reported sick this morning; no fewer than 83 out of 117 of these,

Removal of Hospital requisite.

who were admitted as sick, being Cuddapah men of the gang from which place five only were at labor!! Dr. Roberts' letter (A) which had alarmed me, I append. It was written, I find, immediately on this sudden increase of his sick list, but I now find that he is convinced that a large proportion of the men are malingerers, that very many cases of the sore-gums are caused artificially, and that the same persistent intention on the part of these Cuddapah men to return to their own country, through the means taken would cost them their health, perhaps their lives, which originated with the Cuddapah men in the asylum gangs, actuates them here. To Cuddapah they cannot go, for there is no place for them there. A more able-bodied party than these were could not be found, and able-bodied many still appear to me to be.

10. Mr. Sullivan had entered many of these men, and among them many who really are now aged and emaciated, in the list of those whose transfer to Vellore he would propose; but so many of these are long-term men, recently sentenced, that I could not, even when the Mahals are ready, under the existing arrangements, send them there. Whether, when the buildings are ready, I may find it desirable to propose any change as to the classes to be transferred must depend on circumstances.

Proposed transfers to Mahals.

Mortality.

11. There have been nine deaths since the 1st January, of which five were in Cuddapah men.

6. My sick list men is enormously heavy. I give an analysis of it below for your information.

Cuddapah men.

Suffering from Rheumatism, accompanied with spongy gums	85
Salem men and others	37
Total ..	122

B.

MEMORANDUM of "New Scale" of Diet proposed for Salem Jail.

—				Rice.	Cholum.	Raggy.	Cumboo.	Mutton.	Butter-milk.	Dholl.
1				2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunday ..	..	..	..	lbs. oz. drs. 1 10 0	lbs. oz. drs. ..	lbs. oz. drs. ..	lbs. oz. drs. ..	lbs. oz. drs. 1 0	oz. drs. 3 0	oz. drs. 3 0
Monday ..	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	..	1 0	3 0	3 0
Tuesday ..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	..	..	1 0	3 0	3 0
Wednesday ..	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	..	1 0	3 0	3 0
Thursday ..	..	..	..	1 10 0	..	..	..	1 0	3 0	3 0
Friday ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	1 0	3 0	3 0
Saturday ..	..	..	..	..	1 10 0	..	..	1 0	3 0	3 0
Total ..				3 4 0	3 4 0	3 4 0	1 10 0	1 0	21 0	21 0

—				Vegetable.	Salt.	Tammarind.	Chillies.	Coriander seeds.	Onions.	Mustard, etc.	Oil for curry.
				9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday ..	..	..	..	oz. drs. ..	oz. drs. 1 0	oz. drs. 0 6	oz. drs. 0 1 1 1 2	oz. drs. 0 1 1 1 2	oz. drs. 1 0	oz. drs. 0 1	oz. drs. 0 2
Monday ..	..	..	..	5 0	1 0	0 6	0 1 1 1 2	0 1 1 1 2	1 0	0 1	0 2
Tuesday ..	..	..	..	..	1 0	0 6	0 1 1 1 2	0 1 1 1 2	1 0	0 1	0 2
Wednesday ..	..	..	..	5 0	1 0	0 6	0 1 1 1 2	0 1 1 1 2	1 0	0 1	0 2
Thursday ..	..	..	..	..	1 0	0 6	0 1 1 1 2	0 1 1 1 2	1 0	0 1	0 2
Friday ..	..	..	..	5 0	1 0	0 6	0 1 1 1 2	0 1 1 1 2	1 0	0 1	0 2
Saturday ..	..	..	..	5 0	1 0	0 6	0 1 1 1 2	0 1 1 1 2	1 0	0 1	0 2
Total ..				20 0	7 0	5 1 2	1 2 1 2	1 2 1 2	7 0	0 7	1 6

Note.—Cumboo to be given when easily procurable.

Three ounces of Dholl I think sufficient. This, with mutton and vegetables, on alternate days, forms the

Curry.

The above scale is for "hard labour" Convicts.

SALEM,
7th March 1865.

(Signed) W. H. ROBERTS, M.D.,
Zillah Surgeon.

C

SCALE of the Diet at present issued to prisoners in the Salem Jail.

	Rice.	Raggy.	Cholum.	Cumboo.	Mutton.	Vegetables.	Butter Milk.	Dholl.	Salt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday ..	lbs. oz. drs. 1 10 0	lbs. oz. drs. ..	lbs. oz. drs. ..	lbs. oz. drs. ..	lbs. oz. drs. 0 4 0	oz. drs. 1 0	oz. drs. 0 4	oz. drs. 0 4	oz. drs. 0 5
Monday ..	..	1 8 0	..	..	0 4 0	1 0	0 4	0 4	0 5
Tuesday ..	..	..	1 8 0	..	..	1 0	0 4	0 4	0 5
Wednesday ..	..	1 8 0	..	..	0 4 0	1 0	0 4	0 4	0 5
Thursday ..	1 10 0	..	..	..	..	1 0	0 4	0 4	0 5
Friday ..	..	1 8 0	..	..	..	1 0	0 4	0 4	0 5
Saturday ..	..	..	1 8 0	..	..	1 0	0 4	0 4	0 5
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

	Tamarind.	Chillies.	Coriander seeds.	Onions.	Turmeric, Mustard, etc.	Oil for curry.	Price according to New Scale.	Price according to Old Scale.	Difference.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Sunday ..	oz. drs. 0 4 1 2	oz. drs. 0 1 1 2	oz. drs. 0 1	oz. drs. 0 5 1 2	oz. drs. 0 1 1 2	oz. drs. 0 1 1 2	Rs. A. P. 0 2 1 1 2	Rs. A. P. 0 1 10 1 2	Rs. A. P. 0 0 3
Monday ..	0 4 1 2	0 1	0 1	0 5 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 2 1 2	0 0 11 1 2	0 0 3
Tuesday ..	0 4 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1	0 5 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 7 1 2	0 0 1 4 1 2	0 0 3
Wednesday ..	0 4 1 2	0 1	0 1	0 5 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 2 1 2	0 0 11 1 2	0 0 3
Thursday ..	0 4 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1	0 5 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 2 1 1 2	0 0 1 10 1 2	0 0 3
Friday ..	0 4 1 2	0 1	0 1	0 5 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 2 1 2	0 0 11 1 2	0 0 3
Saturday ..	0 4 1 2	0 1	0 1	0 5 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 1 2	0 1 4 1 2	0 0 1 1 1 2	0 0 3
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

SALEM, JAIL OFFICE,
20th February 1865.

H. E. SULLIVAN,
Acting Session Judge,
in charge of Salem Jail.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, No. 512, Judicial, dated 3rd April 1865.

The only point in the foregoing Memorandum, upon which the orders of Government appear to be required, is the proposal that the East Indian Convict, William Dicker, shall be removed to the Penitentiary. The Inspector-General will arrange for this, in communication with the Commissioner of Police.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

12. The 48 wards in the Jail, when complete, will, with six men in each ward, and two in each of the 144 cells, accommodate 576 prisoners, exclusive of the Hospital and Civil Jail. At the present, four of the six blocks of upper story only are complete, so that, exclusive of Hospital and Jail proper, there is room for only 480 prisoners. The actual numbers, as mustered this morning, are :—

Present state.	For Labour.		Sundry.		For Trial.		In Hospital.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	276	28	13	..	14	1	124	2	537	28

13. Should a separate Hospital be built outside, the dead house, the want of which is urged, will be included; as it is, the better plan will be to build the dead house in the place where it would be, if the new Hospital enclosure is sanctioned.

14. I desired that a few stones should be put down to confine the Engineer's carts to the road-way in the Jail entrance.

15. There is an East Indian prisoner, William Dicker, sentenced to three years' imprisonment for theft, whom it will be convenient to have transferred to the Madras Penitentiary, there being no suitable employment for him in this Jail.

16. I learn that a convict, Chinnery, in course of transfer from Tanjore, arrived here in a dress by no means in accordance with prison rules. Mr. Bird will be addressed on this subject.

17. On going into the question of diet with Dr. Roberts, I find that his proposed change is attended with a little additional cost (B), and is so well suited to Native habits, that I have directed its immediate adoption, especially with reference to the number of sick, that nothing may be wanting. Both this and the former (C) diet table are appended.

18. I have, however, in communication with Dr. Roberts, recommended resort to Cholera for the Cuddapah gang, as the staple.

19. Among the Malay prisoners I find a female sentenced to seven years for "larceny."

20. Several of the Malays shew great aptitude for learning trades. One man had made a strong and well finished work basket, which I purchased of the Jail. I advised Mr. Sullivan to purchase a stock of rattan for the employment of these men.

21. As a sanitary as well as an economical measure, a granary should be built that old grain, rice and raggy, (cholum cannot be stored) may be always available. The basement of the central tower might be excavated for this purpose.

22. There is not water enough for the prisoner's washing; they now go once a week to the Nullah at, perhaps, half a mile distance to wash; this should be done oftener.

23. I directed the immediate removal of one course of bricks under the arch of the cells next the entrance, and I hold the Jailer responsible that it be done within two days in all the cells. I have been for two years directing this, but the building has been regarded as in the Engineer's hands, and to the Engineer this requisition has invariably been referred.

24. The large Hospital wards must be coal-tarred one-sixth at a time. The Hospital cell floors must also be coal-tarred. The tar has arrived.

25. Mr. Sullivan had undertaken the sleeping benches, and was getting on with the work. I found all the lower ventilators stopped, as causing a draught over the floor on which the men sleep. Why or wherefore these benches were not supplied, according to design, when the Jail was built, I know not. They were subsequently promised.

26. In regard to the appointment of improper men as Maistries noticed at my last report, it is stated that there are no qualified men of intelligence, but I have left the matter with Mr. Sullivan, to arrange according to rules. In regard to one man it was maintained that being a skilled Artificer others were put under him; I desired that in his case he should be employed as an Artificer, and receive the same allowance for his skill as Maistries get for supervision, namely, double condiments.

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

A

From W. H. ROBERTS, Esq., M.D., Zillah Surgeon, Salem, to H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Session Judge, Salem; dated Salem, 15th February 1865, No. 91.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the very unhealthy condition of a certain number of the prisoners, more especially the Cuddapah men, at present incarcerated in the Salem Jail.

2. These men chiefly have, during the last two and a half months, been reporting sick in large numbers, and complaining, for the most part, of obscure rheumatic pains in different parts of the body, generally the lower limbs. The part said to be so affected, may sometimes present a little swelling, but most frequently no swelling, fever, or any other usually concomitant symptoms whatever exist; so much so, that I have thought several of them to be malingering, and repeatedly refused them admission to hospital. Some I still believe to be schemers, but with the mass, I fear there is no room to doubt that they are in a bad state of health altogether.

3. This is further verified by the tendency (lately aggravated) which these men have to that "spongy" state of the gums, and all of them, as a rule, have very much fallen off in weight and general appearance.

4. When I first took up this appointment in September 1864, this spongy state of the gums was very prevalent in the Jail, chiefly, if not entirely, among the Cuddapah men. Giving them cholera twice a week, in place of raggy, was attended with the best results, and this state of the gums, for a time, quite disappeared. It is now again becoming prevalent, not only among the Cuddapah men, who are almost all so affected and are sick, but from this morning's inspection, I regret to say that some of the Salem men are also exhibiting the same state of gums, etc.

5. I have withdrawn all these men and have placed them on my sick list, and propose that on them be first tried (pending the approval and sanction of Government for the whole Jail) the effects of the men's scale of diet just made out and sent to you. Should it have the effect of raising men who are below par, to par, we may rest assured that it will also meet the requirements of men in average good health.

Order 3^d April
~~Subject~~ 1865. N^o 512.

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The Inspector General will arrange
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with the Commissioner of Police.

Wm
27th
W.D.

ly

To the Inspector General of Prisons }
The Commissioner of Police } Dec 5/4/65.

