M.R.O. 1—32,890—16-10-22.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

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|---|---|---|
| G.O. No. | 619 | Press Mis.- |
| 124-125 Dated | 25-4- | 19 1865 |

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***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

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## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 25th April* 1865.

No. 174. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 29th March 1865, No. 572.

In conformity with the Order of Government, 2nd February, No. 197, I have the honor to forward Statements of the health of the prisoners at the Lawrence Asylum Works, for the months of January and February last, from which it will be seen that on an average strength of 357 convicts, the daily sick averaged 11 in January, and 10 in February; the total admissions being 22 in the first, and 37 in the second month. The total of deaths in the two months was 7; 16 were transferred to the Plains on account of health, of whom 2 died.

2. I may add that I ran up for three days (Sunday to Tuesday) and visited this gang with Dr. Miller, on the 13th instant, and was satisfied that every proper precaution had been taken. Still it must be admitted that the mortality, 9 in 357, is high, being equivalent to an annual average mortality of 15 per cent. per annum. It must, however, be observed that this is mainly attributable to the state to which, from whatever cause as noticed in my last report, the prisoners had been reduced.

3. I take the present opportunity of mentioning that, in the course of my late tour, I made it a point to inspect specially the several gangs of prisoners transferred to the plains, and that I am convinced that this re-transfer has in very many cases been attended with an immediate aggravation of sickness. That proper care is not taken of the prisoners, and that they have been treated with harshness on the way, was stated at two of the Railway stations, at which I made inquiry; the fault was not attributed to the prisons' officials. I have noticed in my Memorandum on a late visit to Salem, the neglect properly to provide food for the prisoners there received from Mangalore; and some months since, I had occasion to animadvert on similar neglect, on the part of the Warder entrusted with the charge of a party to Coimbatore from the Asylum site. On another occasion I found that a cooked meal had not been allowed at Coonoor to a party proceeding to Ootacamund. I have taken steps to ensure, as far as possible, proper precautions; but I must say that I feel that the great mortality, consequent on transfers, particularly of late years, since the charge of convicts in transit has been taken from the Magistrates, with whom *all* arrangements previously rested, should induce a restriction, not only on transfers, but in the distance to which the transfer is made. It is with this view that I would suggest the establishment of a sick and convalescent Depôt at some station, having a mild climate, and supplied with Medical attendance, on the Hills, if the Government maintain the resolution of locating large bodies of convicts for labor on the Neilgherry plateau. In this I have another object in view; I have every reason to believe that a very large proportion of the cases of sickness have been self-induced, with the assurance that re-transfer to the plains would be the result. I believe the mild climate of Coonoor would afford a prisoner suffering at Ootacamund a better chance of recovery than a transfer to the plains. Useful employment for such as recover might be found at Coonoor.

*Sanitary Report for the month of January* 1865.

Jail at Lovedale.

Station—Ootacamund, Neilgherries.

| | |
|---|---|
| Average strength of Prisoners... ... ... ... | ... |
| Do. daily sick in Hospital... ... ... ... | .. |
| Total admissions into Hospital during the month | 2 |
| Do. deaths in Hospital do. do .. ... | 3 |
| Number in Hospital last day of the month... | 8 |
| Do. transferred on account of ill-health | 7 |
| Do. died since transferred... | 1 |
| Do. of prisoners received... ... ... ... ... .. | |
| Do. do. released... ... ... ... .. | |
| Strength of prisoners last day of month..... | 515 |

(Signed) P. ANDERSON,
*Asst. Apothecary, doing duty Jail and Working party L. A. Works, Lovedale, Neilgherries.*

(Signed) F. G. HANKIN, Captain,
*In charge of Convicts L. A. Works, Neilgherries.*

*Sanitary Report for the month of February* 1865.

Jail at Lovedale.

Station—Ootacamund, Neilgherries.

| | |
|---|---|
| Average strength of prisoners... | 257 |
| Do. daily sick in Hospital.. | 9 |
| Total admissions into hospital during the month | 7 |
| Do. deaths in Hospital do. do. | . |
| Number in Hospital last day of the month... | .. |
| Do. transferred on account of ill-health... | 1 |
| Do. died since transferred... | 1 |
| Do. of prisoners received... | |
| Do. do. released... ... | .. |
| Strength of prisoners last day of month... | 254 |

(Signed) P. ANDERSON,
*Asst. Apthy., doing duty Jail and working party L. A. Works.*

(Signed) F. G. HANKIN, Captain,
*In charge of Convicts L. A. Works, Neilgherries.*

No. 175. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1865, No. 619.

Governor in Council is not prepared to sanction the Establishment of a Convalescent Depôt at Coonoor, for the prisoners belonging to the Lawrence Asylum Gang. The expense of such a Depôt would be considerable; and Dr. Miller, in his late Report, has expressed himself very doubtful as to the advantages of the measure in a sanitary point of view.

(True Extract).

To the Inspector General of Jails.

*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. J. H. Burns

Judicial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails

(Rec^d 24th inst. No 572)

(Ord^r 25th April 1865. No. 619.

The Governor in Council is not prepared to sanction the Establishment of a Convalescent Depot at Coonoor for the prisoners belonging to the Lawrence Asylum Gang. The expense of such a Depot would be considerable; and Dr. Miller, in his late report, has expressed himself very doubtful as to the advantages of the measure in a sanitary point of view.

To the Inspector General of Jails Desp^d 28/4/65

Judicial 1865 September

No 619

Thomas Hall

Dated 25th June 1865.

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