M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-27.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 622		**Press Mis.**
184-182		
Dated 28. 4.	**19** 86	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 181. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department.

Communicating the opinions of the various Superintending Engineers, regarding the employment of large gangs of Convicts on Public Works, in their respective Divisions. } (Dated 17th February 1865, No. 471).

No. 182. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1865, No. 622.

The Governor in Council does not deem it expedient to employ Convicts on any of the works specified in Captain Winscom's letter of the 17th December last, recorded in the foregoing Proceedings.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.

" Inspector General of Jails, for information.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 17th February 1865.

Read the following papers :—

No. 377. From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 30th November 1864, No. 4,398.

SIR,

With reference to the Proceedings of Government No. 3,380, dated 24th November 1864, I have the honor to report that there are no works in this Division of the description adverted to in paragraph 2 of that Order. The only works in contemplation, where Convicts may perhaps advantageously be employed, are the new Ordnance buildings to be erected at Saint Thomas' Mount.

No. 378. From Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E, Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madura, 1st December 1864, No. 1,977.

SIR,

1. Referring to G. O. No. 3,380, 24th ultimo, I have the honor to report that if the estimate for the Central Jail at this station, forwarded 21st October last, is sanctioned, there will be I believe ample employment for Convicts.

2. Beside this there are only roads; the difficulty as to employing Convicts on them would be the necessity for frequently removing their prisons, but if they were made with iron stanchions, to carry iron barred doors and sheet iron roof, I believe that they would be sufficiently portable to render the employment of Convicts advantageous in this Division where labor is procured with great difficulty.

No. 379. From Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. WILKIESON, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Salem, 6th December 1864, No. 1,568.

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 2 of G. O. 24th November 1864, No. 3,380, I have the honor to inform you that there are no works in my Division which would be of such magnitude and occupy so long in construction as to warrant the regular employment of Convicts upon them.

2. The only work in the Salem District that I have any employment for Convicts at present is the Salem Jail, for which the Range Officer can find work for about 250 men, the cost of which is taken from the sums due to the Contractor. This work I expect will be finished by the end of the current year.

No. 380. From Captain J. BEAN, R. E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 5th December 1864, No. 2,110.

SIR,

1. In reply to paragraph 2 of Government Order, No. 3,380, dated 24th November 1864, I have the honor to report that there are no works in progress or in contemplation, at present, within the two Districts of my Division which, in my opinion, can be advantageously carried out by large gangs of Convicts.

2. There are several roads in connection with the Railway stations to be constructed hereafter as feeders, on which such gangs might be employed, but there is no prospect of provision being made for them in the Budget of 1865-66, and the Convicts could not be placed under the immediate direction of an Officer of the Department.

No. 381. From Captain A. S. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddapah, 9th December 1864, No. 154.

SIR,

In reply to paragraph 2 of Government Order, No. 3,380, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that there are no works in progress or in contemplation in this Division, on which such large gangs of 500 Convicts could [illegible]

No. 382. From Captain J. G. RYVES, R. E., Superintending Engineer, [illegible] Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Camp Rajahmundry 11th December 1864, No. 1,340.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 3,380, under date 24th ultimo, I have the honor to report that the works in progress or in contemplation in this Division are not of [illegible] nor likely to be in progress for a sufficient time, to warrant the erection [illegible] for gangs of Convicts numbering not less than 500.

No. 383. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. ANDERSON, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Masulipatam, 13th January 1865, No. 123.

SIR,

Referring to G. O. No. 3,380, dated 24th November 1864, on the subject of the employment of gangs of Convicts of the strength of 500 and upwards, on Public Works, I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter I have received from Captain Winscom, Executive [illegible] arah, reporting on the nature of the work which could be given to a party [illegible] out the year; and to state that it would only be in case of their being allowed to work without fetters, that I would recommend their employment on the quarries. On any other work their assistance would not be so necessary or [illegible] as to render it expedient to incur the considerable expense of building them barracks.

From Captain G. V. WINSCOM, R. E., Executive Engineer, Kistna District, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. ANDERSON, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, dated Bazoarah, 17th December 1864, No. 134:—

SIR,

1. In reply to your letter No. 453, dated 5th instant, with enclosures, concerning the employment of a gang of 500 Convicts on the Public Works at Bazoarah for twelve months, I have the honor to inform you that, in my opinion, the plan is feasible if barrack accommodation can be found for so large a number.

2. As it is however proposed to employ many of them on the quarries, I must express my conviction that to do so is certainly undesirable, and probably scarcely practicable. Many of the scarps are extremely difficult of ascent by men with the free use of their limbs, and I should think impracticable to those whose legs are fettered with chains. Any fettered man [illegible] would be in much danger of his life. Bruises and wounds are frequent even now with free labourers, there being generally 6 or 7 per cent. in hospital from such causes, and this per-centage would be much increased if fettered Convicts are employed.

3. In the programme I now submit for the employment of the Convicts, excepting in the matters of filling boats with stone and piling stone in [illegible] sting, &c., is going on above, not included any quarry work.

4. From January to June next there would be abundance of work for the full gang, in enlarging the Bazoarah and Seetanagrum channels from their head sluices downwards, and this work might be carried on even during the rainy season to a limited extent. There will also be work for them in repairing the anicut during April and May next.

5. In June, July, August, and September, a portion of the gang may be employed in raising the river embankment near Tadapilly, other portion in making baskets and ropes, in dredging wor[illegible] stones in quarry (when no blasting is being carried on above), in improving the roads in t[illegible] and neighbourhood of Bazoarah, and in strengthening with concrete the river bank near the ferry shed which is weak, and even perhaps dangerous. Should the work for which an estimate of Rupees 10,000, between 3rd and 7th mile stones on the road to Hyderabad, be sanctioned, a large portion of the gang would be usefully employed thereon, and in collecting the materials at the quarries, filling carts, &c.

6. During the last three months of the year, there is no fear of finding work for them. The rough stone wall across the anicut will then have to be made, the enlargement of the channels resumed, materials forwarded to different Districts, and road repairs will be in full progress.

7. Considering the enhanced value and the paucity of labor in these parts, I am of opinion that the work of the Convicts will be found valuable.

8. The chief difficulties to contend with are the barrack accommodation, and the distance from Bazoarah at which it will be desirable frequently to employ them.

9. At the present time I see no cause to be sanguine that barracks now built for them could be readily sold in the event of the departure of the gang.

10. I estimate a barrack for 100 men, such as that alluded to by Mr. Rohde in paragraph 30 of his letter No. 1, dated 31st May 1864, would cost 2,172 Rupees. For five barracks the sum would be Rupees 10,860. But if the Convicts are employed in enlargement of channels, road work, &c., the distance to which they would daily have to proceed and their return, greatly militates against the advantages of their employment.

11. I see Mr. Rohde, in paragraph 35 of his letter No. 1, dated 31st May 1864, refers to a portable barrack, I am not acquainted with the style of barrack proposed, but such buildings would much enhance the value of Convict labor, as then the gang would become available for the District work for some miles round.

12. At Jubbulpoor I have seen Convicts lodged in a long continuous row of tents for months together, when employed making roads at a distance from the station. Posts were firmly driven into the ground at intervals and iron rods fixed between them, chains of sufficient length attached to these rods were locked to the fetters of each prisoner at night, and guards with loaded muskets were stationed at intervals. I never heard of any escape from the tents being attempted. Whether such a plan is desirable here, Mr. Rohde will no doubt determine. It is however manifest that if they have to walk three or four miles after sun rise, and return the same distance before sun set, their labour will be greatly lost, and most probably it will be more economical to employ Coolies.

13. In appointing the tasks of the Convicts, the Executive Officer or, in his absence, the Anicut Superintendent should manifestly have entire authority.

* [illegible]nscom has misunderstood a suggestion I [illegible] that one of the Workshop buildings [illegible]dopted as a Workshed (not as a Barrack) [illegible]rs. (Initialed) J. C. A.

14. * The building in the Work-yard might be made to accommodate 100 men, but if barracks are to be built, I presume it would be desirable to have a[illegible]r, and the site I would suggest would be near the old Sapper Hospital, but I would pr[illegible]g 200 men near Seetanagram village and 300 on the Bazoarah side of the river.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. C. ANDERSON, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th February 1865.

No. 384. From Major W. FAREWELL, Executive Engineer in charge of 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Ootacamund, 24th January 1865, No. 240 :—

SIR,

In reply to your Memorandum No. 10, dated 18th instant, I have the honor to report that there are no sanctioned works (except those of the Lawrence Asylum) at present of such magnitude in this Division as to admit of the employment of such large gangs of Convicts as contemplated in the G. O. No. 3,380, dated 24th November 1864.

No. 385. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1865, No. 471.

Communicated to the Judicial Department, with reference to the orders in that Department, No. 1,620, dated 10th November 1864.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS** of the **MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of Govt in the Public Works department

(Order dated 17th Feby 1865. No 471)

Order thereon 25th April 1865. No. 622.

The Governor in Council does not deem it expedient to employ Convicts on any of the works specified in Captain Vincent's letter of the 17th December last, recorded in the foregoing Proceedings.

The Public Works Dept.
The Inspector General of Jails
for information

dated 27/4

Judicial 1865 Department.

No. 622.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 25th April 1865.

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