

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>864</i>	Press
<i>55-56</i>		<u>Mis.</u>
<i>55-56</i>		
Dated	<i>11. 7. 1880</i>	<i>19</i>

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Not to be folded or roughly handled*MLQ*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
11th July 1860.

No. 55. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of Coimbatore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 28th June 1860, No. 32.

1. Though unwilling to trouble Government with references, if I can avoid it, I have no other course open to me on the present occasion, as I have appealed to the Inspector General of Jails in vain.

Mr. G. Bird.
Mr. Roupell.
Mr. Ward.

2. I have for 10 years, with the concurrence of 3 Session Judges, directed, usefully and carefully, the convict labor at Coimbatore; no one else caring to take that trouble. There is not a tank bund, or road, or other public work in or near Coimbatore, that has not been so repaired or improved under me. The whole of the convicts have been lately, *suddenly and entirely*, removed from me, leaving several half finished works on my hands, and the prisoners entirely employed under the Engineer.

3. To their being worked by the District Engineer I make not the *slightest* objection, though I believe it is likely to last two years, on a project, which I think both unadvisable and needless, but *that* I have referred to the Chief Engineer, and it does not touch the point I am now desirous for orders upon. I desire only to know, 1st, whether as Magistrate and Collector,

I asked, very moderately (after having had the whole for 10 years), only one gang of 36 out of 276.

with many useful works on hand, to which the District Engineer has not time to attend, I am not *entitled* to ask for a *portion* of the convicts; and, 2ndly, whether I am not at liberty, provided all Jail and Police Rules are carefully attended to, to use such convicts on such public work as my own discretion and judgment may direct.

4. With the *discipline* and *guarding* of the convicts, of course I have *nothing* to do. I distinctly said to Mr. Rohde I would conform to any Rules the new Police required, but as I have always kept up the station roads, with the District Engineer's concurrence, and done many other most useful works here, I think I am *entitled* on *public grounds* (leaving all

local and personal ones out of the question) to have, as hitherto, the aid of at least a *portion* of the large body of convicts now in the Jail; and that I may be safely entrusted with working them, usefully. I do consider that the Inspector General of Jails has acted hastily, and treated me very uncourteously, in removing them in the way he has done; but I waive all personal discussion, and only request Government orders on the two points asked above.

5. To show that I have previously appealed to Mr. Rohde, I add an extract from a correspondence on the subject.

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Extract of a letter from the Magistrate, to the Session Judge of Coimbatore, dated 14th May 1860, No. 114.

* * *

9. In reference to the Inspector's last paragraph 23, and your own letter No. 15 under reply, I do request (unless the Inspector see fit to modify his proceedings) a reference to Government, as requested in my former letter to you, on three points; 1st, whether, as Magistrate and Collector, I am not entitled to at least a portion of convict labor in the station (I asked only 36 out of 276), I undertaking to work them under the new Police Rules, and having *nothing* to do with their discipline; 2nd, whether if so allowed, I may or may not use my own discretion as to what public work best to employ them on, and, 3rd, whether Government deem the sanatory cleansing of a large populous town an unfit work for convicts.

10. I am always averse to trouble Government with any lengthy or personal reference. If the Inspector will simply refer these three points, as I put them, I shall be obliged, and it is all

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that is necessary I think in fact, if the Inspector goes beyond the simple reference and enters further into the matter, then, in justice and fairness, I request that copies of the whole correspondence may go up.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS,
Collector.

No. 56.

ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1860, No. 864.

Resolved that the Collector and Magistrate of Coimbatore be referred to the Orders passed by Government under date 27th ultimo, No. 804, upon the subject of his letter, on a reference made by the Inspector General of Jails—which orders he will consider final.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Judicial Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

*Read the following letter from the
Collector and Magistrate of
Coimbatore.*

Here enter 20 June 1860 No 32.

Order thereon 11 July 1860. No. 864

*Resolved that the
Collector and Magistrate
of Coimbatore be referred
to the orders passed by
Government under date
27th ultimo No. 804 upon the
subject of his letter, on
a reference made by the
Inspector General of Jails,
which orders he will
consider final.*

cc the Coll & Mag^{te} of Coimbatore Sep^r 12th

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department
19th June 1865.

No. 132. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, and the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., President of the Sanitary Commission, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 6th April 1865, No. 593.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Government Order, No. 301, dated 22nd February 1865, we have the honor to report that we visited the Vellore Mahals, on the 3rd April last, and made a detailed inspection of these buildings.

2. We are of opinion that there will be great difficulty, at any moderate expense, in providing sufficient ventilation in the lower cells, and we do not recommend that these should be occupied by prisoners.

3. The upper cells in the two Mahals, will, according to the Jail standard, recently prescribed, afford accommodation for 322 prisoners.

4. These cells consist of double and single cells. In the former, accommodation for three prisoners, in the latter for a single prisoner, can be provided. The alterations required in these cells, prior to their occupation by prisoners, are as follows.

5. Roof and lateral ventilation to each cell, by piercing the rear wall, and placing a barred window in it, and by tubes fixed in the roof. It will also be necessary to provide each cell with a grated front containing the door.

6. The Inspector General of Police considers these precautions absolutely necessary, if the building is to be guarded by a moderately numerous Police Force.

7. Having in remembrance the filthy condition in which these Mahals were found, after an occupation of more than fifty years by natives, who paid no attention to ordinary cleanliness and the most essential conservancy, it will be desirable to provide sub-soil drainage for these Mahals, and to improve the surface drainage. Large and carefully constructed latrines must be provided also.

8. A Jail Hospital will also be required. Considerable repairs to all the buildings in the Mahals must be made before these can be safely occupied by convicts.

9. The water within the Mahal is none of it now fit for drinking, and it is doubtful whether the wells can be rendered of any use for this purpose.

10. As will be seen from the above remarks, the Mahals cannot be occupied as a Jail for even so limited a number of prisoners as 322, without entailing a much larger outlay than was at first contemplated. Much more will be required, as now suggested by Mr. Robinson, for the safe custody of the prisoners by the Police than was anticipated by Mr. Rohde.

11. The clearing of the building has shown also that it is in a more ruinous condition than was at first supposed, and that its conversion into a Jail will be attended with considerable expense.

12. When it was first proposed to locate prisoners in the Mahals, it was not intended to convert these buildings into permanent Jails, but to relieve some of the most over-crowded Jails of the Presidency.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th June 1865.*

13. We believe that this most necessary relief can be afforded if the Government sanctions the building of the Central Jails, which are proposed in the Report we are about to submit, as directed in Government Order, dated 7th February last.

14. We have suggested that the crowded Jails be relieved by the formation of large gangs of able-bodied convicts, who should be huttred at the site proposed Jails, and be employed in the unskilled labor required for these buildings.

15. Should the Government approve of this recommendation, it will not be necessary to occupy the Mahals.

16. If, on the other hand, our proposal should not be approved, we recommend that the alterations suggested as necessary in the Mahals should at once be commenced.

No. 133.

ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1865, No. 864.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council resolves to abandon the proposal to convert the Vellore Mahals into a Jail.
(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

Frd. J. H. Burne.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letter
from the Insp. Genl of Jails and
President of the Sanitary Com-
mission dated 6th April 1865.
No. 593*

Order Thereon 19th June 1865 No. 864.

*Under the circumstances
represented in the foregoing
letter the Governor in Council
resolves to abandon the
proposal to convert the
Vellore Mahals into a
jail.*

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No. 864.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 14 June 1865.

*The Professor of
Natural History
at the Smithsonian
Institution
Washington*