M.R.O. 1—99.000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1020 Press Mis—

274-296

Dated 28 . 6 . =19 83

18/19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

28th June 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 274. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Kotagherry, 2nd June 1866, No. 884.

I have the honor, with reference to the orders of Government noted marginally, to submit a report by the Superintendent of Police of Coimbatore, with the remarks of the Deputy Inspector General, on the accommodation for Police guards at the different Jails on the Neilgherry Hills, together with Dr. Miller's Memorandum on that at Lovedale.

G. O., 11th April 1866, No. 526.
„ 11th May „ „ 1525.

Stations.	Number of convicts.	Number of guards.
TEMPORARY.		
Kandal	63	13
Pykara	40	8
PERMANENT.		
Lovedale	340	54
Dodabet	82	13
Neddiwuttum	137	28

N. B.—The complete establishment at Lovedale is 64; difficulty to complete and absence of accommodation keep the actuals below the establishment.

2. I have visited all these Jails in person.

3. TEMPORARY JAILS. *Kandal.*—Small gangs of convicts were moved out by the Inspector General of Jails to Kandal and Pykara on the 20th November 1864, and 6th March 1866, respectively. Both these gangs are, I understand, to be withdrawn shortly. As regards accommodation of the guards, by-gones may therefore be by-gones.

4. Suffice it to say that at Kandal the only accommodation provided for the guard of 13 men has been a small lean-to room, built against the wall of the old Mill occupied by the convicts. It contains less than 2500 feet cubical contents, and about 240 feet superficial area; of course, there is scarcely moving room. Beyond this, the Police have not had even a covering to cook in, or dry their clothes, in the cold wet weather. The families of married men have to find shelter in the bazaar, at some distance, as they may; and thither too, when they are off duty, the over-worked men have to walk for their meals after a hard day's work. They return late at night to sleep, often in wet clothes. Nothing can be more inadequate than their accommodation, or more comfortless than their condition. They have had nothing else for 18 months. Casualties and sickness amongst the guard have been very frequent at this Jail.

5. *Pykara.*—At Pykara, absolutely no accommodation whatever has been provided. The whole of the Travellers' choultry is occupied by the convicts. There are three huts belonging to the station at Pykara. In the absence of any provision for the Jail guards, Police work and the patrol of roads, &c., had to be given up entirely on the arrival of convicts at Pykara. The families of married men were unhoused, and the Jail Guard of eight men now occupy the three station Police huts. They are doubled up, two or three in a hut, and cook, &c., how they may. Sick convicts and Police are equally without medical aid. However, local Police Officers have made little stir, as the period is short.

5A. I must here remark, with reference to this small detached gang of 40 convicts—the remark applies in its degree to Kandal gang also—that it is quite impossible to watch small Jails and working gangs without overworking the guards day and night. Eight men is the sanctioned number of guards for 40 convicts; and a casualty or two cannot be readily supplied,—so even this small guard is therefore frequently unavoidably under strength. In working such a guard, three men

at least are required to give, with reasonable reliefs, a single watchman by night. One man watches the cooks and sick at the Jail during the day. The remaining three or four men cannot guard some 35 convicts at work in lonely parts of the Hills. The whole guard must, therefore, be worked almost day and night, far beyond what human beings can keep up for a length of time. Casualties have been frequent at Pykara; one man died the other day of disease of lungs contracted there.

6. PERMANENT JAILS. *Dodabet (Chinchona gardens).*—The convicts have been located in the excellent garden buildings at Dodabet since September last. When the convicts first moved out, the guard was for a short time very ill accommodated. Mr. McIvor has, however, considerably exerted himself in the *interim* in their behalf in every way, and the guard is now well and comfortably housed. There has not been a serious casualty,—not a man off duty for the day (the Dresser in charge informs me) since this Jail was constituted. A small block of good permanent cooly lines, well situated, and close to the buildings occupied by the convicts, has been constructed, and are occupied by the Police. The huts (each 9 feet by 9 feet, and about 7 feet high) are well built of brick laid in mud, and covered with corrugated iron. Each Policeman has thus a weather-tight and comfortable home, in which several have their families residing with them, and others intend to bring them up. The petty Officers in charge will shortly occupy the comfortable quarters to be vacated as soon as the Assistant Superintendent's house, which is being pressed on rapidly towards completion, can be inhabited by him. There is medical aid on the spot. The men are healthy and comfortable; they feel that they are considerately treated by the garden Officers, whose working convicts they watch efficiently and cheerfully, and they are as contented as any public establishment can be expected to be when transferred to the, to them, unecongenial climate of the Hills. The Superintendent thoroughly appreciates the value of contentment amongst subordinates.

N. B.—I consider this sufficient on the Hills.

7. *Neddiwuttum (Chinchona Plantation).*—To dispose of Mr. McIvor's Jails first, I beg to submit copy of a letter written to the Inspector General of Jails after a recent visit to Neddiwuttum. There are now 137 convicts there, with 28 guards. The guards are at present accommodated with 16 miserable little wattle and mud thatched huts, which, when I inspected them, were damp and neither weather nor water-tight, nor properly drained. The men were lying on the cold earth. There is no cooking place, and the unavoidable necessity of lighting fires in these inflammable cabins is, of course, fraught with much danger. The existing accommodation, when inspected by me on the 24th instant, was found more inadequate and as bad, save in being better situated and fresher, as it is at Lovedale. However, Mr. McIvor is considerate and obliging, and is ready to do all that is requisite without demur. He is now building a block of permanent cooly lines—16 huts of the range were being rapidly pushed on when I inspected the establishment. These, if completed and habitable before the monsoon sets in, will be occupied by the guard. They, together with the wattle huts (the repair of which has, I hope, been put in hand already) will afford shelter for the guard now present,

and perhaps, as a temporary make-shift, also for the 8 or 10 additional guards of the convicts whom, I am told, it is intended to move out, so as to make up this gang to 200. As soon as the weather admits of it, Mr. McIvor will complete the above block of cooly lines, and, if necessary, add to them, so as to put the whole guard under suitable and comfortable shelter. It is my duty, however, to tell Government that considerable risk is being run as things now are, and must continue, throughout the coming rains. However, local Police Officers are willing to trust to the tried consideration of Mr. McIvor, with an assurance that the very best will be done that circumstances admit of.

8. The permanent huts above described will always be useful. Should the convicts be withdrawn, the free labor required for the plantation would occupy them all and many more. Mr. McIvor is doing at Neddiwuttum what he has done at Dodabet, and the result will doubtless be as favorable in respect to the guards, while no loss can arise to the State.

9. The only remark I would make is one which I think affects all these Hill convict establishments formed for special works, viz., that the local plantation officers have yielded to the temptation to employ the labor of convicts from the moment of their arrival on plantation work, instead of first employing them in completing the suitable accommodation necessary for the health and comfort of the public establishment whom circumstances compel the Government to send to guard the prisoners. The full complement of convicts now at Neddiwuttum went there early in April—a considerable body was at Mr. McIvor's disposal there at even an earlier date—and had they been at once employed to build the cooly lines, &c., now under construction, to be inhabited in the meantime by the guard, the whole might have been completed and dry long before broken weather set in. As it is, the convicts were chiefly employed on plantation work; and the permanent lines were only commenced late in May. The number of bricks required to complete them are not ready and cannot now be made. Unburnt damp mud formed into bricks, must now be partially used, and the outside wall will be of wattle and mud. I entertain grave doubts about these Cooly Lines being dry and made habitable before the wet weather puts an end to all further hopes.

10. Officers employing convicts on Public Works naturally look for credit chiefly from the number of pits dug, and chinchonas planted out, by the convicts, or excavation and earthwork done to the credit side of their estimates. They are apt to lose sight of the fact that human health and lives are worth more than many cubical yards of earth. The remedy for this is entirely in the hands of Government. Officers employing convicts on the Hills are so thoroughly alive to the value of labor, that if they are only instructed that the first duty on which convicts assigned to them are to be employed is in housing themselves and their guards, the anxious Superintendents will not lose a day in completing these necessary preliminaries; and two or three weeks will generally suffice to place the whole under wholesome shelter. If, further, the Medical Officer be ordered to report on the accommodation for the guards, as is done in respect to the accommodation of prisoners, all future difficulty will be removed. We shall not have, in some cases, after the lapse of miserable years, in all of several such months, to lay before Government a state of things which I fear they must condemn as unsatisfactory on the part of responsible Officers, and little creditable to public establishments.

11. I trust that the Government may approve and affirm the recommendation contained in the last paragraph of my letter to Colonel Wilson, and forbid any more convicts being sent to Neddiwuttum, until accommodation is ready, and reported on by the responsible Police and Medical Officers.

12. I must here respectfully venture some explanation with reference to the censure implied by paragraphs 2 and 3 of the G. O., dated 11th April 1866, No. 526. On learning casually at Coimbatore, while on a tour of inspection, that another gang of convicts, for whom the Police guards were not ready, was to move out to Neddiwuttum, I wrote to the Inspector General of Jails for a short respite to enable me to submit matters for the consideration of Government. Of this, the Government, I gather, disapproves. The instructions issued by Government direct to the Superintendent of Police by telegraph were, of course, obeyed by him, as he best could; but he could only do so by moving out a number of the Town Police of Ootacamund to Neddiwuttum, and for some time that large town was left with six or eight men available for duty. The Government is aware that public establishments cannot be formed on the Hills at a short notice. The Superintendent of Police, of course, knew the state of the accommodation there; that the arrangements, on the presumption of which the Government telegram was forwarded, were not in existence, and that no preparation for the additional guards had been made; but the orders to him have been obeyed. On the date I write, the extra men are still without accommodation, and, as above stated, I entertain fears that, unless the monsoon be late, they may be without suitable accommodation throughout the rains.

13. With reference to paragraph 4, I venture to express a hope that the Government will not transfer the duty of arranging with the Officers of other Departments employing convicts, about accommodation for Police guards, from Police Officers to the Inspector General of Jails. Police Officers are more frequently in communication with local Superintendents and Executive Officers, and know better what is required than the Inspector General of Jails. They are responsible, so far as circumstances admit, for the health and discipline of their men. I would venture respectfully to suggest that the Inspector General of Jails may be requested to await the report of the Departmental Officers, that circumstances admit of detailing the requisite guard, &c., before convicts are marched up to the Hills. The Government may be assured of all expedition and diligence on the part of Police Officers but will, I feel sure, see that the guards of a gang of 100 convicts suddenly marched from Tinnevelly cannot be mustered on the Hills without due notice. This difficulty only applies to the Hills. Elsewhere we have reserves, and temporary measures can be concerted to meet a sudden emergency, which, on the Hills, are impossible.

14. *Lovedale (Lawrence Asylum).*—I have inspected the accommodation of the Lovedale Jail guard with Dr. Miller, and with Major Farewell and his Assistant.

15. I submit Dr. Miller's complete condemnation of the accommodation provided by the local Officers for the Police. He inspected the huts during the dry season and after a drought of unusual duration. The situation of these wretched damp and unhealthy wattle and mud hovels, constructed on the verge of a swamp,

could not be worse. The structures themselves, very indifferent from the first, are in utter disrepair, not weather-tight, and, to my eye, some of them appear to be in a very dangerous state. I have already paid to the Officer in charge of the Asylum works Rupees 329-2-5, for their repair, according to his estimate of August last; but the condition of the Police in respect to accommodation has very materially deteriorated (rather than improved) with the lapse of time—2½ years—since they were first located at Lovedale. The wattle and mud structures contain 43 huts only for an establishment of 64 men, according to the sanctioned ratio of strength to convicts. The actual strength occupying them has, however, been 54 to 56 only, as difficulty in filling up vacancies and want of accommodation have always kept this guard considerably under strength. The accommodation is, therefore, quite inadequate for even the reduced establishment; so much so, indeed, that when Major Farewell and I, and subsequently Dr. Miller, visited the place, we found an East Indian Constable, with a wife and 6 or 7 children—two of them grown up young women!—hoveled in a hut 12 by 10 feet. This has, of course, been set to right as far as might be.

16. Dr. Miller has drawn attention to the unwholesomeness of the huts, and the unhealthiness of the men at Lovedale. One hundred and seventy-seven men (according to the Apothecary's amended Report) passed through the Hospital during 1865, of an average strength of about 55 (Dr. Miller has taken too high an actual average);—in other words, every man employed at Lovedale passed through the Hospital more than three times in the year. Before the end of April of the current year, 44 men, or 80 per cent. of the strength, had been treated by the Apothecary. This has taken place during the most favorable season. Others have been transferred in both years to the low country in bad health; and five men—three died at Lovedale, and two were sent away dangerously ill, and never got off their backs alive—or about 9 per cent. of the strength, have died.

17. Dr. Miller has classified the diseases. Their character leaves no doubt as to the causes. The convicts at Lovedale have become, I believe, exceptionally healthy as compared with convicts in low country Jails. Their health has improved with the increasing attention to the comfort of their Jail since they came up. The Jail is well situated on an airy well drained slope. The reverse has been the case with the Police; they have been and still are terribly sickly. It is true that the watchman has heavy night duty to perform in all seasons and in all weathers, while the well cared-for convicts are comfortably housed in a well arranged Jail; but this will not account for the existing difference in respect of life and health between the Jail bird and the public servants inhabiting that disease-stricken swampy hollow, although it adds to the cogency of the arguments for providing good accommodation for men who are hard worked and unavoidably much exposed.

82 Fevers.
40 Bowel complaints.
21 Rheumatisms.
17 Diseases of lungs.

18. Exclusive of sick transfers, reliefs, &c., the voluntary withdrawals from the miserable service at Lovedale have alone amounted, during the last two years of

the time that the convicts have been there, to the full strength of the guard maintained. The average strength has been about 54. Fifty-five men have resigned or deserted. In other words, from this cause alone, the whole guard has had to be re-placed within two years. I attributed this proof of utter dislike to the service there, in a great measure, to the discomfort, the inability to have their families with them for want of good healthy, accommodation, &c., which the men have been subjected to, and to the hopeless absence of any improvement in their condition, such as has been affected for the convicts every where and for the Police at Dodabet by Mr. McIvor. The disheartened Superintendent describes the Police at Lovedale as "completely demoralized and wretched." Proper attention to their accommodation, comfort, and health will remove at least the principal difficulties we have had to contend with—sickness and much discontent. As it is, deaths and sick transfers spread fear that need not exist amongst the Force in the plains; resignations and tales of discomfort needlessly increase the difficulty experienced in obtaining men for duty on the Hills.

RESIGNED.	
Petty Officers	3
Constables	50
DESERTED.	
Constables	2
Total...	55

19. Dr. Miller has stated the only remedy for this state of things at Lovedale, "the erection of suitable buildings in a more favorable locality." The local Engineer Officers are, I gather, satisfied that this must be done; but no real improvement can be effected until after the rains. In the meantime, Major Farewell has undertaken to repair and improve the existing dwellings, as indicated by Dr. Miller and myself, and to make them weather-tight, and drain the vicinity as well as may be. Provision for enabling the men to sleep off the damp earth must be made. Hospital accommodation will be provided for the sick; and the men will be made, as far as circumstances admit of, comfortable. I will request the Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General to report on the improvements effected, as soon as Major Farewell declares them complete.

20. I trust that, ere the building season opens, the Engineer Officers may be able to devise some useful structure, to be built on a healthy spot near the Jail, which, while it will be permanently useful, may be temporarily converted into suitable and healthy accommodation for the Police.

21. The Police at the Jails on the Hills have paid, as usual elsewhere, a small rent for their huts. In such an expensive place they can ill-afford this, and its payment for such accommodation as they have had has caused just discontent. As a source from which to meet the repairs of such hovels, the collection is of no use. Already double the amount recovered (Rupees 180) up to date had been paid, in August last, to the Officers in charge of the Asylum works, for repairs within the first 18 months, taken of course from other parts of the Police District; but the huts are now worse than ever they were. The Police Department can do no more. The Government has ruled that the accommodation is to be provided by the Department using the convict labor. I, therefore, propose to remit this charge on the hard worked and disheartened Police at Hill Jails. It will have an encouraging effect on the men.

22. In explanation of the earnest feeling expressed by the Police Officers in respect to avoidable hindrances and causes of discontent here reported on, I must repeat that, even under favorable circumstances, they have great difficulties in obtaining a sufficient number of men for Hill service, or keeping them there when transferred from the Plains. Any want of consideration aggravates their incessant difficulties. They are harassed under existing circumstances by needless obstacles in meeting the requisition on them; and they are naturally grieved by sickness and mortality amongst their men arising from causes quite within control.

N. B.—Vide my letter dated 7th April 1866, No. 81, paragraph 7.

23. It has been my duty to report on the whole unfavorably of the existing state of Police accommodation at Hill Jails, Dodabet excepted. Statistics of health, and of instability of the service, place, I believe, the justice of these remarks beyond question. Hill service will always be trying to low-country men; the maintenance of Hill Establishments always slightly more difficult. Still, I am satisfied that things admit of almost entire remedy. The example of Dodabet Jail proves this, and Officers of Departments employing convicts will now, no doubt, with these facts before them, exert themselves to alleviate the sorrows and sickness that keep the Police service at their Jails in the condition now verging on a collapse, only prevented by great exertion on the part of the Police Officers.

N. B.—These difficulties (though greater in consequence of their larger numbers) are not confined to Police. When I visited Neddiwuttum, only two men of an Establishment of six Warders could be mustered.

24. I am the more anxious on this point, for I believe circumstances of these Hills more and more point to the absolute necessity of increased employment of convicts on Public Works, and an increased demand on the Police which may very well be met. In fact, it seems doubtful whether some of the necessary Public Works can be executed within reasonable time without the aid of convicts, and there is no reason whatever why the Police, if fairly treated, should not cheerfully follow their charges and be equally healthy and comfortable, or why establishments should not be kept up with fair ease. With all their difficulties, the work has been efficiently done by the Police. Very few escapes have taken place under circumstances of peculiar disadvantage.

25. Free labor is increasingly difficult to procure on the Hills. Indifferent as it is, it is becoming dearer in cost, and less good in quality. Convict labor, as superintended on the Hills, is, on the other hand, admitted on all sides to be most effective. The Officers in charge of the Lawrence Asylum works are satisfied that their gangs do fully as much work as twice the same number of free laborers. Mr. McIvor estimates the value of the work of his convicts at nearly three times that of free labor. Expensive therefore as convict establishment may appear at first sight, they are really cheap on the Hills, and no more suitable labor could be found for prisoners. One has only to inspect the work recently done by convicts on the Ooty and Neddiwuttum road to be satisfied that it would be a wise policy at once to constitute two or three moving camps of convicts, say 100 or 120 strong each, and execute all the required communications with convict labor. Police will be forthcoming to guard them. The bricks of a couple of kilns laid in mud, and covered with corrugated iron (which with the doors, &c., could be moved to the

next camp) would be all that they would need. With this they are healthy and contented at Dodabet. With this they will be healthy and satisfied anywhere where convicts could be located with due attention to their requirements.

P. S.—The remarks of the Deputy Inspector General will be forwarded hereafter. They are to the same effect as the Superintendent's Report.

COIMBATORE DISTRICT.

Report on Temporary Jails.

Having inspected the temporary Jails on the Neilgherries, I beg, with reference to G. O., 526, dated 11th April 1866, to report on the accommodation provided for the Police guards, &c.

2. *Dodabetta*.—At this Jail good substantial huts have been erected for the use of the guard. A portion of the Hill close to the huts should be further cut away, and a drain made; otherwise, I fear the huts will be damp and unhealthy during the rains. I pointed this out to the Officer in charge, who promised to mention my request to Mr. McIver, and from the readiness which Mr. McIvor has always shown to make his guard and other Subordinates comfortable, I have no doubt the necessary orders will be issued. The men here are contented, and work cheerfully. There are no casualties.

The Jail is an excellent building, easily watched.

3. *Kandal*.—There are no huts, and not even a cooking place provided for the guard at this Jail. For a year and a half, the Police at this Jail have suffered the greatest hardship. During the rains, the men come home wet and weary. *Convicts* find a hot meal ready for them, after which they have comfortable quarters to retire to for the night; whereas, it is with the greatest difficulty the Police can cook any food at all, and, the guard being small, some of the men have to take night duty as well as day gang guarding. The men frequently begged to be allowed at least a shed to cook in, but promises never advanced towards performance, further than the erection of two bare sticks to mark the place where the shed *might* have been erected. Casualties from this Jail have been frequent, and naturally very great difficulty is experienced in getting men to undertake duty at this place.

4. *Pykara*.—No huts were provided for the Police guard here. Three small huts had been erected here for the use of three men stationed at Pykara for general duty. These men were withdrawn from general duty, to form part of the convict guard, and the three huts remained for the use of eight men. Of course, any of the men who had families were obliged to send them away, and incur the expense of lodging them in Ootacamund, or elsewhere. Of this gang, I found 31 men working in a Sholah in charge of four Policemen. I presume the convicts were too comfortable to care to escape, as there was no other reason to prevent them.

5. *Neddiwuttum*.—The Jail building here is secure and easily guarded; the rooms provided for the convicts large and lofty; and the prisoners have excellent boarded platforms to sleep on.

Sixteen huts were erected for the guard. Of these, three are occupied by Warders, leaving 13 available for 27 Policemen. These huts are wretched wattle and dab, if anything in rather worse condition than when inspected and reported on by the Deputy Inspector General.

A site for the erection of 16 good huts has been selected, and Mr. Dawson informed me that the work was to be executed as soon as possible. I beg to suggest that sleeping platforms for the use of the Constables, as well as the convicts, should be provided. There is no Medical Officer at Neddiwuttum. One convict had chicken-pox, others fever, guinea worm, &c. The accommodation provided for the Police is at present bad and insufficient. I have no doubt Mr. McIvor will eventually provide suitable accommodation, as he has done at Dodabetta, but till that is provided, it would be injudicious to send any more men to Neddiwuttum, as the reports sent by the Constables to their friends has a very bad effect, and, with the example of Kandal Jail before them, they cannot be blamed for distrusting promises.

6. *Lovedale*.—This Jail has been established nearly three years, and the Police here are completely demoralized and wretched.

There are 41 huts for 67 men; two of these dens were about 7' × 6' by 4 feet high, with a roofing of thin iron, which must render the place untenable in the heat of the day, and miserably cold at night. The huts are in a low valley, intersected by a swamp, built of wattle and dab, and such as, in my opinion, any sensible men would hesitate to put cattle in. On the first establishment of this Jail, the convicts were very sickly, but being now well housed and fed, there is little, if any, sickness amongst them.

7. During 1865, in the small force noted above, 174 men were received into hospital; three died; six had to be transferred to save their lives. Even in this year, 44, or 65½ per cent., have been treated. There are eight now sick, and three men recommended for transfer. There is no hospital for the Police; they are treated at the Convict Hospital. The Medical Officer stated that "in five or six cases of men coming under his care, they appeared to be so destitute, that, for the purpose of saving life, he was forced to keep them in a spare room in the Hospital, and supply them with such comforts as he deemed requisite to support them during their illness." From this, I gather that the furnishing of any comforts to an unfortunate Policeman is unusual, if not irregular.

8. The Jail buildings at Lovedale are very insecure, and the watching duty in consequence heavy and anxious. The men become broken-spirited, and either resign, or ruin their health with drugs. They feel they are esteemed as even less than a convicted felon, and that feeling is but too evidently apparent. They lose all self-respect. No one cares for them, and anything or *nothing* is considered good enough for a Policeman.

9. It has been necessary frequently to trouble Government with references on the subject of guarding convicts on the Hills.

There always will be *some* difficulty, but that difficulty will be much reduced by treating the Police as rational human beings. At least, in the name of humanity, let them be cared for as well as convicts.

It is marvellous that any men have been induced to remain at Lovedale. That with reasonable care, and a little interest occasionally shown in their welfare by the Officer in charge of the works, the Police will work well, and cheerfully do their duty, is abundantly evident from a comparison of the men employed under Mr. McIvor and those working at Lovedale, Kandal, and Pykara. There are many ways in which they might be assisted and rendered less wretched. What suggested itself to Mr. McIvor will also suggest itself to others. Next to relieving the men altogether from Hill duty, the greatest boon that would be conferred on them would be to allow them to serve in Mr. McIvor's Jails. The work in these latter is hard and continuous as elsewhere, but the men will do it cheerfully, for they feel that all reasonable care will be taken of them.

10. The Constables at Lovedale are charged rent for the miserable hovels occupied by them. The sum realised is so trifling as to be useless in effecting any repairs; indeed, these huts must be always more or less out of repair. I beg that the men may be relieved of this tax, and placed on the same footing as Constables serving at other temporary Jails. I believe the Warders are provided with quarters, rent free. It is not unreasonable to ask that Departments employing Police shall provide as good accommodation as the men would receive if employed on general duty, or, in the words of the men themselves, "at least, treat them as well as convicts."

11. I most earnestly beg attention to this subject. We have very nearly come to a stand-still in recruiting. Application is made to Government for the services of convicts, in consequence of the difficulty experienced in procuring free labor. It must be remembered that Police service is voluntary—a fact that Officers in charge of public works appear to forget. If we require Policemen, we must pay for their services as we would for free labor.

If it is difficult to procure laborers who are required to do only a certain number of hours work daily, free from the discipline which must be maintained in a Police Force, how much more difficult must it be for us to supply men who are kept always on duty, day and night, and never even get one day in the week to themselves?

12. The quarters provided for the Inspector in charge of the Lovedale guard are good, but situated much too far from the Jail (about ¾ of a mile). He could not hear an alarm from

the Jail. The Jailer is provided with comfortable quarters at the Jail, and I submit it is even more necessary to have the Inspector of the guard on the spot, as the latter is on duty day and night. After the convicts are lodged in Jail in the evening, they are in the sole custody of the Police.

The Petty Officers of the Force should have separate accommodation suitable for them. It is of great importance to secure the services of reliable Petty Officers.

OOTACAMUND,
1st May 1866.

(Signed) T. WELDON,
Superintendent of Police.

MEMORANDUM.

I this day carefully inspected the huts occupied by the Police guard at the Lovedale Jail. They are placed at the bottom of a deep hollow, and on the borders of a swamp, where there can be no circulation of air, and where the cold must be great at night. They consist of lines of contiguous rooms, built of wattle, thatched, and each averaging 750 feet of cubical space; but they are devoid of ventilation or light, except such as is afforded by a small door. Their foundations have been scarped from the adjoining heights, and are exposed to the surface drainage and percolations of moisture from above.

2. From the record of sickness during the past year it appears that, out of an average strength of 60, there were 171 total admissions. Of these 82 were fevers, 40 Bowel complaints, 21 Rheumatism, and 17 diseases of the Lungs.

3. I am of opinion that, by reason both of their situation and construction, the huts are prejudicial to the health and comfort of their occupants, and that there is no remedy other than the erection of suitable buildings in a more favorable locality.

OOTACAMUND, 16*th May* 1866.

(Signed) J. MILLER, M. D, Surgeon,
Senior Medical Officer, Neilgherries.

From the Inspector General of Police, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Neddiwutttum, 25th May 1866, No. 836.

I have visited and carefully examined the arrangements for the accommodation of the Police Guard at the Jail at Neddiwuttum.

2. There are 27 Police men as a guard here at present over 137 convicts. These guards are accommodated with 16 small wattle and mud huts, which are in a very leaky state, and the walls are not weather-tight. Every hut leaked under the thunder shower that has fallen while I have been here. Men could not inhabit them, in their present state, through a monsoon, such as is experienced at Neddiwuttum, without very serious danger to health, and certain large percentage of sick and ineffective.

3. This has been pointed out to Mr. McIvor's Assistant on the spot. He has undertaken, under Mr McIvor's instructions, to have them well thatched and a good drain dug wherever the ground immediately adjacent is higher than the flooring of the hut. He will also have split bamboo mats raised one foot from the ground, so that the men may sleep off the cold damp earth, and the walls will be made thoroughly weather-tight. I need scarcely observe that the existing accommodation has not hitherto been what it ought to be, fair and healthful. There are huts for little more than half the men. Two men are doubled up in little cabins about nine feet square and six to seven feet in height, which, as regards material construction, &c., are unsuited to such a climate. Families cannot generally accompany the men where they cannot have a hut to themselves.

4. A block of 16 huts is now under construction, which, though small, will be good in respect to site and other matters. But the building is not far advanced, and the monsoon is close at hand. The local officers assure me it will be ready and roofed in before the end of the month, and that the sun dried bricks and wattle and mud, which, in the hurry to complete, are being partially used, will be dry. I must admit that I have grave doubt as to their being completed and dry before the monsoon.

5. With this block, in addition to the wattle huts above described, there will be accommodation for 32 men.

6. I understand (I have had no communication from you on the subject) that you contemplate increasing this Jail to 200 convicts. For this number the guard is 40 men. For these, all the above described accommodation will scarcely suffice. However, I am exceedingly anxious to forward your arrangements, and meet the wishes of Government; and if the block of huts alluded to in paragraph 4 of this letter be completed and sufficiently dry to be inhabited, and the existing wattle huts be made weather-tight, &c., I would move out, as soon as they can be collected, the requisite guard, and make the best of things for the present, trusting to the tried consideration of Mr. McIvor to improve the matter as he may be able.

7. But I beg that before more convicts—if such a measure be in contemplation—are moved out to Neddiwuttum, time may be given to complete what is absolutely necessary, and that the report of a Police Officer, or better still of the Medical Officer in charge, on the state of the accommodation of the Police, be required. The confusion and sad result of not attending to this at Lovedale will thus be avoided.

No. 275. From the Assistant Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 8th June 1866, No. 908

DOCKET.—Has the honor, in continuation of letter, No. 884, dated 2nd Instant from the Inspector General of Police, to forward the Report of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, relative to the Police accommodation in the several Jails on the Neilgherry Hills.

Remarks by the Deputy Inspector General, Mofussil Police, Western Range, on Superintendent's Report on the accommodation provided for Police Guards over Jails on the Hills.

Dodabet.—The requisite draining and cutting will, no doubt, be carried out at once, by Mr. McIvor.

Kandal and Pykara Jails.—The Inspector General of Jails has intimated that it is his intention to withdraw the convicts at these places on the 1st June. Under these circumstances, it does not now appear necessary to call on Major Farewell to erect huts, &c., for the men, for the remaining three weeks of their stay. Should the convicts, however, be kept longer at these Jails, or should convicts again be sent to these localities, proper huts must be provided for the guards.

Neddiwuttum.—In February 1865, I inspected this Jail,—reported to the Inspector General of Jails that the accommodation then provided for Police was utterly inadequate, and pointed out what was required. Not only has nothing since been done, but 3 of the hovels originally intended for the Police have been made over to the Warders. I have now intimated to the Inspector General of Jails that, until fit and decent shelter is provided for the Police Guard at Neddiwuttum, I shall decline to furnish more men. I draw attention to the want of medical aid in so distant a locality.

Lovedale.—I need add nothing to Captain Weldon's remarks on this head. Orders should be forthwith issued for the erection of the requisite number of huts.

It appears to me that, with the view of hereafter avoiding any misunderstanding on the subject of hutting Police guards on the Hills, a few general rules, such as follow, should be laid down:—

I. Some of these Jails may almost be considered of a permanent nature, such as Lovedale, Neddiwuttum, and Dodabet, and it should be distinctly understood that, at such places, the Police accommodation should be of as permanent a character as the Jails themselves.

II. At temporary Jails, such as Pykara, or Kandal, the Police accommodation need not be of so permanent a nature, but it should be good, substantial, and wind and weather-tight.

III. Each petty Officer and Constable should, everywhere, have a separate secure hut, of the usual dimensions; and in each of these huts, there should be a raised sleeping platform, to keep the men off the ground.

IV. When it is intended to send convicts to either a temporary or permanent Jail (Hills), the Superintendent should receive due notice, to enable him to intimate to the Officer under whom the convicts are to be employed the nature of the accommodation, and the number of huts required. When these have been provided they should be inspected by a competent Officer of Police, on whose certificate, to the effect that these rules have been complied with, the Inspector General of Jails should be directed to carry out the transfer, and not till then.

V. The huts should be periodically inspected by a "Police Officer," and all repairs immediately executed by Officer employing convicts, on Superintendent's requisition, &c.

The hutting arrangements of Jail Guards, now on the Hills, excepting Pykara, and Kandal, should be forthwith modified with reference to these rules.

There remains the question of charging the men rent for their accommodation. My own opinion is that a liberal policy in this, as in other matters, is the wiser. At the temporary Jails, I am decidedly opposed to such charges being made; for the men so employed, will not, and cannot, take their families with them, and must pay for their maintenance elsewhere. Even at the permanent Jails, there are many draw-backs, such as distances, supplies have to be brought by the men, and the consequent additional expense attending residence in places so remote from the Central Markets. Then the sums recovered from these, though no small tax on them, is even, in the aggregate, such a trifle to the Departments employing the Convicts, that the right to levy it might wisely be waived, &c.

(Signed) W. S. DREVER.

8th May 1866.

No. 276. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1866, No. 1020.

The Governor in Council is greatly concerned to find that, except in one instance, the health and comfort of the Police Force employed in guarding the detached bodies of convicts on the Neilgherries have been so grievously neglected. The exceptional instance is that of the Dodabetta Jail, where the Police are properly lodged and considerately treated. At all the other stations, the accommodation provided for the guards is evidently of the most miserable description, and it is no wonder that the men have suffered seriously in health and spirits.

2. The convicts at Kandal and Pykara are, it is said, to be withdrawn shortly; but so long as they are retained, the Police must be properly lodged.

3. At the former place, the guard, comprising 13 men, has only a "small lean-to room, built against the wall of the old mill, occupied by the convicts." The cubical and superficial contents of this room are respectively 2500 and 240 feet, and it affords "scarcely moving room." There are no huts, and not even a place for cooking. The families of the men live, of necessity, in the Bazaar, to which the men themselves have to go for their meals in the intervals of their work.

4. At the latter place, "absolutely no accommodation has been provided." The excellent Travellers' Bungalow is occupied by the convicts; all regular Police work has been abandoned; the Jail guard occupy the station huts, two or three men in each; and there is no medical aid for convicts or Police.

5. How long the convicts will remain at these places is not explicitly stated; but if they are still at them either they must be immediately withdrawn or the Police must be properly hutted. The huts may, of course, be of a temporary character, but they must be weather-tight and dry and sufficiently spacious.

6. At Dodabetta, Mr. McIvor has provided proper accommodation for the guards. All that is required, is that a portion of the Hill close to the huts should be further cut away, and a drain formed. This will be done without delay.

7. At Neddiwuttum, while the convicts are lodged in spacious and lofty rooms, with boarded sleeping platforms, the Police (28 in number) have "16 miserable little wattle and mud thatched huts," which are "damp and neither weather nor water-tight, nor properly drained". There are no cooking places, and the men are obliged to sleep on the damp earth. A block of permanent cooly lines is being built, and will be occupied by the Police. The Government desire that the construction of these lines be pushed on vigorously, the convicts being withdrawn, if necessary, from all other work, and that no further addition be made to the number of convicts or guards, until proper accommodation for the latter has first been provided.

8. The Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, will lose no time in attaching a competent Medical Subordinate to the Neddiwuttum Jail, where there are 150 persons, convicts and police, without any medical aid whatever. A Subordinate should also be sent to Pykara, unless the convicts are speedily withdrawn.

9. The Jail at Lovedale has been established for nearly 3 years, and the Police are not yet properly lodged. There are only 41 huts for 67 men, and two of these are only 7 by 6, and 4 feet high. They are described as "wretched, damp, and unhealthy wattle and mud hovels" "in utter disrepair," and they are situated on the verge of a swamp. Dr. Miller, after personal inspection, reports that, "by reason both of their situation and construction, the huts are prejudicial to the health and comfort of the occupants, and there is no remedy, other than the erection of suitable buildings in a more favorable locality." The monsoon has commenced on the Hills, but the Government trust that, ere it began, the huts were at least made weather-tight and that the floors were boarded. As soon as the weather permits proper accommodation must be provided for the men in a more healthy situation, and convict labor must be applied to this, in preference to any other work. The Government will be obliged to withdraw the convicts if these orders are not at once carried out.

10. The Governor in Council directs that monthly Reports of what is done under this Order be submitted to Government, through the Inspector General of Police, by the Officers employing the convicts.

11. In future, it must be distinctly understood that when convicts are moved out for labor, proper provision must, in the first instance, be made for the accommodation of their guards.

12. The Government sanction the remission of the rent for Police huts on the Neilgherries, until the men are properly housed.

13. The Government desire to be furnished with rough plans, showing dimensions, &c., of the Police quarters, provided under these Orders at Neddiwuttum, Lovedale, and also of those at Dodabetta.

14. The Inspector General of Jails will submit his observations on paragraph 13 of Mr. Robinson's letter.

15. The periodical inspection of the Police lines by his own Officers should be arranged by the Inspector General of Police.

(True Extract).

J. D. SIM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Police.
" " " of Jails.
" Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Revenue do.
" Accountant General.

Superintendent thoroughly appreciates the value of contentment amongst subordinates.

Steddiwattam (cinchona plantations)

P. disposal of the the Spur's Jails first, I beg to submit copy of a letter written to the Inspector General of Jails after a present visit to Steddiwattam. There are now 137 convicts there with 28 guards. The guards are at present accommodated with 16 miserable little wattle and mud thatched huts, which, when I inspected them were damp and neither weather nor water tight, nor properly drained. The men were lying on the cold earth. There is no cooking place and the unavoidable necessity of lighting fires in the inflammable cabins is of course fraught with much danger. The convicts accommodation when inspected by me on the 24th instant was found more inadequate and as bad - save in being better situated and fresher - as it is at Lawdale. The overseer the Supt is considerate and obliging, and is ready to do all that is prerequisite without demur. He is now building a block of permanent coolly lines, 16 Yards of the prongs were being rapidly pushed on when I inspected the Establishment. These, if completed and habitable before the monsoon sets in, will be occupied by the guard. Hedged her with the wattle Yards (the repair of which has I hope been put in hand already) will afford shelter for the guard now present and perhaps, as to either the convicts or the guard. temporary mat or thatch also for the 8 or 10 additional

Ed. J. H. Burma

guards of the convicts whom I am told it is intended
to (move) as soon as work is up this year to 200. As soon as
as the weather admits of it, the Officer will complete
the above block of Cooly Lines and if necessary add to
them so as to put the whole guard under suitable
and comfortable shelter. It is my duty however to
tell Government that considerable pick is being spun
as things now are, and must continue throughout
the coming rains. Sometimes local Police Officers are
willing to trust to the kind considerations of the
Officer with an assurance that the very least will
be done that circumstances admit of.

8. The permanent huts above described
will always be useful. Should the convicts be
withdrawn, the free labor required for the plantations,
would occupy them all and many more. The
Officer is doing at Stadelwattam what he has
done at Bodalet and the result will doubtless be
as favorable in respect to the guards, whilst no loss
can arise to the State.

9. The only remark I would make is one
which I think affects all these Gaol convict
Establishments formed for special work. Up that
the local plantation Officers have yielded to the
temptation to employ the labor of convicts from
the moment of their arrival on plantation work,
instead of first employing them in completing the
suitable accommodation necessary for the health
and comfort of the public Establishment whence
Circumstances compels the Government to send to
guard the prisoners. The full complement of convicts
now at Stadelwattam went there early in April.
A considerable body was at the Officer's disposal
there at even an earlier date. And had they been at
once employed to build the Cooly Lines & now under
construction, to be inhabited in the meantime by
the guard, the whole might have been completed
and dry long before the Rain weather set in. As it is,
the Convicts were chiefly employed on plantation
work, and the permanent lines were only commenced
late in May. The number of bricks required to
complete them are not ready and cannot now be
made. Unburnt damp mud formed into bricks
must now be partially used, and the outside wall
will be of wattle and mud. I entertain grave doubts
about these Cooly Lines being dry and made habit-
able before the wet weather sets in and to all
further shapes.

10 Officers employing convicts on Public
works naturally look for credit chiefly from the
number of perches dug, and cinchonas planted out
by the Convicts, to the credit heads of their Estimates. They
are apt to lose sight of the fact that human health
and lives are worth more than many cubical yards

yards of earth. The remedy for this is entirely in the hands of Government officers employing convicts as the Hills are so thoroughly alive to the value of labor that if they are only instructed that the first duty on which convicts assigned to them, and to be employed, is in housing themselves and their guards, the anxious Superintendent will not lose a day in completing these necessary preliminaries. Three or three weeks will generally suffice to place the whole under wholesome shelter. If further, the Medical Officers be ordered to report on the accommodations for the guards, as is done in respect to the accommodations of prisoners, all future difficulty will be prevented. We shall not have in some cases after the lapse of miserable years, in all of general ill health - to lay before Government a state of things which I fear they must condemn as unsatisfactory on the part of responsible Officers and little creditable to public Establishments.

11 I trust that the Government may approve and affirm the recommendations contained in the last para of my letter to Colonel Wilson and forbid any more Convicts being sent to Ootacamund - until accommodation is ready and reported on by the responsible Police and Medical Officers.

12 I must here respectfully venture some explanation with reference to the censure implied by paras 2 and 3 of the G.O. dated 11 April 1866 No 326 (On learning casually at Coimbatore while on tour of inspection), that another gang of Convicts, for whom the Police guards were not ready, was to move) and to the addition - with, I wrote to the Inspector General of Hills for a short respite to enable me to submit matters for the consideration of Government. Of this the Government gather disapproves. The instructions issued by Government direct to the Superintendent of Police by telegraph were of course obeyed by him, as the least could. But he could only do so by moving out a number of the Town Police of Ootacamund to Ootacamund; and for some time that large Town was left with 6 or 8 men available for duty. The Government is aware that Public Establishments cannot be formed on the Hills at a short notice. The Superintendent of Police of course knew the state of the accommodation there; that the arrangements the presumption of which the Government telegram was forwarded, were not in existence, and that no preparation for the additional guards had been made. But the orders to him have been obeyed. On the date I write the extra men are still without accommodation - and as above stated, I entertain fears that, unless the monsoon be late, they may be without suitable - (accommodation) throughout the rains.

13 With reference to para 4 I venture to express a hope that the Government will not transfer

ya
the duty of arranging with the Officers of other Depart-
the
ments employing Convicts, about accommodation for
are Police guards, from Police Officers to the Inspector
lab General of Jails. Police Officers are more frequently
des in communication with local Superintendents and
emp Executive Officers and know better what is required
the than the Inspector General of Jails. They are "
in c responsible so far as Circumstances admit, for the
hav health and discipline of their men. I would venture
the respectfully to suggest that the Inspector General of
the Jails may be requested to await the report of the Depart-
are mental Officers that Circumstances admit of detailing
to the requisite guard of before Convicts are marched up
to the Hills. The Government may be assured of all
def expedition and delegence on the part of Police Officers
-ma but will I feel sure) see that the guards of a gang of
all 100 Convicts suddenly marched from Punnemally cannot
-men be mustered on the Hills without due (notice). This
Offe difficulty only applies to the Hills. Elsewhere we
" have reserves and temporary measures can be considered
and to meet a sudden emergency, which on the Hills are
for impossible.

and 14. I have inspected the accommodation of (Lawdale
hy the Lawdale Jail guard with Dr. Miller and with (Lawrence Asylum)
12 Major Farewell and his Assistant.

and 15. I submit Dr. Miller's complete condemnation
of the accommodation provided by the local Officers
for the Police. I too inspected the huts during the day

Pl. Forwarded with Collector's D.O. No. 1 dated 13th Nov. 1899.

peason and after a draught of unusual duration. The
situation of these wretched damp and unhealthy
wattle and mud hovels constructed on the verge of a
swamp, could not be worse. The structures themselves, e-
very independent from the first, are in utter disrepair
not weather tight and to my eye some of them appear to
be in a very dangerous state. I have already paid to
the Officer in charge of the Asylum over Rs Rs 329-2-5
for their repair according to his Estimate of August
last; but the Condition of the Police in respect to ac-
commodation has very materially deteriorated e-
(rather than improved) with the lapse of time, 272
years since they were first located at Lawdale. The
wattle and mud structures contain 4/3 huts only for
an Establishment of 64 men according to the sanction-
-ed ratio of strength to Convicts. The actual strength
occupying them has however been 54 to 56 only as e-
difficulty in filling up vacancies and want of ac-
commodation have always kept this guard considera-
-ably under strength. The accommodation is therefore
quite inadequate for even the reduced Establishment
so much so indeed that when Major Farewell and
I and subsequently Dr. Miller visited the place,
we found an East Indian Constable with a wife e-
6 or 7 children. two of them grown up young women!-
housed in a hut 12 x 10 feet. This has of Course been set to
right as far as might be.

16. Dr. Miller has drawn attention to the

unwholesomeness of the huts and the unhealthiness of the men at Lowdale. One hundred and seventy seven (177) men (according to the Apothecary's amended report) passed through the Hospitals during 1865 of an average strength of about 55 (Dr. Miller has taken too high an actual average). In other words every man employed at Lowdale passed through the Hospitals more than 3 times in the year. Before the end of April of the current year, 44 men or 80 per cent of the strength had been treated by the Apothecary. This has taken place during 4 months. Others have been transferred in both years to the Low Country on bad health. And five men - 3 died at Lowdale and 2 were sent away dangerously ill and never got off their backs alive - or about 9 per cent of the strength have died.

Dr. Miller has classified the diseases. Their character leaves no doubt as to the causes. The Convicts at Lowdale have become, I believe, exceptionally healthy as compared with Convicts in Low Country Jails. Their health has improved with the increasing attention to the comfort of their Jails since they came up. The Jail is well situated on an airy well drained slope. The severest has been the case with the Police. They have been and still are terribly sick. It is true that the watchman has heavy night duty to perform in all seasons and in all weathers, while

82 Fevers
40 Bowel complaints
21 Rheumatisms
17 Diseases of lungs

The Sick Nurse and the Jail Guard, Charlotte informed that a further quantity of Jail Clothing will be required for the Police, the whole being

I consider with the exception of the convicts the whole are well worked and healthy huts for the Police "A"

the well cared for Convicts are comfortably housed in a well arranged Jail. But this will not account for the existing difference in respect of life and health between the Jail bird and the Public servant inhaling what disease principles pervade swampy hollow although it adds to the Cogency of the arguments for providing good accommodation for men who are hard worked and unavoidably much exposed.

15 Exclusive of pie Rs transfers, perhaps 40, the voluntary withdrawals from the miserable service at Lowdale have alone amounted during the last 2 years of the time that the Convicts have been used to the full strength of the guard maintained. The average strength has been about 54. Fifty five men have resigned or deserted

Resigned Sickly
Officers — 3
Constables — 50
Invalided Constables — 2
Total — 55

In other words from this cause alone the whole guard has had to be replaced within 2 years. To attribute this proof of utter disability to the persons themselves, in a great measure to the discomfort, the inability to have their families with them for want of good healthy accommodation of which the men have been subjected to, and to the hopeless absence of any improvement in their condition such as has been afforded for the Convicts everywhere and for the Police at Dodabet by Mr. McIvor. The disheartened Superintendent describes the Police at Lowdale as "Completely demoralized and wretched". Proper attention to their accommodation, comfort and health will remove at least the principal difficulties we have had to

contends with pictures and much discontent. As it is deaths and sick in transfers spread fear that need not exist, amongst the Forces in the plains; per cognations and tales of discomfort needlessly increase the difficulty experienced in obtaining men for duty on the Hills.

19 Dr Miller has stated the only remedy for this state of things at Lawdale, the erection of suitable buildings in a more favorable locality. The local Engineer Officers are I gather, satisfied that this must be done. But no real improvement can be effected until after the rains. In the meantime Major Farewell has undertaken to repair and improve the existing dwellings as indicated by Dr. Miller and myself, and to make them weather tight and to drain the vicinity as well as may be. Provision for enabling the men to sleep off the damp earth must be made. Hospital accommodation will be provided for the sick; and the men will be made as far as circumstances admit of, comfortable. I will request the Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General to report on the improvements Effected as soon as Major Farewell declares them complete.

20 I trust that ere the building season opens the Engineer Officers may be able to devise some useful structure - to be built on a healthy spot near the Jail which, while it will be permanently useful, may be temporarily converted into suitable and healthy accommodation for the Police

21 The Police at the Jails on the Hills have (as paid, as usual elsewhere), a small rent for their huts. no rent On such an expensive place they can ill afford this, and its payment for such accommodation as they have had has caused just discontent. As a source from which to meet the repairs of such huts, the collection is of no use. Already double the amount presumed (Rs 180) up to date, had been paid in August last to the Officers in charge of the Asylum wont Rs for repairs within the first 18 months. Later Rs of course from other parts of the Police District - but the huts are now worse than ever they were. The Police Department can do no more. The Government has ruled that the accommodation is to be provided by the Department using the Convict Labor. I therefore propose to permit this charge on the hard worked and disheartened Police at Hills Jails. It will have an encouraging effect on the men.

22 In explanation of the earnest feeling expressed by the Police Officers in respect to available hindrances and causes of discontent here reported on, I must repeat that even under favorable Circumstances, they have great difficulties in obtaining a sufficient number of men for Hills service or keeping them when transferred from the Plains. Any want of Consideration aggravates their incessant difficulties. They are harassed under existing Circumstances by needless obstacles in meeting the requisition on them; and they are naturally grieved by sickness and mortality amongst their men

N.B. Vide my letter dated 4th April 1866 No 81 para 7.

arising from Causes quite within Control.

23 It has been my duty to report on the whole unfavorably of the existing state of Police accommodation at Seill Jails. Dodabet excepted. Statistics of health and Instability of the Service place I believe the question of these remarks beyond question. Seill persons will always be Inferior to Low Country men; the maintenance of Seill Establishments always slightly more difficult. Seill I am satisfied things admit of almost entire remedy. The example of Dodabet Jail proves this. And Officers of Departments employing Convicts will now no doubt, with these facts before them, exert themselves to alleviate the sufferers and sickness that keeps the Police persons at their Jails in the Condition now pervading, on a Call upon duty prevented by great exertion on the part of the Police Officers.

24 I am the more anxious on this point for I believe Circumstances of these Seills more and more point to the absolute necessity of increased employment of Convicts on Public Works and an increased demands on the Police which may very well be met. In fact it seems doubtful whether parts of the necessary Public Works can be executed within reasonable time without the aid of Convicts and there is no reason whatever why the Police if fairly treated, should not cheerfully follow their Charges and be equally healthy and Comfortable, or why Establishments should not be kept up with fair ease. With all their

N.B. these difficulties (though greater in consequence of their larger numbers) are not confined to Police. Other Services visited do Dodabet Jail and only 2 men of any Establishment of 6 warders could be mustered.

From Asst Sol Police 7 June 1856, 937
Read Asst Sol — 8 — Do — 938

No. Order 28th June 1856 No 1020.

The first circ: is greatly concerned to find that, Except in case of the health & comfort of the Police force employed in guarding the detached bodies of Convicts on the Neilgherry hills has been so frequently neglected. The Exceptional circumstance is that of the Dodabetta Jail where the Police are fairly lodged & Comfortably treated. In all the other Stations the accommodation provided for the guard is entirely of the

Just & Reasonable de-
scription - and it
is no wonder that
the men have suf-
fered severely in
health and
spirits.

The Surg: directs
that immediate
measures be adopted
by the Dept. to supply
the Convicts, to
provide, the best
accommodation for
the Police guards
and that monthly
report of the health
is done under their
order - to be handed
up to the Inspector
Genl of Police.

In future, it must
be distinctly under-
stood that when
Convicts are hired
out for labour, the per-
-son permission must
be made for the
accommodation of
their guards. ~~also~~

The Surg: Genl
& Dept. will be
directed to attend
a compliance with
this order at the
Road Station
Jail - where there
are more than 150
persons - Convicts &
guards - without
any medical aid.

The first question
the consideration of the
Govt for Police huts
on the Railway Lines,
until the men are

~~in the first instance~~

The Supt: for of Police
will state what
accommodation is
requisite for each
grade of Police -
employed on duty
of this nature -
Wooden platforms
should alone be
established for
the men to sleep
on and Cooking sheds
also provided -
The Police to wash
their clothes, more
also report, more
fully on the subject
as arrangements
for the Police at
the Jails -

the Police and the Convicts.

The Convicts at Kandy and Pycorah are, it is said, to be, both withdrawn shortly - but so long as they are retained the police must be properly lodged.

3 At the former place the guard, consisting of 13 men, has only a small room built against the wall of the old mill, occupied by the Convicts." The cubical & superficial contents of this room are respectively 2500 and 240 ft - and it affords "scarcely moving room" - There are no beds - and not even a place for cooking. The families of the men live, of necessity, in the Bazaar or about the mean Native Lines here

Positively knocked -

The first desire of the prisoner is to be furnished with rough plans & showing dimensions &c of the jails & Police quarters at those places where Convict labor is likely to be permanently employed -

The Supt of Jails will submit his observations on form B of his Return

The Police Lines by the Chief Engineer Officers can be arranged by the Supt. of Police

J. D.

boys for their meals
in the intervals of
their work.

At the latter place,
"absolutely no accom-
modation has been pro-
vided." The excellent
Travellers' Bungalow
is occupied by the
Convicts - all repairs
Police work has been
abandoned - the police
guard occupy the
Station Hut - two or
three in each - and
and there is no medical
aid for Convicts or
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How long the Con-
victs will remain
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or they must be moved
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huts. These may, of course, be
of a temporary character
but they must be weather
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Police Commissioner has provided
for the guards - all
that is required is
that a portion of the
Hill close to the huts
should be put the cut
away, and a drain
formed. This could
be done without de-
lay.

At the Nilgiri tunnel
while the Convicts
are lodged in shaky
and leaky rooms and
provided Sleeping
platforms - the Police

(28 in number) have "16 miserable little, wattle & mud, thatched huts" which are "damp & cold neither weather nor watertight" & are very "disarranged" - There are no cooking places & the men are obliged to cook on the damp earth - A Hospital, permanent convict lines is being built and will be occupied by the Police - The first desire that the consideration of these lines be pushed on vigorously - The convicts being withdrawn if he can't any finish the work - and that two further additions be made to

3/ the number of convicts & guards; and to provide a convenient for the shelter has first been provided.

The Officiating Surgeon had left the district with leave no time in attending a medical Board of the Headquarters Station. where there are 150 convicts - convicts & police - without any medical aid a station at Cockatoo should also be established by Govt. unless the convicts are shortly withdrawn -

The jail at Lower Dale has been established for nearly 3 years - and the Police are not yet housed - There are only

4 huts for 6 men
and two of these are
only 7 by 6 and 4 ft
high. They are de-
scribed as "wretched,
damp & unhealthy,
cattle & sheds
in utter disrepair"
and they are situated
on the verge of a swamp.
Dr Miller, a Stipendiary
Local Authority to
point that "by reason
both of their situation
& construction the
huts are prejudicial
to the health & Com-
fort of the occupants"
and there is no remedy
other than the erection
of suitable buildings
in a more favourable
locality." The Mili-
tary have also made

on the Hills but the first
Frost that came it began
the huts were at least
made damp as the tight
and that at the boarded
of the floors
As soon as the weather
permits provision
must be provided for the men
in a more healthy si-
tuation. and the con-
tracts Water must be
applied to them, in
preference to any
other work. If the
fort. will be the object
but it is given the Con-
tracts if these orders
are not at once
carried out.

To the Chief Secretary of Police
Inspector of Gaols
A.D.C. Inspector Constabulary
Private Secretary
Revenue Officers
Accountant General

Despatch

Judicial 1866 Dept.

No. 1020.

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