

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Indian DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	154	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
26-27		
Dated	3. 2.	19 1866

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

3rd February 1866.

No. 26. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 22nd January 1866, No. 715.

In reference to the Orders of Government, dated 4th and 19th December 1865, Nos. 1724 and 1813, I have the honor to state that I have this forenoon spent some hours in going into matters connected with the Dodabetta Jail, personally communicating with each of the officers employed under Mr. McIvor, whether in the Jail or on plantation work on which the convicts have been employed, and with the several Chinese convicts through their interpreter. I have heard every thing each convict in the Jail had to say, and I must report my perfect satisfaction with the order and discipline maintained, and my conviction that, since Mr. McIvor has had charge, he has shewn himself fully competent to maintain discipline, and has engendered in the convicts a cheerfulness in the performance—not only of their tasks, but—of labor in excess of their tasks, that is well calculated to disabuse the men of the feeling of the irksomeness of labor.

2. On visiting the Jail, I took the opportunity of satisfying myself as to the origin of the prisoners spoken of as Malays, in Captain Hankin's Report. they are, as their names shewed, Chinese, not a

Vide Proceedings of Government, dated 19th December 1865, No. 1823.

Malay being with the gang. The interpreter said they were from Heman, and that King Boon (Captain Hankin's interpreter, who was born at Singapore,) probably could not understand them. Nothing could exceed the cheerfulness of the whole party, and the readiness with which they answered all my inquiries. The interpreter, who had himself been a victim in former riots, assured me that there was no chance of further disturbance.

3. I looked over the Jailer's reports and Mr. McIvor's orders, and it was evident that, from the moment they knew he had authority, there had not been a single instance of insubordination, or of even neglect of work.

4. The Sick Register shewed that the prisoners were healthy. Their appearance shewed that they were—one old man excepted—strong and content.

5. I had no complaints worth notice. The Chinese asked for boots, which will be issued; one native, that they should not have to go for firewood on Sunday. On inquiry, I found that they used the wood brought in to provide hot baths, whence the necessity for getting in more for cooking.

6. I obtained a return of extra work done, and find it amounts now to about three acres a day. Tickets, representing 6 Pie value, are issued to every man for every five pits extra, the task being 22 for Natives and 25 for Chinese (a fair estate task). As the possession of the tickets induced gambling, they are taken from each prisoner as he returns from Jail, and credit given in the books for the amount. The total is spent in mutton, beef, poultry, rice, &c. In one week, ending the 14th January 1866, tickets for 2925 extra pits were issued.

7. I must not omit to notice a disturbance which occurred immediately before it was known that the powers of control were vested in Mr. McIvor. It was most grossly exaggerated in reports about the station, and I determined to take no official notice of the matter.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd February 1866.*

8. The butcher had charged for meat at a higher rate than was acceptable to the Chinese, one of whom attacked him, while another jumped on his back. The man escaped into the Jailer's room, from the door of which the Jailer, who was armed, drove them away. The Chinese began to beat the Native convicts who ran away. A Police man fired—fortunately for himself—without effect. The two Chinamen were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and others to stripes. The China lad who began the fray explained that he acted in ignorance of "the custom of the country," but the other man who attacked the butcher was troublesome. He now conducts himself properly, devoting his superfluous energy to earning tickets by extra work.

9. I think that the experiment may be fairly regarded as successful. Since the prisoners have known that punishment will be immediately awarded to the disorderly, there has not been one occasion to call for it.

No. 27.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd February 1866, No. 154.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

N^o 715

From

J. Rhode Esquire

Inspector General of Mills

Potacamund.

To

The Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George

Sir

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ment dated 4th and 19th (December 1865, Nos 1734
and 1813. I have the honor to state that I have
this forenoon spent some hours in going into
matters connected with the Potacamund Jail,
personally communicating with each of the
officers employed under Mr. McEvor whether
in the Jail or plantation work on which the
convicts have been employed and with the
several Chinese convicts through their interpreter.
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Jail had to say and I must report my
perfect satisfaction with the order and dis-
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2. On visiting the Jail I took the opportunity of satisfying myself as to the origin of the Prisoners spoken of as Malays in Captain Hankins report, they are, as their names shewed, Chinese not a Malay being with the gang, the interpreter said they were from Siam and that King Boon (Captain Hankins interpreter who was born at Singapore) probably would not understand them. Nothing could exceed the cheerfulness of the whole party and the readiness with which they answered all my inquiries. The interpreter who had himself been a victim in former riots assured me that there was no chance of further disturbances.

3. I looked over the Sailors reports and Mr. McIvor orders and it was evident that from the moment they knew he had authority there had not been a single instance of insubordination or of even neglect of work.

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vide Proceedings
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7. I must not omit to notice a disturbance which occurred immediately before it was known that the powers of control were vested in Mr. McIvor. It was most grossly exaggerated in reports about the station and I determined to take no official notice of the matter.

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Inspector General of Funds

W. P. Remond
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