

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1745	Press
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Dated	5. 11.	19. 1. 86

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

5th November 1866.

No. 40. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 25th October 1866, No. 90.

I have the honor to forward the explanation of the Officer in charge of the Jail at Chittoor, which was called for in the Order of Government noted in the margin.

Judicial Department, 25th September 1866, No 1514.

2. I also forward the only two Reports received by me regarding the recent out-break of Cholera in that Jail, which were not of a nature to lead me to direct the removal of the prisoners into Camp.

From Assistant Surgeon W. F. DEFADECK, Superintendent of the District Jail, Chittoor, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Chittoor, 20th October 1866, No. 132.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 701, of the 16th instant, and of a copy of the Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, 25th September 1866.

2. With reference to the unhealthy conditions of the Jail Cells, the Jail Hospital Privy, &c., referred to by the Honorable Mr. Ellis in paragraphs 6, 13, and 14 of his report, I have the honor to state that the very objectionable character of the system which has for years past obtained in this Jail has been but too frequently brought prominently forward for correction.

Year after year, reports have been sent in, and more sanitary arrangements have been earnestly advocated.

Plans and estimates have been prepared, and though the recommendations of the Jail Committee, as incorporated in their report published in the Proceedings of the Government, Judicial Department, 6th May 1866, were very favorably received, the revised estimates for the works has not yet been sanctioned, and so not one suggestion has as yet been carried out.

During the Honorable Mr. Ellis' inspection, I stated what improvements were in contemplation, and the plans were also presented for his examination on the same day. Colonel Boileau was in Chittoor at the time, and was present with the Assistant Engineer when the plans were inspected by the Sanitary Commissioner.

3. The Granite Troughs made use of in the Bangalore Jail, simple and efficacious as they are in fulfilling all requirements, cannot be made without the employment of skilled labor. It is work which the Convicts cannot (though they might be taught, under special supervision, how to) carry out.

It would appear that much expense will be saved by having this plan carried out, in lieu of that proposed by the Jail Committee (who were unacquainted with it), and for which estimates were submitted, viz., having a Privy attached to each Cell of the Jail, and to each Ward of the Hospital, a more expensive, and, I should think, a less sanitary arrangement than that in operation at Bangalore; and I would earnestly recommend, therefore, that this subject may be reconsidered, before any outlay of money is made.

4. The provision made to meet the requirements of the prisoners at night, as described by Mr. Ellis in paragraph 6 of his report, has long been admitted to be a most obnoxious arrangement, and accidents (such as those to which the Sanitary Commissioner was witness) occur but too readily during the night.

It is gratifying to me that the Honorable Mr. Ellis has so prominently represented the very objectionable character of this system. I cannot think that Government will hold me responsible for its defects, these having been but too often, and very plainly, exposed, but will feel assured that the evils of so unwholesome an arrangement are most unwillingly tolerated until a more sanitary system shall be instituted.

5. There is no Latrine for male prisoners; none for females. There is none, also, for the use of females in Hospital, and that attached to the Male Hospital has been for years past condemned.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th November 1866.*

No better provision has, however, as yet been made. Nearly five years ago, I reported upon these matters, which have been repeatedly noticed at the time of inspection by several Medical Officers, including the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, and the Deputy Inspectors General of Hospitals, Presidency Division.

6. Mr. Ellis has (and I doubt not most unintentionally) misrepresented (in paragraph 15 of his report) the state of affairs.

There was an insane prisoner (a monomaniac addicted to theft) in the Ward. He had been three months in Jail, and has never exhibited any tendency to violence; his manners, on the contrary, are composed. Had there been the least doubt as to any danger of associating him with others, he would have been confined alone. The other inmates of the Ward were never for a moment suspected of insanity, but were prisoners committed to Jail the previous evening and admitted to the Hospital, it being customary to detain prisoners (newly arrived) there, for any examination the following morning.

7. With reference to paragraph 24 of Mr. Ellis' report, you will remember my having on two occasions submitted estimates for Camp hutting materials, for housing Convicts and the adequate Police Force. These have not yet been provided, and the plan of encamping 450 prisoners could not be carried out when Cholera appeared.

I reported to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, the outbreak of Cholera in the Jail, and it was directed that, provided no improvement took place, the prisoners should be encamped. Only two cases of Cholera occurred after the receipt of these instructions, and even had the materials for hutting been at hand, I should not, I believe, have been justified under the circumstances in removing the prisoners into camp.

There were 17 cases of Cholera and 9 deaths.

8. The improvements suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner, so far as they can be carried out with the means and labor at my disposal have been commenced. These, however, must fall far short of the much needed changes which have been, so long since, so earnestly and so repeatedly advocated.

9. I have the honor to return the copy of the Proceedings of Government which accompanied your letter, No. 701, and I should feel obliged if you would send me a spare copy.

From Assistant Surgeon W. F. DEFABECK, Superintendent of the District Jail, Chittoor, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Chittoor, 28th August 1866, No. 97.

I regret to have to report the occurrence of several cases of Cholera in the Jail under my charge. The disease has been prevalent in some parts of this District for some time past, and only lately made its appearance in Chittoor. The attack has proved fatal in four cases. Every care is being taken to prevent its increase. The condition of the Jail as regards cleanliness, is most excellent; and I am happy to be able to report no new admissions. I shall make a point of keeping you informed as to the progress or decline of the disorder.

From Assistant Surgeon W. F. DEFABECK, Superintendent of the District Jail, Chittoor, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Chittoor, 4th September 1866, No. 98.

With reference to my letter, No. 97, of the 28th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that of 17 cases of Cholera which have occurred among the prisoners, nine have proved fatal. There are at present none under treatment. The prisoners generally have, also, I am glad to state, enjoyed better health than usual of late. I am hopeful that no more admissions from Cholera will occur; though the disease is still epidemic in Chittoor.

2. I am most anxious, however, that, in the event of its being found necessary to encamp the prisoners at any future period, no unnecessary delay should occur in consequence of the materials for hutting not being ready.

3. In the Budget estimate for 1866-67 for this Jail (furnished on the 23rd March last), every necessary provision was made for carrying out this system.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th November 1866.*

I should be glad to hear from you, by the earliest opportunity, whether the estimate for materials required for this very important but special service (amounting to Rupees 35,000 odd) has been sanctioned; and, if such be the case, I would request you to be good enough to pass an order to enable me to obtain an advance from the Treasury to meet the necessary expenditure.

4. I should be glad to hear from you whether I may be permitted to indent on the Camp Equipage Department for tents, if the materials for hutting the prisoners are not available at any time.

No. 41. ORDER THEREON, 5th November 1866, No. 1745.

The Government accept Dr. deFabeck's explanation, and rely on his using every exertion to maintain the Jail in as cleanly and satisfactory a condition as is practicable under present circumstances.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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From Judge 1866 Despt

The Insp. Genl. of Sails

To

The Chief Secy. to Govt.

Fort Saint George

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Dated 25th

Feb. 28 } Oct. 1866.

No. 90 to 2350

Forward Explanation

of the Superintendent of

the Jail at Chittoor

called for in the order

of Government dated 25th

September 1866 No. 1514.

17/10/66

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