

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Provincial DEPARTMENT.

197-138	G.O. No. 1829	Press
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	Dated 21-11-1918	4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

21st November 1866.

No. 197. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 8th November 1866, No. 1860.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit two letters from the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, on the subject of Subsidiary Jails in Coimbatore, and a report by the Assistant Superintendent of Police, on the condition of the Lock-up at Perundooray, in the same District, for such notice as the Government see fit.

From the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, to the Magistrate of Coimbatore; dated Camp Darapooram, 3rd October 1866, No. 105.

With reference to G. O., No. 470 of 1866, in the absence of our late experienced Superintendent Captain Weldon, I have the honor to lay before you what I consider should be the scheme in this District for Subsidiary Jails.

2. There should be local Subsidiary Jails at Ooty, Collegal, and Suttimungalam, for reasons which will no doubt be self-evident to you, and need not, therefore, be dwelt on.

3. There should be one Subsidiary Jail in Coimbatore Town, for Coimbatore, Polachy, and Pulladum Taluqs.

4. At Erode, there should be another for Bhowany, Perundooray, and Carroor Taluqs, the latter will be readily accessible by Railway in a very short time.

5. At Darapooram, there should be one for Khangiem, and for Oodamullapetta Taluq.

6. By massing the prisoners of different Taluqs in this way, the prisoners' work can be turned to better account, Jail discipline is more easily secured, and supervision becomes less expensive; the 1st outlay in construction of buildings is apparently the greatest, but in reality the least.

7. It will not, I should say, be found advisable by and by to send all prisoners sentenced to any thing over a month to the large District or Central Jail. Yet, in the course of a few years, there will be none but 1st Class or full power Magistrates, and it will be well to provide other than cages in the verandah of a Taluq Cutcherry, for a man or woman who is to be locked up for three or four months.

From the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, to the Magistrate of Coimbatore; dated ———, No. 106.

Having recently made a general inspection of Police arrangements, &c., in the Perundooray, Carroor, Darapooram, and Oodamullapetta Taluqs of this District, I have the honor to lay the following remarks before you, for your consideration.

2. Taking the Taluqs in the above order, the Perundooray Taluq Cutcherry is, in my opinion, utterly unsuited for the purpose.

3. It is so small that there is scarcely room even for the Police Guard which has to be furnished over the Treasury and Subsidiary Jail. The Police Lock-up is elsewhere, in a detached and distant building, near the Travellers' Bungalow.

4. The Cutcherry is situated in a street in the Town surrounded by houses.

5. It would be utterly indefensible if attacked openly, and might be rifled in a couple of nights from the neighbouring houses by any one who had brains to think of doing so.

6. The building is old and inconvenient in all respects. I attach a copy of a letter received from Lieutenant Halsted this very morning on the subject.

7. In Carroor, there is no fault whatever to be found. Nothing can exceed the neat tidy ship-shape manner in which this Cutcherry is kept by Magistrate and Police.

8. What has been said in regard to the Perundooray Cutcherry applies in all respects to that at Darapooram, which is not only in the middle of the town, surrounded by houses, but a good mile from the Police Station.

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9. The building has also perhaps less ventilation, owing to the so-called Subsidiary Jail and Police Lock-ups for males and females being inside, and not detached as at Perundooray.

10. Nothing can possibly be worse than these dens. I recently found 11 males in one of them 15' x 9' x 9'; the place was so close and stifling, that I could not remain in it a moment.

(The Subsidiary Jail)

(11 x 9 x 9)

The smell in all was perfectly unbearable. The so-called Police Lock-up is simply a part of the verandah, caged off exactly as in a menagerie; what light and air is admitted comes through the bars above. As the Cutcherry is very small, and not only wholly covered in to keep out dust and wind, but constantly crowded with people, the quantity and quality of air reaching these places may readily be imagined. The women's cell is the same as the Subsidiary Jail, only somewhat closer and smelling worse.

11. Prisoners are likewise sent in here from Oodanullapetta, for confinement.

12. I believe this Cutcherry has been repeatedly condemned, and that a new one has been sanctioned.

13. I have the honor to bring to your notice that at Khandient (the Head Quarter Station of the Sub-Division of this Taluk), a 1st Class Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry had been commenced, but that it did not provide any accommodation for either Police or prisoners; that these were at present in a Public Chattram, a place wholly unsited for the purpose. I have not to date learnt your decision on that question, and consider it necessary here to remind you of the same.

14. The Cutcherry at Oodanullapetta is precisely the same as that at Darapooram, with the following exceptions:—The Police have a small room in the Cutcherry itself, so that they are on the spot. A barred cage 11' x 11' x 7', the counterpart of that at Darapooram is here the only place in which prisoners of either sex or age can be detained by Police or Magistracy.

15. I consider the state of things in the three Cutcheries at Perundooray, Darapooram, and Oodanullapetta imperatively require a change. It is worse than cruelty to confine prisoners in such holes as I have described, and it is more than hazardous to keep large sums of money in Treasuries so utterly defenceless as these are.

16. Should there be no apparent chance of new Cutcheries being shortly erected, I beg you will take such steps as you may deem proper, under G. O. No. 766, 18th May 1866, to improve and add to the existing utterly inadequate prison accommodation in them.

From Lieutenant L. W. HALSTED, Assistant Superintendent of Police, to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range; dated Camp Chengypally, 28th September 1866.

I have the honor to report, for your information, the condition I found the Perundooray Subsidiary Jail in, on Monday last, when I visited it.

2. To begin with the Cutcherry (in which the Jail is), it is one of the old fashion—square, and with a verandah running all round the inside—without exception, the worst ventilated one I have ever seen, having only one entrance, a very small open Court in the centre, and the eaves of the inside tiled verandah coming so very low and close to the ground, that it makes the inside of the Cutcherry comparatively dark, even in the day time, and I am sure that the amount of fresh air that gets into the building is considerably less even than the light.

3. During the day, the ventilation is better than at night; for, then, certain windows on a level with the floor are open, but these are of necessity closed after dark.

4. In one corner of this close and foul Cutcherry (foul it is, for it is in a filthy dirty state) is situated a small room, called the Subsidiary Jail, of the following dimensions—10' x 10' x 9' (or taking into account the sloping roof and measuring to the gable thereof, say 10 feet).

Say 170 Superficial feet.
Do. 1800 Cubic do.
Sufficient for 5 Prisoners.
Cubical area for 5 prisoners.

There are no ventilators or windows of any description. The front of the Jail is open, true, but the bars are so close together, and the corner in which it is, so confined and shut in, that little or no air can get into the place. In the door there is a small iron barred window; but here, again, we

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have the bars almost touching each other. Both the said door and "open front" face towards the inside of the Cutcherry, where, as I have said before, very little fresh air can ever penetrate; and close in front of the Jail is a railed off portion of the Cutcherry Verandah, with old records piled up to the ceiling, and extending along the whole front of that face of the building.

5. When I visited the Jail it was about 5½ p. m., and broad daylight outside, but so dark in this black hole that I really could not see the faces of the prisoners, or tell the number that were in it. On going near the room, the stench was very bad, —and no wonder; for, on entering it, I found no less than 25 male prisoners incarcerated therein. The stench and heat were quite overpowering, and the walls black with spit and dirt.

6. From the dimensions already given, it will be seen that each prisoner had barely 7 square feet of floor to lie down on, not enough absolutely to allow of their sleeping—and as for air barely 70 cubic feet a piece—even such as it was. Ten minutes in the place would have made any delicate person positively ill.

7. The Tahsildar informed me that the whole of these 25 prisoners had been committed to take their trial at the coming Sessions, but that, as the Records connected with the several cases had not been completed, he was prevented from sending the prisoners to the Central Jail, owing to the custom which prevails in the District. How such a custom came about, he could not inform me. He acknowledged there was no order on the subject that he was aware of, and certainly I do not remember any. If I am not mistaken, in the Salem District, directly a prisoner has been committed to the Sessions, he is sent off to the Central Jail, under the Warrant of the Committing Magistrate, and the records connected with his case are despatched to the proper authorities in due course.

8. I would have taken some of the prisoners, with the Sub-Magistrate's sanction, into our Lock-up, but that already contained a larger number than it was calculated to hold, and two of these were prisoners committed to the Sessions.

I should not forget to mention that, outside the "open front" of the Jail, were lying three female prisoners, there being no room for female delinquents in the Cutcherry.

9. The Tahsildar promised me to have the Jail white-washed early the next morning, and to dispatch the prisoners to Coimbatore with the least possible delay. Cholera is now breaking out all over this Taluk, and two of my prisoners in the Erode Lock-up are (I have just been informed) laid up with it. Had it made its appearance in the Perundooray Subsidiary Jail, when in the state I saw it, we should have certainly lost most, if not all, of our prisoners, and that before they had been convicted.

10. I am informed that Mr. Cole, one of the Deputy Magistrates, and the Engineer Officer, have proposed that the present Jail be either better ventilated, or the old Soldiers' Shed be converted into a Jail. This, in my opinion, will never do, as it will necessitate our having three sentries in three separate buildings: namely, one over the Treasury, one over the Jail, and a third over the Station-house and Lock-up, Arms, &c.

11. I am inclined to think that Perundooray is one of those few Cusbahs where an entirely new building is required for Jail, Station-house, Lock-up, &c.; but as Government are likely to be a long time before they sanction the erection of such a building, I would earnestly suggest that the District Magistrate be requested to take advantage of the late G. O., authorizing him to expend the sum of 200 Rupees in the improvement of any existing Jail which he may consider requires such immediate improvement. Three or four windows knocked into the outer walls of the present Jail would go a great way to mend matters, and might be effected at a very inconsiderable outlay.

It is cruel to put more than 5 or 6 prisoners into the Jail as it now is.

N.B.—The old Soldiers' Shed is not commodious enough for a Station-house, Jail, Lock-up, &c.

No. 198. ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1866, No. 1829.

The Magistrate of Coimbatore will act at once on the sanction conveyed in G. O., of the 18th May last, in regard to all the Subsidiary Jails of his District needing temporary improvement. He will also state how the state of matters at

The Cutcherry is situated in a street

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Perundooray remained unknown, or, if known, tolerated, and whether the Subsidiary Jails of the District have been periodically inspected, as directed in paragraph 15 of G. O., 29th March last, No. 470.

2. The practice of detaining committed prisoners until the records in their cases are completed, should be immediately discontinued.

(True Extract)

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Coimbatore,
Inspector General of Jails,
do do of Police.

Ed. J. H. Parns.

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To,

Sir,

The Deputy Inspector General
of M. Police, N. R.

The Magistrate of
Coimbatore.

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Jailed 3000

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 is only a few paces from the Police Station.

General Report
 No 1860.

From

Chief Office of Insp. Genl of Police
 Madras, 8th November 1866

W. Robinson Esq.
 Inspector General of Police
 Madras.

To

J. D. Sim Esq.
 Secretary to Government
 Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to submit two
 letters from the Deputy Inspector General
 of Police, Western Range on the subject of
 Subsidiary Jails in Coimbatore and a
 report by the Assistant Superintendent of
 Police on the condition of the lock-up
 at Perandooray in the same District for
 such notice as the Government see fit.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir,

Your most obedient servant

 Captain

for Inspector General of Police

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1866

The House of Representatives

The Senate

The President

Dec 12

Dec 13

Dec 14

Dec 15

Dec 16

Dec 17

Dec 18

Dec 19

Dec 20

Dec 21

Dec 22

The House of Representatives

The Senate

The President

The House of Representatives

The Senate

The President

The House of Representatives

The Senate

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