

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT.

|          |                 |                          |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|
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| Dated    | 23. 11. 19-1866 |                          |

249-30

14/15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,*

*23rd November 1866.*

No. 249. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 5th November 1866, No. 98.

I have the honor to forward a report from the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, regarding the escape, on the 19th July last, of 21 Convicts, composing part of a working gang employed outside the Jail, two of whom were shot, and seventeen re-captured the same day. One of the two who succeeded in getting clear off was re-apprehended on the 19th August.

2. I also submit, for the favorable consideration of Government, the recommendations made by the Superintendent, with regard to the entire and partial remission of the sentences of ten Convicts, who performed good service at the time of the outbreak, as set forth in the report. A Nominal Roll of the Convicts in question, containing particulars, is also forwarded, herewith.

3. The recommendation for a reward of ten Rupees to the Warder Lingia Gounden was subsequently withdrawn by the Superintendent, but the other rewards, specified in paragraph 18 of the report, have been duly paid. I now request that Government will be pleased to sanction the disbursement of 100 Rupees, as a reward to the captors of the Convict Kakat Ramen Nair, who was retaken on the 19th August, and afterwards sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment, in addition to his original sentence. The eleven Convicts who were prosecuted for escape were also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for an additional period of two years each.

4. When I visited the Jail on the 7th July, I found that the Convicts from Calicut and Paulghat were supplied with rice, while all others were dieted according to the scale in force for the Jail, viz., No. 2, and I then expressed an opinion that the diet of all the prisoners should be assimilated to the authorized scale; but it was not my intention that any sudden change should have been made. Since that time, partly at the recommendation of the Medical Officer, and partly on the score of discipline, I found it expedient to authorize the issue, twice a week, of rice to all Convicts, without distinction. This course appeared to me preferable to a daily issue of rice to one set of prisoners, while the rest were fed on dry grain. The change has been beneficial, and the prisoners are reported as being healthy and contented.

From H. R. GRIMES, Esq., Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Coimbatore, 26th July 1866, No. 30.

With reference to my two letters, Nos. 28 and 29, dated 20th and 21st instant, informing you of the outbreak amongst a gang of Convicts on the 19th instant, I have now the honor to forward you the particulars, in detail, as far as I have been able to gather them.

2. On the morning of the 19th instant, the following gangs were sent out of the Central Jail to work :—

|                                                             |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Brick field gang, consisting of 100 Convicts and 2 Warders. |  |
| Road gang, No. 1, do. 50 „ and 1 Warder.                    |  |
| Do. „ 2, do. 50 „ and 1 „                                   |  |
| Water „ do. 50 „ and 1 „                                    |  |
| Jail Well, outside, do. 50 „ and 1 „                        |  |

3. At about 2-30 p.m., I received a report from Mr. Kerwick, the Jailer, that one of the Road gangs had over-powered the Police Escort, taking away their swords, and that about twenty-five of the gang had made their escape, of whom five were immediately re-captured. Upon my arrival at the Jail, I found that Road gang No. 2 had been brought in, numbering only thirty-one prisoners, out of fifty sent away in the morning. Five of the above number, who had been re-captured, were in the solitary cells; the remaining nineteen had effected their escape. The Jailer by this time had called

in the remaining gangs out at work, with the exception of the Brick field gang, which was too far away. The gangs were put to work inside the Jail, and their Police Escorts relieved, in order that they might go in pursuit of the fugitives.

4. Upon inquiring of the Warder Lingia Gounden, in charge of Road gang No. 2, as to the cause of this outbreak, he stated that he was not aware of what led to it. He was sent out that morning in charge of a Road gang, composed mostly of Calicut and Paulghat prisoners, with a Police Escort of six Constables. The prisoners, at the commencement, were very stubborn, and would not work. Upon attempting to take their names, they refused to give them; that a Maistry (Moorugan) checked them, and they threatened to beat him;—he took no more notice, but threatened to report them upon their return to Jail, as also did the Maistries. This went on until 12 o'clock, the time for the mid-day rest, when he and the Police marched the gang to a well on the road side, close to where they were working. The Convicts were seated under the trees, not in file. The Police were seated round the gang. The prisoners were quiet for about three quarters of an hour. At this time, the Head Warder, who was passing along the road, called out to him to give a cart, at 3 o'clock, to Warder Ramasawmy, who was working with a gang close by. To hear what the Head Warder had to say, he moved from his gang towards the road; before his return, the gang suddenly rose, rushed upon the Police, disarming some of them, and ran away. He cried out to them, not to run, and pursued. He saw a Maistry catch a Convict just before him; they struggled, the Convict knocking the Maistry down and escaping. He then went in pursuit for a mile or two across the fields, and saw the Police shoot at three prisoners, who fell, and were handed over to villagers. He then appears to have returned to Jail.

5. I consider this Warder was much to blame, for not marching his gang into Jail immediately he noticed they were discontented. Had he done so, in all probability the attempt to escape would have been quashed, as I should not have sent a gang to work outside the Jail whom I was aware was likely to give trouble.

6. After taking the Warder's statement, I questioned some of the Police Escort. Their statements only referred to how they were disarmed, and what they did, which I am sorry to say was very little, in defending themselves, or in re-capturing the runaways.

7. Before leaving the Jail on the evening of this day, nineteen out of twenty-one Convicts who had made their escape, were re-captured. Amongst this number two had been shot, reported to have been the ringleaders, named Koyamu and Mamu, and four wounded, viz. Alli Kutti, shot through the shoulders; Koyah, shot in the thigh—ball coming out below the knee cap—very severely wounded; and Chunda and Yendi, with wounds on their heads from sword cuts. The remainder had been bruised and scratched. Two effected their escape, and are at large still.

8. On Friday morning, an Inquest was held by the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Gordon, on the bodies of Koyamu and Mamu; but the evidence then taken did not throw any light on the cause of this outbreak, or who were the ringleaders.

9. Captain Drever was the first who obtained any information on this point. Upon his arrival here on the 20th, he went to the District Jail Hospital to see the wounded prisoners, and then learnt from two Calicut prisoners, who had not attempted to escape, having come into Hospital the day previous, that they were aware of the outbreak being intended some 10 days previous. They were asked to join in it by a Moplah named Ismail; they were much afraid of what was going to happen, and immediately warned the Maistries of their gang. The Maistries would not listen to them, and threatened to get them flogged. They gave the names of three Maistries whom they had told, viz. Veeren Rowtan, Mahomed Khaz, and Kather; a Moplah, all three belonging to the Paulghat gang of Convicts.

10. Upon hearing this from Captain Drever, I had the Maistries taken from their work, and sent down to the District Jail, where they were confined separately until the next morning, when Captain Drever and myself examined the two Calicut men, Choyee and Bapu, who had made the statement the day previous, in their presence. These two men, upon being questioned contradicted themselves so much, it was evident to us they were lying as to their statements that they had acquainted the Maistries with the intended outbreak. That they themselves knew it was evident, as one owned he had agreed to join in it, but went into Hospital, partly owing to sickness and partly to fear.

11. I am convinced the Maistries were ignorant. They are all of them sentenced to long terms, of which they have completed upwards of two-thirds. Their conduct in this Jail has been good. They work their gangs harder than any Maistries in the Jail; and I believe, for this reason only, the Calicut men brought the charge against them, in order, if possible, to get them punished.

12. Maistry Veeren Rowtan was with the gang at the time of the outbreak, and rendered great assistance by helping to re-capture some of the Convicts, and by preventing the remainder from escaping. The Police mention him as one of the most deserving for reward. After our examination of the Calicut prisoners in the District Jail, we returned to the Central Jail; and, upon walking down the Verandah of the Solitary Cells, where all those who had been re-captured were confined, I observed that one of them, named Koorappen, a Tean, wished to speak about the part he had taken in the outbreak. We questioned him, and found he was willing to state all he knew. He was promised a pardon upon condition he told the whole truth; I fully believe he has. He stated that, fifteen days ago, after his return from work at the Jail well, four Moplahs, named Koyamu, Uten, Uni, and Ismail, came to him, and said they had determined upon escaping; they would die if they remained here eating cholam; if they got away into Cochin territory, they would get rice. They asked him to join them, but he refused until the evening of the 18th, whilst at rice, when it was agreed that they should attempt their escape the next day. The signal for rising was to be when Koyamu and Koda tied their cumblies on their heads. On the morning of the 19th, whilst at work, Koda told him that the arrangements of last night would be carried out that day. When the gang arrived at the well, the rest place, Koda and Koyamu told him that the arms of the guard must be taken away, and then to run away for the Hills; that ten or fifteen others had agreed to go. During the time of rest one of the Police took his rice; after doing so, he (the Police Constable) called to Ismail, a Moplah, and asked him to come and read the palm of his hand. The Constable had taken off his sword, and laid it down near him. Whilst Ismail was reading the Constable's palm, the other prisoners rose and over-powered the Police, and Ismail got hold of the sword. This sword was taken away from Ismail by one Mayen, who ran away with it. Koyamu got hold of a sword, and Koda and Ittamen of a musket. Koyamu, Mamu, and Uten got over the wall; Koda followed with the musket. They then all followed. He, Koorappen, was re-captured just after getting over the wall, only a few paces from the well. This witness, Koorappen, then stated that Choyee, one of the men who had stated he had warned the Maistries, knew of the outbreak, and had agreed to join in it, but that he went into Hospital the day previous; he also stated that the Maistries did not know of it.

13. On Monday morning we took the prisoner Koorappen, and the Constables who composed the Escort, to the well, the scene of the outbreak. It is situated about a mile south of the Jail, between the Jail and the Town, on the side of the main road close to a village, and in rear of the Police Lines. Koorappen corroborated his statements made on Saturday, by placing the Police as they stood on the day of the outbreak, and by pointing out where he was re-captured, as also where some of the others were. His statement I fully believe to be true.

14. The whole cause of this outbreak, therefore, appears owing to the change of diet, from rice to cholam. Upon the arrival of this gang from Calicut, they were brought on the diet as laid down for this Jail. A few prisoners showing signs of Diarrhæa, they were put on rice diet by order of the Native Apothecary then in acting charge of the Jail. Upon Dr. Davis' taking over charge of the Jails again, he continued the rice diet to the Paulghat and Calicut prisoners, and upon his going on leave and giving over charge to the present Medical Officer, Dr. Hunt, he recommended that these prisoners should be kept on rice. This went on until your inspection of the Jail on the 6th and 7th instant, when you remarked upon these Convicts being allowed rice; I immediately brought it to the notice of Dr. Hunt, who put them on cholam principally, and occasionally raggy. Since that date, there has been dissatisfaction amongst the Calicut Convicts; at two Medical Inspections they complained, and especially at the last, which took place on the morning of the 17th instant. They were then told they must get accustomed to the diet allowed by the Government to prisoners in this Jail.

15. I believe this outbreak was simply one of attempt to escape. The Convicts had no intention of hurting the Police—merely to disarm them, and prevent them using their arms. Had there been a murderous intention, it might easily have been carried out, as the Convicts had all

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Monnies and Pickaxes; but these they did not use, nor did they hurt any of the Police in the scuffle, though one Constable stated that the Convicts threw him into the well. His statement was false; if he got into the well at all, he must have been in his eagerness to get clear of the Convicts.

16. From the statements made by the Police, the Convicts ran for some seven or eight miles from the Jail. It was through the exertions of five of the Police, whom I here name, viz. —

Scevasingh, Head Constable,  
Nursenuloo, do.  
Rameniah, Constable.  
Cooposavany, do.  
Abdullah Sahib, do.

that so many of the prisoners were re-captured so shortly; and though it is to be regretted that they fired on the Convicts, if they had not done so, probably, more would have made their escape.

17. I particularly wish to bring to your notice the names of the following Convicts, who gave great assistance in re-capturing the fugitives, and trust that you will be pleased to reward them by commuting their sentences.

i. — Veeren Rowtan, Paulghat Maistry, in charge of the gang at the time of the outbreak, captured by himself, Pookamu, a Moplah, and assisted in the capture of four others. This man has been sentenced for ten years; he has completed eight years. I recommend him for immediate release.

ii. — Veeren Valayen, Acting Maistry, also a Paulghat Prisoner, aided in capturing five men, one of whom, Um, a Moplah, acknowledged to being captured by him. This man has been sentenced to fourteen years, of which he has completed nine. Recommended that two years be taken off his sentence.

iii. — Chetembra Moodelliar, Acting Maistry, aided in catching Ismail and four others. He is sentenced to 16 years, of which he has completed 13 years and one month. Recommended for release upon completing fourteen years.

iv. — Moorogeen, Acting Maistry, captured Uten, a Moplah. This man has been sentenced to ten years, of which he has only to complete eleven months. Recommend him for immediate release.

v. — Kason caught two himself. Sentenced to eight years, of which he has only ten months to complete. Recommended for immediate release.

vi. — Achutha Nair caught Ismail and Koorappen, one Moplah, and one Tean. This man has been only recently sentenced for five years, of which he has completed nine months. Though he saw many of his country-men running away, he did not attempt to follow them. He did not come from Calicut with the other prisoners, but was sentenced by the Session Judge at Coimbatore for perjury. I recommend that his sentence be commuted to 3½ years.

vii. — Nunjen, caught one, and assisted in catching four others. Sentenced to 10 years, of which he has completed eight. Recommended to be released.

viii. — Palani aided in capturing four. Sentenced to 18 months, of which he has completed seven months. Recommended for release upon completing 12 months.

ix. — Vallee aided in capturing some, provided rope from the Bazaar to tie them with. Sentenced to 10 years, of which he has completed 8½ years. Recommended for release upon completing nine years.

x. — Cooppan assisted in capturing Ismail and three others. Sentenced for 10 years, of which he has completed nearly 8 years. Recommended that his sentence be commuted to one year.

18. I would also recommend that Head Warders Manuel and Lingia Gounden be rewarded with Rupees 10 each. They went in pursuit, and caught three, viz., Cunjaalee, Koda, and Govinden Nair.

I also recommend that Cunjapper, a Cart Contractor, who aided in capturing Alli Kutti, and also took a sword from a Convict, be rewarded with Rupees 25. He is about the only villager who did really any service.

19. I believe that Captain Drever intends prosecuting eleven of the Prisoners for attempting their escape. The first five captured, who did not go very far, he leaves me to deal with. I shall punish them accordingly, as also the two men, Choyee and Bapu, who knew of the intended outbreak, and did not inform either Maistries or Warders.

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Names of Convicts in the Central Jail, Coimbatore, with crimes and sentences, recommended for remission of punishment, for aiding the authorities in the recapture of seventeen Convicts on the 19th July 1866.

| Number of the case on Calendar.               | Names of Convicts.                                        | Crime.                                          | Sentence.                                         | Date of sentence.                 | Date of release. | Why recommended.                                                      | Recommendation of the Superintendent of the Central Jail. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| No. 20 of 1858.                               | No. 156, Meerana Rowtan, alias Veeren Rowtan.             | Plunder.                                        | Ten years' imprisonment with hard labor in irons. | 26th June 1858.                   | 26th June 1868.  | Capturing Pookamu, a Moplah, and assisting in capture of four others. | Recommended for immediate release.                        |
| No. 16 of 1857.                               | No. 145, Viran, son of Valayuthan, alias Veeren Vallayen. | Gang robbery and severe wounding.               | Fourteen years' do.                               | 12th May 1857.                    | 12th May 1871.   | Capturing Um, a Moplah, and assisting in capturing four others.       | Two years to be taken off his sentence.                   |
| No. 3 of 1853 and No. 16 of 1855.             | No. 135, Chetembra Moodelliar.                            | Robbery by open violence, assault and wounding. | Sixteen years' do.                                | 30th May 1853, and 1st June 1855. | 30th May 1869.   | Aided in capture of Ismail and four others.                           | To be released upon completing 14 years.                  |
| No. 18 of 1857.                               | No. 146, Muragon, alias Mooragen.                         | Gang robbery by open violence.                  | Ten years' do.                                    | 4th June 1857.                    | 4th June 1867.   | Captured Uten, a Moplah.                                              | For immediate release.                                    |
| No. 17 of 1859, and Criminal No. 103 of 1859. | No. 163, China Kason.                                     | Highway robbery and escapement.                 | Eight years' do.                                  | 20th April 1859.                  | 20th April 1867. | Capturing two men by himself.                                         | Do.                                                       |
| No. 116 of 1865.                              | No. 83, Achutha Nair.                                     | False evidence.                                 | Five years' rigorous imprisonment.                | 10th Oct. 1865.                   | 10th Oct. 1870.  | Capturing Ismail, a Moplah, and Koorappen, a Tean.                    | Eighteen months to be taken off his sentence.             |
| No. 20 of 1858.                               | No. 157, Shottay, alias Nunjen.                           | Plunder.                                        | Ten years' imprisonment with hard labor in irons. | 26th June 1858.                   | 26th June 1868.  | Capturing one, and aiding in capture of four others.                  | For immediate release.                                    |
| No. 63 of 1865.                               | No. 192, Vellachetti Palani.                              | Theft.                                          | Eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment.           | 17th Nov. 1865.                   | 17th May 1867.   | Aiding in capture of four prisoners.                                  | For release upon completing twelve months.                |
| No. 3 of 1858.                                | No. 152, Vallee.                                          | Highway robbery.                                | Ten years' imprisonment with hard labor in irons. | 18th Jan. 1858.                   | 18th Jan. 1868.  | Aiding in capture generally.                                          | For release upon completing nine years.                   |
| No. 31 of 1858.                               | No. 159, Kuppen, alias Cooppan.                           | Plunder.                                        | Ten years' do.                                    | 10th Sept. 1858.                  | 10th Sept. 1868. | Assisting in capture of Ismail and three others.                      | Do.                                                       |

COIMBATORE, CENTRAL JAIL OFFICE,  
30th July 1866.  
(Signed) H. R. GRIMES,  
Superintendent Central Jail.

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23rd November 1866.

From H. B. GRIMES, Esq., Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, to the Inspector General of Jails, dated Coimbatore, 26th July 1866, No. 32.

I have the honor to request that you will sanction a reward of Rupees 100, for the apprehension of each of the Convicts marginally named, who made their escape on the afternoon of the 19th instant.

Kapalingat Usakoz,  
Kakat Ramen Saib.

2. I am requested by Captain Dreyer, Deputy Inspector General of Police, to state that he strongly urges the above sum should be offered for the apprehension of the within named Convicts.

From H. B. GRIMES, Esq., Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, to the Inspector General of Jails, dated Coimbatore, 1st August 1866, No. 33.

In reply to your letter, No. 450, dated 30th ultimo, I have the honor to state that the reasons why a large reward should be offered for the Convicts who escaped on the 19th July 1866 are—

1st. The two prisoners were concerned in a grave offence, viz., assisting to overpower the Police Escort, and taking their Arms from them.

2nd. The District to which the prisoners belong is one in which I am informed that a small sum will not induce others to recapture them.

3rd. The Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, acting for the Collector, sanctioned the reward for Rupees 100. Upon learning that the Collector had not authority to do so, but that your sanction was required, he withdrew his sanction.

2. The Police, however, have not withdrawn the notices, pending your sanction, and were they to do so now, it would have a bad effect.

No. 250. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1866, No. 1860.

The foregoing papers relate to an outbreak which occurred on the 19th of July last, among a working party of Convicts belonging to the Coimbatore Central Jail. Out of 50 Convicts composing the gang, 21 escaped; seventeen of these were re-captured by the Police on the same day, one on the 19th of August last, two were shot dead, and one seems to be still at large. The cause of the outbreak appears to have been a change of diet from rice to cholam.

2. The Superintendent of the Jail recommends a remission or mitigation of punishments in the case of certain prisoners who behaved well on the occasion of the disturbance, by taking part in re-capturing the fugitives. He proposes the immediate release of some, and the reduction of the unexpired terms of imprisonment in the case of others. The Governor in Council is pleased to accede to this recommendation, to the extent noted below:—

- |                                                              |                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. No. 156, Meerana Rowtan, alias Veeren Rowtan.             | } To be released on receipt of this Order.                             |
| 2. No. 146, Muragon, alias Mooragen.                         |                                                                        |
| 3. No. 163, China Kason.                                     |                                                                        |
| 4. No. 145, Viran, son of Valayuthan, alias Veeren Vallayen. | } The terms of imprisonment in these cases to be reduced by two years. |
| 5. No. 135, Chetembra Moodelly.                              |                                                                        |
| 6. No. 83, Achutha Nair.                                     | } The terms of imprisonment in these cases to be reduced by one year.  |
| 7. No. 157, Shottay, alias Nunjen.                           |                                                                        |
| 8. No. 152, Vallee.                                          |                                                                        |
| 9. No. 159, Kuppen, alias Cooppan.                           |                                                                        |
| 10. No. 192, Vellachetti Palani.                             | } The term of imprisonment in this case to be reduced by six months.   |

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3. The Government are also pleased to sanction the payment of a reward of 100 Rupees to the captors of the Convict Kakat Ramen, who was retaken on the 19th August last.

4. It appears from paragraph 4 of Mr. Grimes' report that the gang in which the outbreak in question occurred was composed mostly of prisoners from Calicut and Paulghat. This is objectionable. Care should always be taken, in forming working gangs for out-door labor, to prevent a preponderance of prisoners of any one caste or District, by securing a due admixture of men from different parts of the country.

5. The mixed diet to which Lieutenant Colonel Wilson adverts, at the conclusion of his letter, as having contributed to the health and contentment of the prisoners, should be maintained.

6. The Government must notice the great delay which the Inspector General of Jails has allowed to occur in bringing this matter before Government. Mr. Grimes' letter is dated so far back as the 26th of July last, and it was not forwarded to Government till the 5th instant, although it contained recommendations involving the immediate release of certain prisoners who had done good service.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails, with two enclosures returned.

„ Inspector General of Police.

„ Accountant General.

Exd J. H. Burns.

No 98

15

From  
Lieut: Col: W. J. Wilson  
Inspector General of jails

To  
The Honble: A. J. Arbuthnot  
Chief Secretary to Government  
Fort Saint George.

Sir,  
I have the honor to forward a  
Report from the Superintendent of the  
Central Jail Comptroller regarding the  
Escape on the 19<sup>th</sup> July last of 21 Convicts  
Comprising part of a working Gang  
employed outside the Jail, two of  
whom were shot, and 17 recaptured  
the same day - One of the two who  
succeeded in getting clear off was  
reapprehended on the 19<sup>th</sup> August -  
2 I also submit for the favorable  
Consideration of Government the  
recommendations

recommendations made by the  
Superintendent with regard to the  
entire or partial remission of the pen-  
-tences of ten Convicts who performed  
good service at the time of the outbreak  
as set forth in the Report - A nomi-  
-nal Roll of the Convicts in question  
containing particulars is also forwarded  
herewith -

3 The recommendation for a  
remission of ten Rupees to the Warder  
Singra Gaudan was subsequently with-  
-drawn by the Superintendent, but the  
other remarks specified in para 18 of  
the Report have been duly paid -  
I now request that Government will  
be pleased to sanction the disbursement  
of 100 Rupees as a reward to the Captains  
of the Convict Kakat Ramen Nair who  
was retaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, and  
afterwards

afterwards sentenced to two years rigorous<sup>2</sup>  
imprisonment in addition to his original  
sentence - The eleven Convicts who were  
prosecuted for escape were also sentenced  
to rigorous imprisonment for an ad-  
-ditional period of two years each -

4 When I visited the Jail on the  
7<sup>th</sup> July I found that the Convicts from  
Calicut and Panchant were supplied  
with rice while all others were dieted  
according to the scale in force for the  
Jail viz No 2, and I then expressed an  
opinion that the diet of all the Prisoners  
should be assimilated to the authorised  
scale; but it was not my intention that  
any sudden change should have been  
made - Since that time partly at the  
recommendation of the Medical Officer  
and partly on the score of discipline  
I found it expedient to authorise the  
issue, twice a week of Rice to all  
Convicts

Cornicks without distinction - This  
 Course appeared to me preferable to a daily  
 issue of Rice to one set of Prisoners while  
 the rest were fed on dry grain - The <sup>then</sup> <sup>present</sup> <sup>change</sup>  
 change has been beneficial, and the <sup>prisoners</sup>  
 Prisoners are reported as being healthy  
 and contented -

I have the honor to be  
 Sir

Your most Obedt. Servt  
 W. M. D.

Asst. Secy. of State

Col. Macmillan  
 5<sup>th</sup> November 1866

in connection with a few modifi-  
 cations which I have noted on the  
 margin of Mr. Palmer's letter.

I have initiated the proposals of Mr.  
 Col. Macmillan as they appear in the margin of  
 Mr. Palmer's letter of date the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. last.

The effect of rewards to Courts on  
 account of their kind, is to create dissension  
 among the Courts; whether the attempt at  
 rescue was brought about - to secure rewards  
 holding back or actually a recapture, - or  
 whether it was a real attempt to break  
 out - the present case seems a bona  
 fide one -

Coimbatore & the Malabar district  
 Courts should be united up with Palghat  
 & Malabar Coast men. Mr. Palmer says  
 para 3) that the brief was broken away was  
 "mostly composed" of the two latter chapters -  
 I would note this.

I would also note the long delay of  
 Mr. Macmillan in bringing the matter before  
 the Govt. Mr. Palmer's letter to Col. Wilson  
 of the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. is sub. to Govt. & Col. Wilson  
 with a copy of date the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. following  
 and yet Mr. Palmer's recommendations are  
 not the Govt. are now acting without the  
 immediate release of certain prisoners  
 who had done good service

15-11-66

that so many of the Prisoners were recapt.  
-ured so shortly and though it is to be  
regretted that they fired on the Convicts  
if they had not done so probably more  
would have made their escape

17. I particularly wish to bring to your notice  
the names of the following Convicts who gave  
great assistance in recapturing the fugitives  
and trust that you will be pleased to reward  
them by commutating their sentences

1. Teeren Routin, Palghat Maistry in charge  
of the gang at the time of the outbreak captured  
by.

The water level: of Paris

Label 5  
Spec: 2 Nov. 1861.

W. H. L. and  
J. H. L. and  
J. H. L. and

can we do what we look

place on the 19<sup>th</sup> July

I am aware that Harrison  
has his complaints with ap-  
pendicitis, but he is not the

and beads, that they may have  
 benefit of medicine. 11:11

From and mid 6 second 2007

by himself. Pookanna a Moplah and Affist:  
aid in the capture of four. This man  
has been sentenced for ten years he has  
completed eight years. I recommend  
him for immediate release. *Wor*

2. Teeren Valliyan Aiding Mualty  
also a Palghat Prisoner aided in cap-  
turing five men one of whom was a  
Moplah acknowledged to being captured  
by him. This man has been sentenced to  
fourteen years of which he has com-  
pleted nine. Recommend that two *Wor*  
years be taken off his sentence.

3. Chetumra Moodliar Aiding Mualty  
aided in capturing Semail and four  
others. he is sentenced to 16 years of which  
he has completed 13 years and one month  
recommended for release upon complet-  
ing fourteen years. *Wor*

4. Moorugen Aiding Mualty captured  
seven a Moplah. This man has been  
sentenced to 10 years of which he has only  
6 complete 11 months. recommend him for  
immediate release. *Wor*

5. Kadam Caught two himself, sentenced  
to 8 years of which he has only 10 months  
to complete recommended for immediate  
release. *Wor*

6. Mchukan Nair Caught Semail and  
Koorappen, one Moplah & one Sear. This  
man has been only recently sentenced for  
five

five years of which he has completed 9  
months. though he saw many of his country  
men running away he did not attempt to  
follow them. he did not come from Cal-  
cut with the other prisoners. but was senten-  
ced by the session Judge at Coimbatore  
for perjury. I recommend that his sentence  
be commuted 18 months. *Wor* 3 1/2 years.

7. Munger, Caught one and a pistol in Calcutta,  
aiding four others, sentenced to 10 years of which  
he has completed 8 recommended to be released  
8. Palany aided in capturing four. Senten-  
ced to 18 months of which he has completed  
7 months, recommended for release upon  
completing 12 months. *Wor*

9. Tullee aided in capturing some provisions  
rope from the Bagiar to tie them with,  
sentenced to 10 years of which he has com-  
pleted 8 1/2 years recommended for release  
upon completing 9 years. *Wor*

10. Croppen a pistol in capturing Semail  
and 3 others sentenced for 10 years of which  
he has completed nearly 8 years. recommend  
that his sentence be commuted one year. *Wor*

11. I would also recommend that Head  
Gardens Manuel & Linga Gounder be  
rewarded with Rs 10 each. they went  
in pursuit and caught three Vign Curpi-  
slee Koda & Gounder Nair.

I also recommend that Curpappen a  
Cart Contractor who aided in capturing  
Alli Futti

and also took a sword from a convict  
he rewarded with Rs 25. he is about  
the only villager who did really any  
service.

19. I believe that Captain Dreuer intends  
prosecuting eleven of the Prisoners for  
attempting their escape the first  
five captured who did not go very  
far he leaves me to deal with. I shall  
punish them accordingly as also the  
two men, Choyee and Bapu who  
knew of the intended out break and  
did not inform either Prisoners  
or Warders.

I have the honor to be

Sir  
Your most Obedient Servant

Henry Spence  
Superintendent of the Central Jail

Criminal Court -  
C. Jail Office -  
26<sup>th</sup> July 1866 -

13  
10  
Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter  
from the Inspector General  
of Jails.  
(Here enter 5<sup>th</sup> November 1866)

Order thereon 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1866.

The foregoing papers  
relate to an outbreak which  
occurred on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July  
last among a working party  
of convicts belonging to the  
Criminal Central Jail.  
Out of 50 convicts composing  
the gang, 21 escaped - 17 of  
these were recaptured by  
the Police on the same day,  
one on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August  
last, two were shot dead,  
and one seems to be still  
at

W.D.

W.D.

at large. The cause of the outbreak appears to have been a change of diet from rice to Cholum.

2. The Superintendent of the Jail recommends a remission or mitigation of punishments in the case of certain Prisoners who behaved well on the occasion of the disturbance by taking part in recapturing the fugitives. He proposes the immediate release of some, and the reduction of the unexpired terms of imprisonment in the case of others. The Governor in Council is pleased to accede to the recommendation to the extent noted below.

1. A. 156 Merrama rowtan  
alias  
Verren Rowtan
2. A. 146 Muragon  
alias  
Moosagen
3. A. 163 China Kason

To be released on receipt of the order.

4. A. 145 Viran son of  
Valayathan alias  
Verren Valayen.
5. A. 135 Chetembra hoodly

The terms of imprisonment in these cases to be reduced by two years.

- A. 83 Achutha Kair
- A. 157 Shottay alias  
Kunjen
- A. 152 Valler
- A. 159 Koppern alias  
Cooppern

The terms of imprisonment in these cases to be reduced by one year.

- A. 192 Vellachetti  
Palani

The term of imprisonment in this case to be reduced by six months.

3. The Government are also pleased to sanction the payment of a reward of 100 Rupees to the captors of the convict Katal Ramin who

who was retaken on the  
19<sup>th</sup> August last.

4. It appears from  
para 4 of Mr. Grimes'  
report that the gang in  
which the outbreak in  
question occurred was  
composed mostly of  
prisoners from Calcutta  
and Palghat. This is  
objectionable. Care should  
always be taken in form-  
ing working gangs for  
outdoor labor to prevent  
a preponderance of prisoners  
of any one caste or District,  
by securing a due ad-  
mixture of men from  
different parts of the  
Country.

5. The mixed diet  
to which Lieutenant Colonel  
Wilson adverts at the conclusion  
of

12/15  
of his letter as having  
contributed to the health  
and contentment of the  
prisoners should be  
maintained.

6. The Government  
must notice the great  
delay which the Inspector-  
General of Jails has  
allowed to occur in  
bringing this matter  
before Government.  
Mr. Grimes' letter is  
dated so far back as  
the 26<sup>th</sup> of July last,  
and it was not forward-  
ed to Government  
till the 5<sup>th</sup> instant,  
although it contained  
recommendations in-  
volving the immediate  
release.

release of certain prisoners  
who had done good  
Service

L.D.L.

ER

Sept 29/11 { The Insp General of Sails  
                  { Insp. Genl. of Police.  
                  { Asst General

27 20 54

*Lucia 1866. Department.*

No. 1866.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

*29*  
Date 23 November 1866

*James*

449.250

PYCS NO. 4206, G. M.-194-66-500.

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