M.R.O. 1—59,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 257 Press Mis.

173-175

Dated 21 - 2 - 19 1876

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 21st February 1866.

Read the following papers :—

No. 173. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 31st January 1866, No. 731.

I regret being again compelled to bring to your notice, and that of the Government, the enormous mortalityof the Calicut Jail. On an average of 407 prisoners, 191 died during last year, 48 of the deaths being from cholera; indeed, if the prisoners at Poodiangady Subsidary Jail are deducted, the mortality amounts to above 50 per cent. per annum. It is all very well to say the number in Jail must not exceed 200, but what is to be done with the rest I know not. It is not, I believe, over-crowding, however, that causes the mortality at Calicut, but the Jail is badly located, and, as I said 10 years ago, "it is "undesirable to retain this Jail as a place "of confinement for prisoners on long sen- "tences, as it has hitherto proved ex- "ceedingly liable to annual visitations of "epidemics in a very virulent form." This I wrote when the annual average mortality was 9½ per cent.; 18 per cent. has been the rate of mortality since that.

O. G., 16th December 1863, No. 1957.

Calicut.	Average Strength.	Per centage of Deaths.	
1855-56	342	10·8	From 60 to 80 and more are not confined to the Jail, but are in the Hospital or Subsidiary Jail.
1856-57	307	13·3	
1857-58	312	7·05	
1858-59	388	6·7	
1859-60	383	38·4	
1860 61	358	7·5	
1831-62	405	24·4	
1862-63	420	34·7	
1863-64	349	22·9	
1864-65	373	15·2	

2 At Vizagapatam the prisoners have for four years been in tents, or in a standing camp. I would urge the same course at Calicut, and that the present Jail be sold. I should not at all be surprized at its fetching 30,000 or 40,000 Rupees, it being admirably suited to business.

No. 175. Telegram from the Chief Secretary to Goverment, Fort Saint George, to the Superintendent of the Jail, Calicut; dated 6th February 1866.

What is the present state of health of prisoners in the Jail.

No. 175. Telegram from the Superintendent of the Jail, Calicut, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 7th February 1866.

Health of the prisoners unusually bad at present. Average strength, during January, three hundred and ninety-four. Mortality twenty-one.

No. 176. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 15th February 1866, No. 781.

In acknowledging your telegram of the 13th instant, I have the honor to state that I have made arrangements which will allow of Major Farewell's continuing a gang of prisoners at the 2 mile stone on his new road, besides the gang at Pykara. I shall thus be able to distribute 50 prisoners from Coimbatore to the Zillah Jail, Lawrence Asylum, and road gangs, drawing short term men from the two former for the gang at the 2 mile stone, while that gang of hardened workmen will, as sanctioned, be sent to Pykara.

2. There are thus 349 prisoners only remaining at Coimbatore.

3. I do not like occupying a brick in *chunam* building, even at this season, immediately on its completion; but I think with precautions this may be done.

4. There are five blocks of 32 cells, each, finished at Coimbatore Central Jail. Each cell may hold four convicts, (indeed for my part I had rather overcrowd a new lime built building). The Government have thus $5 \times 32 \times 4 = 640$ berths.

5. There are now 419 prisoners at Calicut, and 82 at Paulghat. I would remand, say, 60 of the Paulghat (Salem and Coimbatore convictions) prisoners to Coimbatore, including all inland men, and would transfer an equal number of Malabar inland men, of short term unexpired, to Paulghat This would leave about 360 at Calicut; 50 of these will be in the Subsidiary Jail, leaving 310 in the Calicut District Jail. Of these I would desire Dr. Pearse to select 150, who he thinks can best adapt themselves to the change, for transfer to Coimbatore.

6. The transfer of West Coast men to the dry climate of Coimbatore has been repeatedly deprecated, but I have watched the cases of transfer of these men, and, I must say, I think it is not so much change of climate as expatriation that induces the pining to which they succumb.

7. The State prisoners were certainly as healthy at Guntoor as on the East Coast, and I can hardly imagine a greater contrast in climates than in those of Guntoor and Calicut. At Tinnevelly, a large gang of Tellicherry prisoners were dying off when the survivors were returned. I have great hope of intramural labor lessening this mortality among transferred prisoners,—indeed, among all classes, as I have repeatedly stated; and I think that the Coimbatore Central Prison may, therefore, be used experimentally for Calicut prisoners.

8. I would have planks, with three inch battens under them, for the prisoners to sleep on, and put a bamboo mat against the newly built wall, making the men sleep near the four corners.

9. If planks are not supplied, the floor should be well coal tarred.

No. 177.

ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1866, No. 251.

The Governor in Council directs that Lieutenant Colonel Wilson will take steps for relieving the Jail at Calicut, with as little delay as possible, by transferring prisoners to the Central Jail at Coimbatore.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Read letter from the Insp. Genl of Jails - 31 January 1866.
" Telegram to Inspr of the Calicut Jail - 5 Feby
" do — from — do — 7 "

21st February 1866 No. 251.

The Governor in Council directs that Lieutenant Colonel Wilson will take steps for relieving the Jail at Calicut with as little delay as possible by transferring prisoners to the Central Jail at Coimbatore

The Insp. Genl of Jails. despd 22/2