

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Admin DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	766	Press ~~Mis.~~
193-194		
Dated	18-5.	191866

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
18th May 1866.*

No. 193. Read the following letter from the Acting Magistrate of Kurnool, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Kurnool, 26th April 1866, No. 11.

I have the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of Government,* dated 29th ultimo, on the subject of Subsidiary Jails, to request that you will submit the following remarks for the consideration

* Order, No. 479.

of His Excellency in Council. I will not enlarge here upon the scandal which these places of detention are to our administration; the Government have already had an inkling of what they are like, and I am certain that when the reports called for have been received, any idea which may have been formed regarding the abominable nature of these so-called Jails will be far surpassed by the reality. In support of what I say, I beg to enclose an extract from a letter, this day received, from the Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of the District.

2. In paragraph 14 of the Proceedings quoted above, it is admitted that the wants of the several Districts in this respect cannot be met at once, or in any limited time, and to meet extreme cases Magistrates are authorized, in paragraph 14, "to rent suitable houses near the Sub-Magistrates' Cutcherries, until lock-ups fit for use can be provided." This is very well so far as it goes, but it often happens that there are no houses to rent, and if any are available, that they are totally unfit for the detention of prisoners. This is precisely the state of the case with reference to the Peapally Jail, reported on by the Assistant Superintendent of Police, and, from what I hear, I fear that this den is only a type of most of the lock-ups in the District. With evils of such magnitude to contend with, and with only a remote prospect of having a full and final remedy applied to them, I ask the Government to give the Magistracy a wider discretion, and to authorize them to do the best they can to provide a temporary remedy for a state of things which reflects on our civilization. A few Rupees expended in knocking out a ventilator here and there, or substituting iron railings for stone walls, would often meet the urgent requirements of any particular case. It would be a simple matter of make-shift; but, if done quickly, the money would be well laid out, and the lives and health of prisoners would not be endangered, pending the construction of permanent and suitable lock-ups.

3. The report called for by Government shall be submitted as early as practicable, but at present I have only one Covenanted Assistant, and he is in charge of the Jail during the absence on leave of the Zillah Surgeon. Having but recently assumed charge of the District myself, I have a good deal to make myself acquainted with, and this can only be done conveniently at head quarters, or I would have taken a tour through the District myself, for the purpose of inspecting and reporting on the Subsidiary Jails.

4. Trusting that the suggestion I have thrown out may have the favorable consideration of the Government, I have, &c.

EXTRACT of a letter from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Kurnool; dated 25th April 1866, No. 663.

3. The Subsidiary Jail at Peapally is as thoroughly bad in construction as such a place could possibly be made. The Police there occupy one of the old Taluq Cutcherries situated in the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
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heart of the Town. It is built in the usual manner with a high wall towards the street, the only opening in which is a wooden door generally kept closed. The other three sides of the enclosure are of the usual deep verandah style of building. In the remote angles, totally shut out from light or fresh air, two walled black holes have been constructed, of the dimensions of 12x12 by 7 in height. The only openings are the door, about feet 5x2, constructed of wide wooden bars with but a very small space between each, and two small windows, about 2 feet square, also closed with wooden bars; a window in the rear, which was originally intended to give some little ventilation, has been plastered up. The place was so dark that I was unable, at 5 p.m., to see whether there were any persons inside it or not. On turning out the prisoners, I found six—four tried and two not tried. The smell was most offensive. I am told that when the Deputy Collector is at Peapally, as many as 30 prisoners have been confined in these two places at one time. The only reason that I have for doubting this statement is that I could hardly imagine so many persons being shut up in such a place without pestilence breaking out among them. You will perceive that there are only 1000 cubic feet of air in these places; and from their position in the remote angles of a square court, I should be inclined to think that there was no pure air at all. The Policemen who guard complain that they cannot see what the prisoners are about without the aid of a dark lantern, which will give some idea of what these places are like. I consider they are not fit for the custody of a human being for one day, much more are they unfitted for the confinement of prisoners under sentence. Trusting that you will take this matter into consideration, I have, &c.

No. 194. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1866, No. 766.

The Governor in Council approves of the suggestion made in the foregoing letter by the Acting Magistrate of Kurnool, that, where suitable houses are not available for use as Subsidiary Jails, and where it may be possible to render the existing buildings habitable by slight alterations and improvements, of the nature of those described in paragraph 2, such alterations and improvements shall be carried out by the Magistrates, in communication with the Executive Engineer of the Range, and with the Superintendent of Police, and without reference to Government, provided that the charge incurred, in each case, shall not exceed Rupees 200.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of
" Public Works Department.
" Inspector General of Police.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letter
from the Sp. Magistrate of
Kurnool.*

(Here entered April 16th 4:11)

Order thereon 18 May 1866 No. 766.

*The Governor in
Council approves of the sugges-
-tion made in the foregoing
letter by the Sp. Magistrate
of Kurnool that where suit-
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not exceed Rs 200.

To the Magistrate of
P. W. Deptt -
23/5

Chudicra 1800. Department.

No. 700.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

*Off 2048-
" 928/67. 1502
Dated 18-11-1924. 1596
1403/68.*

193-194.