

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1028	Press <u>Mis</u>
<i>267-288</i> Dated 27-6-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th June 1867.

Read the following :—

No. 267. From the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, to E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, dated 10th May 1867, No. 146C.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward, for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, copies of letters as per margin, forwarded to this office by the Superintendent of Port Blair, reporting on the

From Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair, to the Superintendent, Port Blair, No. 741, dated 11th March 1867.
From the Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair, to the Superintendent, Port Blair, No. 207, dated 14th March 1867.

health of convicts who arrived at Port Blair on the 9th of March last by the Ship *Clara* from Madras.

2. It is recommended by Colonel Ford that, for the future, all convicts sent from Madras be inspected by a Medical Officer before being sent on board, and that certificates regarding their state of health on embarkation be invariably sent with them.

3. The convicts above mentioned appear to have had nothing in which to receive their food, but the deck of the vessel or a portion of their clothing, and it is recommended by Colonel Ford that, in future, *kurries* (tin dishes) be supplied to all convicts sent from Madras to Port Blair.

From Assistant Surgeon A. GAMACH, A. M., M. D., Officiating Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair, to Lieutenant-Colonel B. FORD, Superintendent of Port Blair, dated 11th March 1867, No. 741.

I have the honor to report that I have inspected the batch of 214 male and five female prisoners received from Madras by the Ship *Clara*, and that I consider all healthy and fit for hard labor, with the exceptions to be noted hereafter.

Some of them made complaints concerning the food issued to them on board the *Clara*, but whether with any just cause or not I am unable to ascertain, so would suggest that inquiry be made as to what was really allowed them; and whether in the same proportions as to convicts coming from Bombay. One circumstance I noticed was that the men had no utensil, except a tin pot for holding water, so that their cooked food must have been served out to them on the ship's deck, or they must have received it in part of their clothing.

On arrival 12 men were sent to Hospital, one of them suffering from phthisis (consumption), and the Apothecary who came over in the vessel informed me that six reported sick as soon as they came on board. Whether any medical inspection of the convicts was made in Madras immediately prior to their embarkation I cannot discover, but am inclined to think not; and, as none but healthy prisoners should be despatched, I would suggest that, in future, before being sent on board, each may be inspected by a Medical Officer, and his certificate regarding their state of health on embarkation be sent along with them.

The following men are considered unfit for hard labor, being old and infirm or asthenic, and sickly, and are accordingly recommended to be placed in the invalid gang for light work only :—

Koondadoo, son of Koondanaidoo.
Marigadoo, son of Mariakab.
Perriga Guinday, son of Chinnaraja Guinday.
Moothen, son of Coongan.
Woolaki, son of Gooindappa.
Allaga Guinday, son of Marapa Goonday.
Moiden Khan, son of Rustum Khan.
Marigadoo, son of Nagadoo.
Yenketegadoo, son of Thimmana.
Nealapah, son of Katarappah.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th June 1867.

Five of the above named have been received into the Ross Island Hospital for treatment; and it is recommended that, on being discharged, they may be transferred to Viper Island, where the majority of the invalids are located.

From Captain the Honorable J. H. FRASER, Assistant Superintendent of Port Blair, to Lieutenant Colonel B. FORD, Superintendent of Port Blair; dated 14th March 1867, No. 207.

I have the honor to report that, on Saturday the 9th instant, the Ship *Clara* arrived at this Settlement with 219 convicts on board, of which five were females. I inspected the wards whilst the convicts were sitting in them, and found them in a very cleanly state; and being well ventilated, there was little or no offensive smell about them. The convicts had no complaints to make, as far as I could learn from inquiries made of them, both on board the ship and on a parade held specially for the purpose of inquiry.

There were two tin-lined cooking boxes for the convicts, separate from those for the troops; and the latrine arrangements appeared to have been properly managed.

The measurements are as follows:—

After main deck for troops.—Length 61 feet × breadth 30 feet × height 7 feet.

Main deck for male convicts.—Length 49½ feet × breadth 32 feet × height 7 feet; from which deduct, for main hatch, length 10 feet 9 inches × breadth nine feet × height 7 feet.

For female convicts.—Length 10 feet 1 inch × breadth 9 feet, height 7 feet.

Forward deck for male convicts.—Length 37 feet 6 inches × breadth 30 feet × height 7 feet 4 inches × breadth 7 feet × height 7 feet.

The only arrangement that I observed to be irregular was that space boarded off for the women had to be entered by passing through the male convicts in the main deck, whereas I believe it is expected that the female convicts' space should have no communication with the male convicts' space. From inquiries made, it appears that no kurries were supplied for the use of the convicts, and they received their food in the tinpot supplied to each man. I cannot ascertain that any were put on board sick. The 1st Officer, who was, he says, present at the time of their coming on board, stating that they all appeared to walk on board strongly, and without signs of weakness in any of them. There was no medical inspection on board, but before they were sent off the Captain believes a medical inspection was held.

In conclusion, I have the honor to report that all care appears to have been taken for the due comfort and health of the convicts.

No. 1113.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George, with a recommendation that the proposals of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, as expressed in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of his letter, may be carried out.

(By Order).

(Signed) A. H. HARRINGTON,

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.,

HOME DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA, 7th June 1867.

No. 268.

ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1867, No. 1028.

Resolved that the foregoing correspondence be communicated to the Inspector General, Medical Department, Superintendent of Marine, Inspector General of Jails, Superintendent of Jails, Madras.

2. The Inspector General, Medical Department, will arrange for the inspection in future, by a Medical Officer, of all convicts proposed to be embarked for Port Blair, and for certificates of health being invariably sent with them.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th June 1867.

3. The Superintendent of Jails at Madras will see that all convicts sent in future to Port Blair are supplied both with tin drinking pots and with tin dishes for their food.

(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Medical Department.

„ Superintendent of Marine.

„ Inspector General of Jails.

„ Superintendent of Jails, Madras.

Erd. J. Tulloch.

3.
Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letter from the Secretary to
the Government of India.

More, under 7th June/57 No 1113

Order 27 June 1867 No 1028.

Resolved that the
foregoing correspondence be
communicated to the Inspector
General Medical Depart-
ment, Superintendent of
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2 The Inspector General
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3 The Superintendent
of

4.

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Received of the
Comptroller General
for the Department

(10)

Judicial 1867 Department.

No. 1028. v

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

W. H. 1470.

Dated 27 June 1867.

Comptroller

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