

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1413	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	13-14 3-9-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

25-10-30

10

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd September 1867.*

No. 13. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Simla, 10th August 1867, No. 3270.

Home Department.
Judicial.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Fort Saint George, and for any action that

From Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, No. 42C, dated 6th February 1867.
To Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, No. 2062, dated 28th February 1867.
To Government of Bombay, No. 2063, dated 23rd February 1867.
From Government of Bombay, No. 1023, dated the 30th March 1867.
From Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, No. 2052, dated 13th July, and one enclosure.
To Government of Bombay, No. 3269, of this date.

may be found necessary, a copy of the papers noted in the margin, from which His Excellency in Council will perceive that it has been decided that Burmese convicts sentenced to 14 years' transportation and upwards, shall, in future,

be sent to Bombay, instead of to Port Blair, and that a batch of such convicts were to have been despatched to Madras from Rangoon on the 17th ultimo for trans-shipment to Bombay.

From Captain C. P. HILDEBRAND, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, to E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; dated Rangoon, 6th February 1867, No. 42C.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will bring to the notice of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council the great danger there is in sending Burmese convicts to Port Blair. The following circumstances go to prove that the hope of escaping from the Port Blair Settlement, known to be entertained by the Burmese convict, is realized.

2. There are now reported to be in the Andaman jungles 22 out of 30 convicts who effected their escape from Port Blair from July 1864 to July 1866, being about 30 per cent. of the number sent to Port Blair during that period. Adjoining the Port Blair Settlement there is a large Island called the Great Andamans. It is covered with jungle; and, like the jungle on the Island, on which the Port Blair Settlement is established, contains pigs and birds, besides excellent roots. The Burmese convicts sent to Port Blair are almost, without exception, men who have been accustomed all their lives to the jungle, and who, therefore, can find no difficulty in obtaining subsistence therein. Their re-capture, so long as they remain in the jungle, is almost impossible.

3. In addition to the fact of the Andaman jungles affording great protection to escaped Burmese convicts, there is the very great danger of their escaping from those jungles to the main land, and, as they are all desperate characters, eventually becoming Dacoit leaders. They escape in large numbers from the Settlement, either by seizing boats, or by constructing canoes in the jungles. These canoes are of the most fragile construction; and it proves the persistence with which the Burmese convicts cherish and carry out their plans of escape, that parties of convicts embark in them with but a scanty supply of roots and gourds, and are often without water for days.

Three parties of convicts escaped in this manner. One party actually reached the Arracan Coast of British Burmah in a wicker work canoe; in another case they made their escape with the arms of their guard. The whole of the escaped convicts composing these three parties have been re-captured; and, with the exception of four who are in the Moulmein Jail, are all confined in the Rangoon Jail. These re-captured Port Blair prisoners now in the Rangoon Jail, together with other desperate men sentenced to transportation, form a formidable gang of about 50 men, who have once already combined for forcible outbreak, and are a ceaseless cause of anxiety to the Jail authorities. The Rangoon Jail, I may observe, is the strongest Jail in the Province; and there is no other Jail in British Burmah to which it would be advisable to send these prisoners.

22

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd September 1867.*

As, therefore, it is not safe sending Burmese convicts to Port Blair, I am desired by the Chief Commissioner to request you will have the goodness to move His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council to sanction Burmese convicts, sentenced to transportation, being sent, in future, to Bombay, to which place it is believed that Chinese convicts from the Straits Settlement are now sent.

4. Should sanction to this proposition be accorded, I am desired to request that leave may be granted for sending to Bombay the Burmese prisoners now in the Rangoon Jail under sentence of transportation.

From A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah; dated Fort William, 28th February 1867, No. 2062.

With reference to your Officiating Secretary's letter of the 6th instant, No. 42C., applying for sanction to send, in future, to Bombay, instead of to Port Blair, Burmese convicts under sentence of transportation, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to report the average number of Burmese prisoners annually sent to Port Blair, and to ascertain from the Superintendent of the Settlement the yearly average number of escapes of such convicts.

2. It is presumed that no convicts have been sent from British Burmah to Port Blair, except those judicially sentenced to transportation.

From A. P. HOWELL, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay; dated Fort William, 28th February 1867, No. 2063.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the annexed copy of a letter* from the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and to say that, referring to the

extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in this Department, under date the 12th September 1860, copy of which was furnished to the Government of Bombay, the Governor General in Council is desirous that convicts, sentenced to transportation by the Courts in British Burmah, should be sent to Bombay; and as that Presidency has been relieved of the charge of the Straits' convicts, who have lately been sent to Madras, instead of to Bombay, His Excellency in Council hopes that there will be no difficulty in providing for the secure custody of the Burmese convicts.

From W. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department; dated 30th March 1867, No. 1023.

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Howell's letter, No. 2063, dated the 28th ultimo, stating that the Government of India is desirous that Burmese convicts, sentenced to transportation by the Courts in British Burmah, should be sent in future to Bombay, and expressing a hope that there will be no difficulty in providing for the secure custody of the said convicts.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that on a reference having been made to the Inspector General of Prisons in the Presidency, that Officer reports that he sees no difficulty in carrying out the arrangement indicated by the Government of India.

3. The transported convicts will, in the first instance, be received into the Tanna Jail, to be thence distributed to some of the more secure jails, and they will be eventually confined in the Central Prison at Yerrowda.

4. I am desired to request that this Government may be informed of the average annual number of these convicts, and the probable time of their arrival in Bombay, in order that arrangements may be made for their confinement at Tanna.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
3rd September 1867.*

No. 3881.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, in continuation of this office letter, No. 2062, dated 28th February last, with a request that, in replying to that letter, the further information now called for by the Government of Bombay in paragraph 4 may be submitted.

By Order, &c.,

(Signed) A. P. HOWELL,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

HOME DEPARTMENT,

6th April 1867.

From Major H. NELSON DAVIES, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Simla; dated Rangoon, 13th July 1867, No. 2052.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, copy of a letter to his address from the Inspector General of Prisons, on the subject of Burmese convicts who will trans-ship from British Burmah to the Bombay Presidency by the steamer for Madras leaving this on 17th instant.

From C. PLANCK, Esq., Inspector General of Prisons, British Burmah, to the Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah; dated Rangoon, 3rd July 1867, No. 120.

I have the honor, in answer to letter No. 883, dated 25th June 1867, to report to you, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, that the number of Burmese convicts sentenced to 14 years' transportation and upwards, now in the Jails of the Province, is 40. These are all collected at Rangoon, and preparations are being made for their trans-shipment to Madras on their way to Bombay by the next steamer.

2. The annual average of prisoners so sentenced in this Province is not likely to exceed 25, and arrangements will be made so as, in future, to ensure that the total number of any year are collected at Rangoon for transfer to Bombay in the month of January of the succeeding year, to arrive probably in the month of February following.

3. I request the Chief Commissioner will have the goodness to address the Madras Government on the subject of the transfer of these convicts from Madras to Bombay.

From E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay; dated Simla, 10th August 1867, No. 3269.

Home Department.

Judicial.

With reference to your letter, No. 1023, dated the 30th of March last, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of

From Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, No. 2052, dated 13th July, with one enclosure.

Bombay, a copy of the papers noted in the margin, furnishing the information required as to

the average annual number of Burmese convicts sentenced to 14 years' transportation and upwards, and the probable time of their arrival in Bombay.

No. 14.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1867, No. 1413.

The Governor in Council directs that copies of the foregoing letter, and the papers received with it, be furnished to the Inspector General of Jails and Police.
(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

to the Inspector General of Jails.

" " of Police.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

No 1413 of 31st Sep 07 30

208-09
10-5-67
JF

His former in Council
directs that copies of the
following letters and the
papers received with
it be furnished to the
~~Honorable the Judge of~~
~~the High Court, & the~~
~~Chief Justice of the~~
~~in the Province,~~
to the Inspector General
of Jails & Police.

Wm. Brown
to
Mr. Brown
Comd.

Wm. Brown
M.R.

- to the Honorable the Judge
of the High Court
- " - Chief Justice of
- " - Inspector General of Jails & Police
- " - do do