

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT.

|                             |                |                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| G.O. No.                    | 1876           | Press           |
|                             |                | <del>Mis.</del> |
| <sup>244-246</sup><br>Dated | 20 - 11 - 1918 |                 |

13/13

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,  
20th November 1867.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 244. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 7th November 1867, No. 129.

I have the honor to report the circumstances connected with the escape of seven Chinese convicts from the Jail at the Lawrence Asylum Works on the night of the 4th September, and their subsequent recapture.

2. On the 2nd June 1867, fourteen Chinese convicts were received at the Jail in question from Madras, all of whom appeared quiet and orderly. In the month of July, on the requisition of Captain Hankin, I instructed the Acting Superintendent of the Plantation Jail at Dodabettah to transfer therefrom to the Lawrence Asylum Works' Jail any Chinese convict capable of acting as an Interpreter, and one Leah Hok Lee was transferred accordingly. It appears that he was a man of bad character, and that he was the ringleader in a disturbance at the Lawrence Asylum Jail in December 1865, after which he was removed to Dodabettah, where he again committed himself in a similar manner; consequently, he ought not to have been retransferred without special sanction, but Captain Hankin made no objection; and the matter did not come to my knowledge. Captain Hankin now states he has reason to believe that the convict in question systematically misinterpreted, with the intention of creating discontent, and that he was at the bottom of the plan of escape.

3. On the night of the 4th September, the Chinese convicts were locked up as noted in the margin; and between 12 and 1 A. M. on the 5th, it was discovered that a door of one of the wards was open. The Jailer was called, and seven Chinese

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| No. 2 Ward, | 4. |
| " 3         | 3. |
| " 4         | 4. |
| " 5         | 1. |
| Cooks'      | 1. |

convicts were found missing—four from one ward, and three from another; the doors had been forced open. Lights were burning outside, and, if the sentry was on the alert, the convicts must have been very dexterous to succeed in getting away unobserved. A party of Police went in pursuit at once, and is reported to have come upon the fugitives about a mile from the Jail, but no capture was made at that time, as it appears that the Police challenged instead of closing, and the night being dark the convicts managed to get off. Leah Hok Lee was taken that same night, and another on the 7th. Three more were brought back to the Jail on the 15th, and the remaining two were recaptured on the 16th. The five first were taken by Budaghers, but the reward for the two last was claimed by the Superintendent of Police in behalf of three Constables, who were said to have followed them up persistently and to have succeeded in reapprehending them. I had previously authorized Captain Hankin to disburse the regulated rewards to the actual captors without further reference, but circumstances induced him to postpone payment in the case of the last two men, and it is now reported that these convicts were caught by some villagers, who were escorting them back to Jail when they were met by the three Policemen, who took possession of the prisoners and then claimed the reward, denying that they had been assisted by any one.

4. The seven convicts were tried on the 30th September for the escape. Leah Hok Lee was sentenced for an additional term of one year, and the others for six months each. Leah Hok Lee has since been transferred to the Central Jail at

Coimbatore, the Superintendent of which has been duly informed of his antecedents, and he will be carefully watched. His services as Interpreter will not be required at Coimbatore, so he will not have an opportunity of making mischief in that way. The six others now at the Lawrence Asylum have been suffering from jungle fever ever since their recapture, and have not yet recovered.

5. Shortly after the escape, the Inspector General of Police sent me a suggestion made by Captain Balmer, Acting Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, to the effect that the wards should be surrounded by an enclosure of some kind, but, on communicating with Captain Hankin, I found that the expense would be so considerable, that I did not consider it expedient to recommend the outlay. There are lights round the Jail at night, and, if the Police sentries are vigilant, an escape can hardly be effected without immediate detection.

6. Captain Hankin believes that the prisoners at the Lawrence Asylum Works became discontented on being told by Leah Hok Lee that they were made to work harder than the convicts at the Plantation Jail at Dodabettah, and he mentions the points of difference which he supposes to exist, but he is not accurately informed respecting the amount of labor enforced at Dodabettah. The pits dug at that place are two feet square at the surface and two feet deep, but, as the sides slope inwards, the contents may be estimated at six cubic feet. A Chinese convict digs 30 of these as his daily task, and a Native 25. Mr. Batcock, the Acting Superintendent of the Chinchona Plantations, informs me that 25 pits a day is the number dug by a free laborer whose hire averages five Annas. For every five pits in excess of the task, a ticket, representing 6 Pie, is given to the convict, who, on presenting it to the Jail contractor, receives, an equivalent in extra meat or condiments. The other work carried on at Dodabettah consists in filling the pits, in planting, shading, and weeding. Extra work in weeding is only given occasionally, and is paid for as in the case of pitting; but no extra tasks are allowed in planting or shading, because these operations require care, and it is supposed that extra work would be imperfectly done. Dodabettah is not a regular Jail, but the quarters of a gang placed at the disposal of Officers engaged in carrying out a particular experiment. These Officers are perfectly satisfied with the quality and quantity of the work performed, and are in favor of the system of indulgences, because it keeps the convicts cheerful and contented, and because they are of opinion that more work is done than would be the case if there were no motive for extra exertion. There is something in this argument, and I would not advise the discontinuance of the practice altogether, but it ought to be modified in extent; for, whereas a free laborer only digs 25 pits a day, it is found that a Native convict can dig from 10 to 15 more; and that a Chinaman can dig twice as much as his daily task, so that, although the system works well for the Officers of the plantation, the amount of indulgences received by the convicts is too great. I would, therefore, increase the task, and direct that the value of the indulgence granted for extra work should in no case exceed one Anna a man per diem; the hours of labor to continue as they are, viz., from 8 A. M. until 4 P. M. The question, as far as regards Dodabettah, may be said to be at an end, as the pits are all finished; but at Neddawuttum there still remain about a lakh to be dug.

7. Captain Hankin is satisfied with the system in force at his own Jail, and I do not see any reason why it should be altered. The indulgence granted there is a ticket

representing 6 Pie, which is given daily to every convict who has worked diligently during the day. The tickets are allowed to accumulate until the end of the week, when they are exchanged for extra meat or condiments. I do not apprehend that the difference existing between the dietary of the Natives and that of the Chinese is likely to cause discontent. It has not done so in any other Jail. Chinese and Malays being entirely distinct races from the ordinary Natives, it is quite understood that their dietary should be different.

8. As it may be inferred from Captain Hankin's letter that transfers between the Jail at Dodabettah and that at the Lawrence Asylum Works are of common occurrence, I beg to state that no transfer has been made since I assumed charge of the Department in February 1866, with the exception of the Interpreter sent in compliance with Captain Hankin's requisition.

9. Four original reports from Captain Hankin are herewith forwarded.

From Captain F. G. HANKIN, Superintendent of Jail, Lawrence Asylum Works, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 9th September 1867, No. 61.

I have the honor to forward a roll of seven Chinese convicts who effected their escape from this Jail between the evening of the 4th and morning of the 5th September. Descriptive rolls, &c., were sent in every direction, and every possible step has been taken by the Police for their recapture.

2. Two of the men have since been caught by Burghers in the vicinity, and, in anticipation of your sanction, I have disbursed Rupees 20 for the capture of one man, and propose paying a similar reward for the capture of the other when the men come to receive it. I thought it of such importance to offer every inducement to the surrounding villages to give information, that I trust this step will meet with your approval, and that you will allow me to notify that this, or any larger amount you think proper, will be paid for information leading to the capture of the five men still at large.

3. The Chinese convicts are not all confined in one cell, but divided among all the cells. From what I gather from the confessions of the Chinese prisoners, the men in three cells had agreed to go; they had some days before bent back one staple of each lock, and had covered it up with tar to hide it. On the night in question the men in two cells forced up the other staple, pushed it out, and opened the door, previously calling out to the men in the other cell to know if they were ready. The men in the third cell, who were to have gone, were unable to go, because some Native convicts were sitting up close to the door talking, and they could not get past them. Four out of one cell, and three out of another, however, walked out together undetected by the sentry, and effected their escape. The lamps close to the door were all burning, for they were found alight when the Jailer, &c., went down to the cells on the escape being discovered, and there was a light inside the cells. I cannot believe it possible that these men went away as they did—they must have made considerable noise in opening the door—without the Native convicts inside being aware of it; and I think that the reason they did not give the alarm was, either that the Chinese intimidated the men near the door whom must have been awakened, or that the Natives were willingly quiet, seeing the Chinese, whom they dislike intensely, going away, and hoping they would be rid of their presence by their escaping.

4. In my letter, No. 45, dated 6th July 1867, I requested to be furnished with an interpreter. One Leah Hok Lee was sent from Dodabett, as a man who could talk Hindoostanee. This man is a notoriously bad character: he was the ringleader in the disturbance here which I reported in my letter, No. 184, dated 13th April 1865\*. After

\* Vide also Proceedings of Madras Government of 19th December 1865.

his transfer to Dodabett, he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for being the cause of another disturbance. His knowledge of Hindoostanee was very small, and only what he had picked up at Dodabett; and the little he knew he used to misinterpret orders, and to foment as much discontent as possible. I find that, ever since his arrival in India, he has been trying to induce other

Chinese to join him in attempting escape. Tan Bye, a man who was sent from Dodabett on my first application to you on the day after the escape, and who, by the way, is able to speak English a little and Hindoostanee very fairly, and who, therefore, would have made a far better interpreter at first than Hok Lee, states that he knew, while in the Ootacamund Jail, that Hok Lee, had planned an escape, and that it was never out of his mind. This Hok Lee, ever since his arrival here, has been working on the mind of the Chinese here in every way, but especially telling them how much more work they had to do here than at Dodabett, and at last induced them to believe that they were so unfairly treated by being overworked that they agreed to his proposal to attempt an escape, in which, unfortunately, seven of them have succeeded too well.

5. I find that it is not possible entirely to allay the discontent caused by Hok Lee having informed the men that they are made to work harder here than in Dodabett Jail, because such is, I believe, most truly the case; and I would, therefore, beg to lay the whole subject before you for your instructions.

6. These men are sentenced to hard labor, which, in my opinion, means that they are to do a hard day's work, which I insist on their performing—neither more or less than is done by the Native convicts. I reported on this in my letter above referred to—vide G. O., No. 1823, dated 19th December 1865. In the Jail at Dodabett, the men have, I believe, to dig 30 pits  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ : this is called a day's work. It equals, even supposing the pits to be accurately dug, only about 3 cubic yards. However, whatever their task is, it is one that allows them, by working hard, to do as much again, for which extra labor they are paid with tickets, which allow them to purchase extra indulgences, &c. By this system, the men who are sentenced to hard labor daily are only obliged to do half a day's hard labor; for by hard labor they can do double, or nearly so, their task in a day. My system is to enforce a hard day's labor, and not to encourage extra work, which I believe, after a hard day's labor already performed, would unfit them for their hard day's labor the next day. Now, it is evident that these two entirely opposite systems, carried out in two Jails so close together, and from one of which to the other men are liable to be, and in point of fact often are, transferred, must lead, among such people as the Chinese, to much discontent. I respectfully submit, therefore, that one system of working them, with reference to their tasks, &c., should be determined on. Whether the system of enforcing what can be fairly called a hard day's labor, or of only insisting on half a day's hard, or a full day's easier, labor, and of allowing them at their option to do more, and paying them for this extra work, be the correct system of carrying out their sentences is a question I submit for your consideration, with a request that, if you agree with me that two such different systems as at present obtain are objectionable in two Jails in such close proximity, you will kindly issue instructions on the matter.

7. I would add that, if the system of allowing Chinese convicts to be paid for any portion of their labor be carried out, the difficulty of working them fairly with Native convicts will be much increased, unless the same boon be extended to the Native convicts. These latter already see the Chinaman confined in the same Jail better fed and clothed, and doing certainly not more, if as much, work as themselves. My Native convicts all do now a fairly hard day's work well and cheerfully, and I would not certainly advocate any change with regard to them.

From Captain F. G. HANKIN, Superintendent of Jail, Lawrence Asylum Works, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 2nd October 1867, No. 72.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1247, dated 25th ultimo, relative to a proposal from the Deputy Inspector General, Western Range, that the Jail should be surrounded by a fence.

2. Captain Balmer wrote to me, when on the Hills some time ago, and mentioned this subject, and suggested a wall. This, if it was six feet high, would shut out all ventilation, and cost nearly 4000 Rupees. A wooden palisade, I reckon, would cost as much, and any sort of rough fence of jungle wood about half as much, and the material would be utterly wasted (bamboos are so expensive as to be out of the question), and would, from always getting out of repair, involve a great waste of labor.

3. On account of the Jail being an open one, and, therefore, insecure, Government ordered that the strength of guards should be as one to five convicts, and I submit this number is ample to guard the wards. There are also lights all round the Jail at night, and, if the sentries patrol properly, I think escape is next to impossible. Since the establishment of the Jail, out of a daily average of 350 prisoners, ten escapes have taken place from the cells at night. If the patrol is off his post, true, a man might effect his escape from the cell; and with equal ease, in the absence of the patrol, could he get over any rough sort of fence that might be erected.

4. In the case of the seven Chinese convicts that escaped, I cannot bring myself to believe the Constable who should have been patrolling round the Jail was on or near his post. The doors of two wards were opened, the men calling in the meanwhile to each other from one cell to another, to know if they were ready; seven men then walk out of the two wards together, pass close to the sentry's beat, and walk away without detection! Surely no fence less than a high wall would have rendered their escape under such circumstances less easy.

5. Under these circumstances, I submit that any sort of fence enclosing all the wards is quite unnecessary. If, however, I am over-ruled, the Police authorities, on account of the extra security they seem to attach to it, should, I submit, be called upon to guard at a charge less than the present, in proportion to the money expended on the fence, by which extra security is effected, and guarding, therefore, made easier.

From Captain F. G. HANKIN, Superintendent of Jail, Lawrence Asylum Works, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 5th October 1867, No. 76.

I formerly briefly reported to you the fact that seven Chinese convicts had effected their escape. I have now the honor, as directed by you, in paragraph 3 of your letter, No. 1247, dated 25th ultimo, to furnish a full report of their escape and recapture.

2. On 2nd June 1867, 14 Chinese convicts were received from Madras. They all appeared quiet and orderly men; but the man who was sent as an interpreter with them was quite useless, and I therefore applied to you for the services of another man. You directed a man who could speak Hindoostanee and Tamil to be sent to me. One Leah Hok Lee arrived as interpreter on the 10th July 1867. This man could and did speak Hindoostanee a little, and understood it I believe a great deal better than he admitted. He was a man of very bad character; he was the ringleader in the disturbance reported by me—vide G. O., No. 1823, dated 19th December 1865. After transfer to Dodabett, he caused another disturbance, and was sentenced to one year's additional imprisonment. This man has, I have since discovered, never interpreted anything correctly. He did all in his power to make the men discontented, and to induce them to attempt an escape, which I find he has been planning ever since his arrival on the Hills.

3. On the night of the 4th September, the Chinese convicts were locked up as per margin. Soon after midnight, on the morning of the 5th, it was discovered that a door of one of the wards was open. The Jailer went down, mustered the men in this ward, and found four short; then the door of another ward was found open, and three convicts found to be missing. The Police Inspector acted with much alacrity in despatching parties

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| No. 1 Ward  | ... |
| No. 2 do.   | 4   |
| No. 3 do.   | 3   |
| No. 4 do.   | 4   |
| No. 5 do.   | 1   |
| Cooks' Ward | 1   |
| Total       | 13  |

in all directions after the missing convicts. One party of Police actually came on the men about one mile from the Jail, and, had they acted properly, might, I think, have captured them; however, they fired their muskets in the air, and waited for daylight.

4. Next morning I went to the Davesholah, where I knew Chinamen were employed, and told the Superintendent that I thought it most likely the escaped convicts would try and visit their countrymen to get food. He promised that all his men should be on the look out.

5. Leah Hok Lee was captured there that night, and Ow Wan on the 7th. Parties of Police were patrolling the country in all directions; and, under the directions of the Tahsildar, a party of Burghers went off to search the large forests about Soondapetta. They traced three of the

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20th November 1867.*

men, caught them, and brought them back to the Jail on the morning of the 15th. Meanwhile, a Deputy and two Constables, who left in search on the 10th, persistently followed the men up from information they received, and came on the two last men on the 16th. They brought the men in on the 20th, and thus all were recaptured.

6. I paid Rupees 20 as a reward for the capture of the 1st convict—he was caught only a few miles distant—and 25 Rupees for the second man. The Tahsildar suggests Rupees 50 being paid for each of the three men recaptured by the Burghers; this will not be much when divided among all who are to participate. The Superintendent of Police asks for Rupees 100 for the Deputy and two Constables who followed up and captured the two last.

7. The men were all tried by the Joint Magistrate of Ootacamund on the 30th September 1867 for the escape. They all said in Court that Hok Lee had instigated them to go, assuring them that they were unfairly used in being made to work, as he said, harder than other Chinese in other Jails. Hok Lee was sentenced to one year, and the other men to six months' additional imprisonment.

8. I trust that the information now given, in addition to the particulars detailed in the first four paragraphs of my letter, No. 61, dated 7th September 1867, will be a satisfactory explanation of the whole circumstances of the escapes and recaptures, &c.

From Captain F. G. HANKIN, Superintendent of Jail, Lawrence Asylum Works, to the Inspector General of Jails, dated Ootacamund, 28th October 1867, No. 81.

In my letter, No. 75, dated 25th September 1867, I informed you that the last two escaped Chinese convicts were recaptured by a Deputy and two Constables who had followed them up.

2. The Superintendent of Police at the time claimed the reward for these men, who he considered had worked well.

3. Circumstances however occurred that led to a further investigation of the right of these men to the reward, and it has now transpired that the convicts were recaptured by some villagers, who were bringing them back when they were met by these Constables, who took charge of the men from them, brought them back, stated that they had captured the prisoners, and, denying that they had been assisted by any one in any way, claimed the reward.

4. Thus it turns out that all the escaped convicts were recaptured from time to time by villagers only.

No. 245. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 7th November 1867, No. 130.

In continuation of my letter, No. 129, of this date, I have the honor to state that there is nothing on record in this office to show that any written permission was given to Mr. McIvor to introduce the system of indulgences for extra work. The subject is noticed in the 4th paragraph of a letter from that Officer to the Inspector General of Jails, No. 95, which was published with the Proceedings of Government in the Judicial Department, dated 4th December 1865, in which Mr. McIvor makes the proposal. The matter is not adverted to either in Mr. Rohde's letter or in the Order of Government thereon, but I infer that sanction must have been given under the provisions of the 2nd paragraph of the Order of Government noted in the margin; for, in the 6th paragraph of Mr. McIvor's letter to the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, No. 117, printed with the Proceedings of Government in the Judicial Department, dated 20th January 1866, he mentions that the system of indulgence

Judicial Department, 31st August 1864, No. 1313.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,  
20th November 1867.*

was then in force. Mr. McIvor is now in Europe, and the Acting Superintendent of the Chinchona Plantations is unable to afford any information on the subject, beyond the fact that the system was introduced by Mr. McIvor, with the view of furthering the interests of the plantation, by securing labor at a lower rate than it could be obtained at in the market, and which object has been accomplished.

No. 246. ORDER THEREON, 20th November 1867, No. 1876.

The Governor in Council approves of the proposal made by the Inspector General of Jails that the indulgence granted to convicts employed on the Hills in plantation gangs, for extra work, should be limited to a payment not exceeding one Anna to each convict on any one day.

2. The Government also concur with Colonel Wilson that no change is necessary in the system observed in the Lawrence Asylum Works' Jail, as described by Captain Hankin.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails, with four enclosures returned.  
,, Accountant General.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

making mischief in that way. 3.  
The six others now at the Lawrence  
Asylum have been suffering from  
jungle fever ever since their recapture  
and have not yet recovered.

5 Shortly after the escape the  
Inspector General of Police sent me  
a suggestion made by Captain Palmer  
Acting Deputy Inspector General of  
Police Western Range to the effect  
that the Wards should be surrounded  
by an enclosure of some kind, but on  
communicating with Captain Hantkin  
I found that the expense would be  
so considerable that I did not consider  
it expedient to recommend the outlay.  
There are lights round the Jail at  
night and if the Police sentries are  
vigilant an escape can hardly be  
effected without immediate  
detection.

6 Captain Hantkin believes that  
the Prisoners at the Lawrence  
Asylum Wards became discontented  
on

on being told by Seah Hok Lee that...  
they were made to work harder than  
the convicts at the plantation, jail  
at Dohabettah, and he mentions  
the points of difference which he  
supposes to exist, but he is not  
accurately informed respecting the  
amount of labor enforced at  
Dohabettah. The pits dug at that  
place are two feet square at the  
surface and two feet deep, but as  
the sides slope inwards the contents  
may be estimated at 6 cubic feet.  
A Chinese convict digs 30 of these  
as his daily task, and a Native 25.  
Mr. Batcock the Acting Superintendent  
of the Pinchona Plantations informs  
me that 25 pits a day is the number  
dug by a free laborer whose <sup>hire</sup> averages  
five annas. For every five pits in  
excess of the task a ticket representing  
6 pie is given to the convict who on  
presenting it to the jail Contractor  
receives an equivalent in extra meat.

or

with the system in force at his own  
jail, and I do not see any reason  
why it should be altered. The  
indulgence granted there is a ticket  
representing 6 pie which is given daily  
to every convict who has worked  
diligently during the day. The  
tickets are allowed to accumulate  
until the end of the week when they  
are exchanged for extra meat or condi-  
ments. I do not apprehend that  
the difference existing between the  
dietary of the natives and that of  
the Chinese is likely to cause discontent.  
It has not done so in any other jail.  
Chinese and Malay being entirely  
distinct races from the ordinary  
natives it is quite understood that  
their dietary should be different.  
8 As it may be inferred from  
Captain Harkins' letter that  
transfers between the jail at  
Dohabettah and that at  
the Lawrence Asylum Works  
are of common occurrence

I beg to state that no transfer  
has been made since I assumed  
charge of the Department in  
February 1866 with the exception  
of the Interpreter sent in compliance  
with Captain Hankins' requisition

9 Four original Reports from  
Captain Hankins are herewith  
forwarded

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Yours most obedt. servt.

W. H. C. M. D.

Nov. 1867 } Insp. Genl of Fails

No 130

14

From

Lieut. Col. W. J. Wilson

Inspector General of Fails

To The Honble. R. S. Ellis Esq.

Chief Secretary of Government

Fort Saint George

Sir In continuation of my letter No  
129 of this date I have the honor to  
state that there is nothing on record  
in this Office to show that any written  
permission was given to Mr. McEwen to  
introduce the system of indulgence  
for extra work. The subject is noticed  
in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of a letter from  
that Officer to the Inspector General  
of Fails No 95 which was published  
with the Proceedings of Government  
in the Judicial Department  
dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 1865 in which  
Mr. McEwen makes the proposal.  
The matter is not adverted to either

See para  
2. No 1315 -  
31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1864  
W. J. Wilson  
Inspector General

in

in Mr. Rhodes's letter or in the order  
of Government thereon, but I infer  
that sanction must have been  
given under the provisions of the  
2<sup>d</sup> paragraph of the order of  
Government noted in the margin  
for in the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph of Mr. McEwen's  
letter to the Secretary of Government in  
the Revenue Department No 117 printed  
with the Proceedings of Government  
in the Judicial Department dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 1886 he mentions  
that the system of indulgences  
was then in force. Mr. McEwen  
is now in Europe and the Acting  
Superintendent of the Pinchona  
Plantations is unable to afford  
any information on the subject  
beyond the fact that the system was  
introduced by Mr. McEwen with  
the view of furthering the interests  
of the plantation by securing labor  
at a lower rate than it could  
be

l. D.  
31<sup>st</sup> August 1886  
No 1313

Judicial Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the

Inspector General of Jails.

Here enters 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1887 No 129 & 130.

Order thereon 20 Nov 1887 No 1876

The Governor in Council  
approves of the proposal  
made by the Inspector General  
of Jails that the indulgence  
granted to convicts employed  
on the Kells, in plantation gangs, for  
extra work, should be  
limited to a payment <sup>not exceeding</sup> of one  
anna <sup>to each convict</sup> on any one day.

2. The Government  
also concur with Colonel  
Wilson that no change is  
necessary in the system  
described

Memo for Orders

Letter from the Inspector General of Fails - Dated Nov. 10. by No 129 & 130.

These letters from the Inspector General of Fails are written in consequence of a suggestion made (vide letter marked A) by Captain Rankin that the system of indulgences granted to convicts employed in plantation gangs should cease, as leading to discontent in the Lawrence Asylum Works Jail, where the system is different. Captain Rankin attributes the recent escape of 7 Chinese convicts from the Lawrence Asylum Works Jail to this discontent. In the Plantation fails

observed in the Lawrence Asylum Works Jail as described by Captain Rankin.

W.C.

To the Insp. of Fails - with 4 encs. recd  
disps 26/11 Act General

Jail - Do da belt & Nedwattum.

convicts have task work  
assigned to them, <sup>chiefly in digging pits,</sup> ~~except~~.

For every 5 pits above this  
task, which is 30 pits for a Chinaman and 25 for a native,  
a ticket representing 6 pie  
is given <sup>to the convict</sup> which he exchanges  
for extra meat or condiments.

3. Colonel Wilson describes  
the system in the Lawrence  
Asylum Works Jail (Captain  
Rankin's) as being direct.

Every convict who has  
worked diligently during  
the day gets a ticket re-  
presenting 6 pie which  
he exchanges for meat  
or condiments; so that  
whereas at plantation  
gangs a convict has  
hitherto been able to earn  
1 anna, or 1/2 Anna, or more  
per diem, the convict at  
the Lawrence Asylum can-  
not get more than 6 pie  
per diem.

Colonel

107  
Colonel Wilson allows  
that the plantation gangs  
are over indulged, and  
would limit the amount  
paid for extra work to one  
anna a day.

4. If this system of  
indulgence by payment  
for a hard day's work, or  
for work beyond the allotted  
task is continued, it ought  
to be made uniform for  
all the Hill convicts, or  
otherwise whenever a change  
takes place, or even <sup>by</sup> the  
mere knowledge that there  
is a difference, ~~there will be~~  
discontent.

5. The system of in-  
dulgence was <sup>sanctioned</sup> ~~advised~~  
as an experiment in the  
L.C. of 31<sup>st</sup> August 1864,  
in which extra work  
beyond prescribed daily  
task

task, was to be rewarded  
by being carried to account  
in diminution of term  
of imprisonment, such  
diminution not to exceed  
1/6 of original sentence,  
or by payment of extra  
work in the shape of a  
daily grant of condiments  
in other addition to diet.

6. No doubt the pay-  
ment gets more work  
done, but it would seem  
at the expense of jail  
discipline. The carrying  
extra work to account  
~~in diminution of sentence~~  
appears to go on a sounder  
principle and is less  
~~open to objection~~.

7. The orders of Govt.  
are requested

1<sup>st</sup> Should Colonel  
Wilson's system of  
task

task work and extra labor  
tickets up to one can be  
adopted, or

2<sup>nd</sup> Should Captain  
Hankin's system of 6 pie  
ticket for a good day's  
work be maintained, or

3<sup>rd</sup> Should the payment  
system be abolished, and  
instead, extra work be  
credited to prisoner as  
shortening sentence.

8. In any case the  
system on Hill Jail shall,  
I submit, be uniform  
to avoid discontent.

*W.H.*

1873  
2/9/73  
2/9/73  
2/9/73

*W. B.*  
1867 Department.

No. 1876

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 20 November 1873

Chgo. No. 236-239  
31-8-64  
21-24  
4/12/65  
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