

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 224	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 13-2-1867	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
13th February 1867.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 86. From the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madura, 25th January 1867, No. 1838.

I have the honor to request the sanction of Government—

1st.—For fetters being removed from convicts going upon scaffolding, and tempering earth for bricks, &c.

2nd.—For convicts being employed during the night in firing and tending brick-kilns.

2. In building the new Jail at Madura, the labor is almost exclusively furnished by the prisoners; while the foundations and basements of the buildings have been under construction, the fetters have been only an impediment, not an actual evil; but as the walls will now be run up, it is, I consider, necessary that the men should have the free use of their limbs. Again, while the prisoners are tempering the clay for making bricks and tiles, the dragging of the chains is very trying and hurtful to the men when standing and treading the clay more than ankle deep. This hardship has already become apparent; and as the orders*

* Vide G. O., No. 2802, of 22nd September 1865.

of the Government of India are to the effect, that fetters should not be placed on men employed on work that cannot be properly performed with them, I submit that, in these instances, the fetters should be dispensed with. The Police authorities here are not prepared to carry out this measure without the special authority of Government, and I therefore refer the question for orders.

3. Again, the Police Department object to allow prisoners to be employed at night at the brick-kilns, and it has therefore been necessary to employ paid labor. Now the Government have particularly enjoined, that convict labor should be employed to the utmost extent, so as to reduce the cost of work, and this injunction has been attended to at the Madura Jail as far as practicable. The expense of a few coolies is very small, and has been incurred, rather than that the progress of the building should be retarded for want of materials; but it is on the principle that convict labor should be fully utilized that I bring the matter to notice.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails for his remarks.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
31st January 1867.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 87. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 1st February 1867, No. 153.

I have the honor to return the letter of the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated 25th ultimo, referred to me yesterday for remark.

2. Captain Prendergast proposes, firstly, that the fetters of all convicts working upon scaffolding, and of those employed in tempering earth for bricks, should be removed; and, secondly, that convicts should be employed during the night in firing and tending brick-kilns. He does not say how many men are likely to be

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required for each of the purposes specified, or what extra guards will be necessary, and I am unable to give any decided reply to this reference without information on these points, as the answers to the questions mainly depend upon the comparative expense of convict and of hired labor, but I will state my general opinion with regard to each proposal. It is clear that convicts in irons ought not to work upon scaffolding, and it also appears desirable that those who are employed in treading clay should be relieved from fetters. The labor in both of these instances will be carried on during the day, and if the number of men is not large, and a selection is made of those who are the best behaved, and who have served the greater part of their time, I see no objection to giving the proposal a trial; for, as the ground surrounding the site is flat and open, it is very possible that no increase to the number of the guard would be found necessary.

3. The employment of convicts at night appears to offer too many facilities for escape. It would entail the necessity for an extra guard, and be inconvenient in many respects.

Referred to the Judicial Department.
(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
29th January 1867.

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 13th February 1867, No. 224.

The Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the first of the two proposals submitted in the Superintending Engineer's letter, viz., that the fetters of convicts working upon scaffolding and employed in treading clay shall be removed, subject, however, to the proviso that the number so employed be not large, and that the selection be confined to those who are the best behaved, and who have served the greater part of their time.

2. For the reasons given by Colonel Wilson, the Government must decline to sanction the employment of convicts during the night in firing and tending brick-kilns.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" Public Works Department.

Ed. J. Talloch.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter.

From the Superintending Engineer & Division (Here entered 25th January 1867) to the P. W. Dept. 1st Feb 1867
Inspector General of Jails

Order 13th February 1867 No. 224

The Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the first of the two proposals submitted in the Superintending Engineer's letter viz, that the fetters of convicts working upon scaffolding and employed in treading clay should be removed, subject however to the proviso that the number so employed be not large and that the selection be confined to those who are the best behaved and who have served the greater

W. J. Talloch

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Dated 13th 2^d February 1867.