

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 576	Press ~~Mis~~
351-352	
Dated	29-3-1886

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

29th March 1867.

No. 351. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 23rd March 1867, No. 915.

Communicating to this (Judicial) Department papers relating to the accidental death of a convict employed on the Lawrence Asylum Works. (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 23rd March 1867, Nos. 580 & 581.)

No. 352. ORDER THEREON, 29th March 1867, No. 516.

The foregoing papers will be communicated to the Inspector General of Jails.

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

To the Inspector General of Jails.

Exd. J. Tulloch:

No. 580. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coimbatore, 12th March 1867, No. 247.

In laying before Government the accompanying original papers, relating to the accidental death of a convict employed on the Lawrence Asylum works, I have to draw attention to the discrepancy between Captain Hankin's explanation of the cause of death, and that

1 Captain Hankin's letter No. 19 of 6th March 1867.

2 Inquest and Translation.

1 Assistant Apothecary's letter No. 16 of 5th March.

given by the persons signing the verdict of the Inquest. For my part, I have no hesitation in deciding on Captain Hankin's explanation as the correct one, his opinion having no doubt been formed on the spot, on personal investigation immediately after the accident was reported to him. Whereas the story that was held good at the inquest, three weeks later, is an improbable one in itself, as to the sequence in which the striking of the wheel-barrow and fracture of the man's leg and arm, by the same lump or mass of earth, are made to follow each other. Had the earth been stated to have fallen on and fractured first the arm, then the leg, and then the wheel-barrow, such statement would have appeared to me credible enough to have induced me to refer back for further particulars reconciling the accounts. As it is, I pin my faith on the accuracy of Captain Hankin's version, elicited from verbal evidence taken at the time, and which, no doubt, would have been laid before me then, had it been supposed that the accident was likely to turn out fatal.

From the Officer in charge of Jail at the Lawrence Asylum Works, to the Executive Engineer, Ootacamund, dated Ootacamund, 6th March 1867, No. 19.

1. I regret to have to report an accident which occurred on these works on the 8th ultimo, and from the effects of which a convict, name, *Mancherla Chennecagadoo*, Case No. 95 of 1865, on the file of the Session Judge of Bellary, sentenced to three and a half years' rigorous imprisonment for house-breaking, &c., on the 9th August 1865, &c., as per margin, died on the 2nd instant; an inquest was held on the same date, and I now beg to enclose a copy of the Proceedings, and also a letter from the Medical Officer reporting the man's death.

2. The particulars of the accident are as follows :—

3. Convicts were employed in excavating a site for the Police huts in course of erection here, the bank they were digging at was some ten to twelve feet high; the men had finished the digging below and were on their way up to get the fall of earth down, when the deceased, who had just taken away a load of earth, returned with his barrow: as he was turning to leave the spot a small quantity, about a spadefull, of earth fell at some little distance, and the man who had his back turned in the act of going away, hearing the noise, was startled, and gave a jump forward, and in so doing his chains got entangled with the barrow over which he fell, breaking his thigh against the barrow, and his forearm in falling forwards. No earth whatever fell on him, indeed, the accident was solely caused by the man's falling over the barrow.

4. The party of convicts employed at this work were all picked men, and thoroughly understand how to excavate earth; the Maistry especially of this man's party was the best man I have in jail, and is one of the men always selected when any earth-work requiring any extraordinary care has to be done, and from the bank being high, care in excavating it was here required and was duly exercised, but the accident under report had nothing whatever to do with the earth work, but was caused solely by the man's unfortunately falling over the barrow, which might have happened on perfectly level ground. These are the facts I have elicited from the convicts employed at the spot. The Warder in charge of the party had just taken away a man to Hospital who had reported sick when out at work.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd March 1867.*

No. 203.

Submitted to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, for the information of Government.

Ootacamund,

(Signed) W. FAREWELL, Major,

7th March 1867.

Executive Engineer.

Proceedings of Inquest.

We, the undersigned, held an Inquest with the Sub-Magistrate of Ootacamund, on the 2nd March 1867, on the body of a convict by the name of Mancherla Chennooagadoo. Caste, Bearer; color, copper; age, 29 years; and found him lying dead in the Lawrence Asylum Works, Jail Hospital, with his head towards the east side, legs stretched towards west, head being bald.

Verdict.

On examination of the body, and inquiry as to the cause of his death, we were given to understand that on the 8th ultimo, while the deceased was employed with other convicts in excavating a site for a line of bazaar to be built at Lawrence Asylum Works, a lump of earth accidentally rolled down the hill above, it fell into a wheel-barrow, from which it fell on the man's right thigh and broke it, the same lump of earth then fell from his thigh to the man's left arm and fractured that also; he was immediately carried to the Hospital attached to the Jail of Lawrence Asylum Works and treated, but he died at about half past one o'clock on the morning of the 1st instant, having not been cured of the wounds he met with as above described.

We, therefore, are of opinion from enquiry and examination, that the cause of his death was nothing but the above stated accident.

(Signed) ANNOOMAGADOO,

Brother-in-law of deceased.

(„) CHENGULROYEN, Maistry.

and others.

(True translation of a copy.)

(Signed) F. G. HANKIN, Captain,

In charge of Jail at Lawrence Asylum Works.

2nd March 1867.

From the Second Apothecary in Medical charge of Jail and working party, Lawrence Asylum Works, Neilgherries, to the Officer in charge of Convicts on Lawrence Asylum Works, Lovedale, Neilgherries, dated 5th March 1867, No. 16.

1. I beg to inform you that the convict who met with a compound fracture of the right thigh bone, and fracture of the bones of the left forearm, on the 8th of February last, died on the morning of the 2nd instant.

2. On his admission into hospital he had a slight cough, which became worse, and which aggravated his sufferings. The discharge from the wound in the thigh (caused by the fracture), as well the discharge from four other deep-seated, sinuses that broke out in different parts of the injured limb, was so profuse that it completely exhausted him, and notwithstanding all the means adopted to support his strength, he was unable to rally.

No. 581.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1867, No. 915.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 41.

Communicated to the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.

„ Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Sent by Mail
23rd March 1867

Received by
29 March 1867
No 581
Lawrence Asylum Works
Jail Hospital
The undersigned
with the assistance of
Jail
29 March 1867
No 581

By the Asylum Works
Jail
29 March 1867
No 581