

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	862	Press
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Dated	27-5-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

27th May 1867.

Read the following papers:—

No. 263. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Chittoor, 9th April 1867, No. 23.

I have the honor to forward, for the orders of Government, copy of a letter from my Acting Head Assistant, dated 3rd instant, No. 38, and of its enclosure, applying for a gang of 200 convicts, for the purpose of removing prickly-pear, &c., in the Cantonment of Raneepett. I beg earnestly to recommend that this application be, if possible, complied with.

2. The convict labor would have to be supplied from Vellore, and the Inspector General of Jails will be able to advise Government how this best can be done, without disturbing arrangements at the last named station. Two full gangs, worked as they would be under the immediate direction of the Head Assistant Magistrate, might probably be able to clear Raneepett of prickly-pear and other debris in from two to three months.

3. Either of the buildings named by Mr. Wilkinson would do for the temporary accommodation of the convicts, whilst engaged on the work.

4. The medical charge of these convict gangs might be entrusted to Dr. Penny.

From F. H. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Magistrate of North Arcot; dated Raneepett, 3rd April 1867, No. 38.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of a letter, received from the Officer Commanding the 2nd Light Cavalry, in which he adverts to the expediency of some convicts being supplied for the purpose of removing the prickly-pear, &c., in this station. The advisability of this course I cannot too strongly urge.

2. When Raneepett was deprived of its military population, about four years ago, all the persons who follow in the train of a Regiment also abandoned the place, leaving their houses in *status quo*. The roofs fell in, the walls crumbled away, and each deserted tenement became a convenient receptacle for every species of nuisance. In addition to this, prickly-pear sprung up and spread unchecked. The villages of Kari, Novalpoor, and Cotton's Bazaar are overgrown with this noxious weed, and need a thorough cleansing.

3. If 200 convicts were sent here, to be under my orders, I could clear the whole place in a few months, and Government would thereby be saved a large outlay. I have just returned from three months in the District, and, as I am not likely to be going out again for the present, I could superintend the operations of the convicts in person.

4. The prisoners could be lodged either in the old European Barracks, or in the building used formerly as a Lock Hospital. I had occasion recently to locate some short-sentenced and under-trial prisoners in the latter building, owing to an outbreak of Cholera in Wallajahpet, and found it well adapted for the custody of convicts.

5. The medical charge of the convicts might be given either to Dr. Scudder, in charge of the Civil Dispensary, or to Dr. Penny, in charge of the 2nd Light Cavalry.

6. I have, therefore, the honor to request you will forward the application for the supply of 200 convicts to the proper quarter, that it may, without delay, receive the necessary sanction.

From the Officer Commanding 2nd Light Cavalry, to the Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, dated ———.

I have the honor to inform you that I have been called on to furnish an approximate estimate for removing unnecessary walls and prickly-pear shrubs in the neighbourhood of the men's lines,

only kept — 3/11

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2nd L. C., now being built; and, as the work appears to be likely to cost a large sum, I would beg you will support my suggestion, already made to Division Head Quarters, that a number, say 200, of convicts be sent to clear the ground, as I consider this would save Government a large outlay, which should, if possible, be avoided.

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails for his remarks.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
15th April 1867.

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

No. 269. From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 15th May 1867, No. 27.

I have the honor to return the letter of the Magistrate of North Arcot, dated 9th ultimo, referred to me on the 16th idem, with enclosures. On receipt thereof, I applied to Mr. Wilkinson, the Head Assistant Magistrate, for certain particulars regarding the buildings, and, as I was aware that the European Barracks had an indifferent reputation in a sanitary point of view, I requested him to consult Surgeon Major Penny concerning them. The replies of these Officers, and a rough plan of the Lock Hospital at Arcot, sent by Mr. Wilkinson, are herewith enclosed, as well as two other plans, viz., one of the European Barracks, and one of the Lock Hospital, which I procured from the Quarter Master General's Department, both of which I request may be returned to me.

2. The Barracks are spacious and capable of accommodating more than the number of prisoners required, but it will be seen that Dr. Penny reports unfavorably thereon, and, considering the character they have borne, I think there would be some risk in occupying them.

3. The Lock Hospital stands low and close to the village of Nawalpurah, where, according to Dr. Penny's letter, Cholera seldom appears, even when it visits Arcot or Raneepett; but, since receiving Mr. Wilkinson's letter and plan, I was obliged to make another reference regarding the height of the building, and, as Mr. Wilkinson was at Vellore, I requested Dr. Penny to procure the information for me, and, in his reply, he states that, on subsequent inquiry, he learnt from the Superintendent of Police, the Barrack Serjeant, and others, that the first cases of Cholera generally appear in the village of Nawalpurah, and that, for this reason, and because the level upon which the building stands is very low, he would not feel disposed to locate prisoners there. As for the building itself, it appears well suited for the reception of a small gang of convicts, but it will require the repairs and alterations specified by Mr. Wilkinson, and the accommodation will not be nearly so great as stated by Dr. Penny. There are three rooms, each measuring 30x18x15, and one room measuring 20x18x15. The large rooms, therefore, cannot contain more than 13 prisoners each, or the small room more than 9—making a total of 43. There is no Hospital accommodation, but a small shed might be erected in one of the yards.

4. The gang proposed by Mr. Robinson was to consist of 200 men, and it was calculated they would clear the Cantonment in two or three months, but a gang of 48 men will not, for work of the description contemplated, be nearly so effective.

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even in proportion, as a large one, for the vegetation will have much more time to make head. If free labor is available, the work of destroying the prickly-pear might be well advanced before the Lock Hospital can be ready for the reception of the convicts.

5. I shall be prepared to submit a proposal for a Jail establishment, when the question has been decided. The cost of such establishment will, I presume, be debitable to the Military Department.

From F. H. WILKINSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Inspector General of Jails; dated Vellore, 7th May 1867, No. 62.

In reply to your letter, No. 155, dated 16th ultimo, I have the honor to forward a copy of Dr. Penny's letter, as to the healthiness of the old European Barracks for prisoners. As he so strongly condemns them, I have not forwarded a plan or any information as to them, but, if you still wish it, am prepared to do so.

2. I enclose a rough ground plan of the Lock Hospital, from which you will perceive that it has four rooms of fair dimensions. There is no ventilation to the rooms, except the windows, which are formed of strong iron bars, so that, to secure them, it would only be necessary to fasten a few of the loose ones. To secure the doors more would be required as they are now only fastened with a running bolt. The building is in fair repair; the tiles should be turned; building whitewashed; partition walls in verandah removed; privies re-arranged, and new drains made from them to outside; the brickwork of the wells reconstructed; and kitchens whitewashed and put in repair. In removing the tiles, ridge ventilation might be added. The compound is surrounded by a wall, eight feet in height, the top of which is covered with glassets. There are three good wells, one of which is in need of slight repair.

3. This, with the plan, will, I hope, furnish all the information needed with regard to the Lock Hospital, and, should you require the same for the European Barracks, it will be forwarded at once.

From Surgeon Major H. J. PENNY, 2nd Regiment Light Cavalry, to the Acting Head Assistant Magistrate, North Arcot; dated Arcot, 24th April 1867, No. 76.

In reply to your docket, No. 49, of the 17th instant, enclosing copy of paragraph from the Inspector General of Jails, relative to Cholera in the old European Barracks at this station, in which it is now under contemplation to locate prisoners, I have the honor to observe that, in the two higher Barracks, Cholera is reported to have frequently attacked the soldiers located there; on the last occasion 7 or 8 men of Her Majesty's 21st Fusiliers died out of a small detachment sent here on their arrival from England. From the inquiries I have made, it does not appear that the men in the two lower Barracks suffered as much as those in the upper. The Barracks are situated in the exact line that Cholera generally travels when it appears at this station, which is every year. I am of opinion that the European Barracks at this station would prove unhealthy for prisoners, and would not recommend their location there.

2. The building formerly used as a Lock Hospital might be made available if some alterations were made, but I do not apprehend more than 80 or 100 prisoners could be accommodated there. An objection might be raised that it is situated on a low level and near an old grave yard; but all the inquiries I have made tend to show that the inhabitants of the village of Nawalpurah, near which the building is situated, are healthy, and Cholera seldom appears there, even when it has appeared at Arcot or Raneepett.

No. 270. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1867, No. 862.

Under the circumstances represented by the Inspector General of Jails, the Governor in Council considers it inexpedient to send a gang of Convicts to Arcot.

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2. The removal of the prickly-pear and other work, adverted to by the Officer Commanding 2nd Regiment Light Cavalry, should, if necessary, be carried out by means of free labor.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails, with 5 enclosures, returned.
" Magistrate of North Arcot.
" Military Department.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

No. 809 & 1103.

in the Magistrate of North Arcot:
the Inspector General of Jails

Dated 9th April & 15th May 1867.

FOR ORDERS.

in the explanation furnished
Inspector General I do not
think that it would be advisable
to commit to Arcot.
If, as seems probable the
work requires a good
many men it would be best
to do it by free labor. The
work I presume would
be on the Military Budget.

N. von

20th Apr. Genl. of Pauls }
 ——— ^{and his family} Mage of Detroit }
 ——— July Sept. ——— } 18

recovered

Indiana 1887. Department.

No. 262

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Feb. 1901.

Dated, *27 May 1887.*

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