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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3431 Press ~~Mis.~~

613-614

Dated 30-11- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 30th November 1864

No. 613. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department :—

Passing orders on the papers relative to the transfer, to the Mahals at Vellore, North Arcot District, of the Convicts of certain Jails, who are unfitted by age or other causes for out-door hard labour. } (Here enter 23rd November 1864, No. 1,685)

No. 614. ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1864, No. 3,431.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers, 4th and 7th Divisions.

(True Extract)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
„ Do. do. 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd November 1864.

Read the following papers—

No. 212. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq, Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 14th November 1864, No. 312.

The great mortality among prisoners in the Asylum gangs, since the transfer of the Cuddapah gang to this, induces me to request, in anticipation of the thorough clearing of the Vellore Mahals, permission to occupy some building in that fort as a Depôt for invalid and aged convicts from this. They are here maintained at considerable cost to the detriment, I think, of those in health, and to the impediment of progress at the Asylum works.

2. Captain Hankin tells me that there are about 100 prisoners, who he should wish to get rid of as unfit for labor. I cannot send them to Coimbatore, as the Jail is there already crowded, and I have been compelled to relieve it by the transfer of 100 prisoners to this place (50 of these must, for the present, be lodged in a detached building).

3. To send prisoners in bad health to the Coimbatore Jail, even if room could be found for them, would be to incur a great risk of life.

4. I had thought of an exchange of Captain Hankin's unhealthy party with the Palghaut gang, but there is no Medical Officer.

5. In reference to the Order No. 1436 (30th September), I am unable to state the exact numbers I should transfer from each Jail. The Jails I should relieve are, 1st, Chittoor; 2nd, those on the line of rail as far as Coimbatore and Ootacamund in the one direction, and Cuddapah in the other, the Jails of Chingleput, Vellore, and Cuddalore (eight Zillah Jails); besides I think it probable some relief may be given to other Jails.

6. I do not think the total numbers of the classes I specially indicated will exceed 500, and for this number the larger, or Tippoo's Mahal, would suffice; but I should wish the other, or Hyder's Mahal, to be also available for an increase in numbers, classification, &c.

7. The Government must understand me as referring to the body of the building not to the Courts and buildings occupied by the State prisoners, and amply sufficient for them on the east, and which formerly were occupied by the Begums and chief persons of the two families.

8. The cubic space available for each prisoner will exceed 500 cubic feet each for 500 prisoners. I am not prepared to state the exact space, but the cells exceed in number 280 in Tippoo's Mahal only, and each cell exclusive of verandah contains about 1000 cubic feet of space, so that, avoiding altogether the more confined compartments, and taking no account of the verandahs, 500 prisoners may be easily accommodated.

9. The system of Police guarding involves now 1 Policeman to 7 convicts. I have not yet heard from Mr. Robinson what *reduction* he is prepared to make for those in Vellore. The Government will, however, understand that a reduction not an increased expenditure is thus involved. Mr. Robinson promised to see the building and state his views.

10. The Joint Magistrate has a gang of 180 convicts for the work in hand.

11. I could not, without destroying the character of the institution I propose and greatly enhancing the cost, propose the confinement of other classes of mal convicts here; but I have in my mind to propose the smaller, or Hyder's Mahal, as Central prison for females, but the subject is one that requires consideration an some previous extension of the Railway.

12. Subordinate to this is the question of the immediate transfer of 100 con victs from this, and 100 probably from Coimbatore which, if Government authoriz the plan proposed (see Proceedings 30th September), I would be glad to adop immediately.

No. 213. From W. ROBINSON, Esq, Inspector General of Madras Police to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 17th October 1864, No. 2124.

General Department.

With reference to Government Order of the 30th ultimo, No. 1436, I have th honor to report that I have visited and inspected the two vacated *Mahals* within the Vellore fort, which Mr. Rohde proposes to use for the confinement of weakly convicts from all the prisons under the Presidency.

2. The structures are well suited for purposes of safe custody, and can be easily guarded.

3. Mr. Rohde lays down that the convicts to be brought there shall not be able-bodied ruffians, but more of weakly constitution; and, secondly, that they shall all be worked within the walls of the prison, save only such men as are required to go out occasionally for purposes connected with the internal economy of the Jail; such gangs never to exceed 100 men.

4. Under these conditions the Vellore *Mahal* prisons may be guarded by 50 Constables for 1000 men, or 1 Policeman to 20 convicts. If the number be less, say 500, 35 Constables will be required, and so on. Large bodies are more easily guarded than small ones.

5. In point of economy of guards, the mode proposed by Mr. Rohde will effect a considerable economy under the head of Jail watchmen as at present charged.

6. It will be necessary to clear away the rubbish and old walls, and sheds that encumber the Court yards, and to make a clear passage between the two Mahals to be so appropriated, and the Mahals still occupied by State prisoners.

No. 214. From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division; to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 15th October 1864, No. 3520.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 2197, dated 15th September 1862, I have the honor to submit herewith a plan of the Vellore Mahals in the North Arcot District, together with a letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, informing me that the required report as to the extent of accommodation needed for the present inmates, and the use which can be made of that not required for them, has already been submitted and replied to in G. O., No. 1436, dated 30th September 1864.

1 Plan.
1 Letter, No. 165, dated 11th October 1864, with list.

2. The Acting Sub-Collector also forwards a list of the names of the persons living in each Mahal, and explains in what way they may hereafter be accommodated.

From W. F. HATHAWAY, Esq, Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, in charge of Stipend Pay Office; to Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R E, Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, Madras, dated Vellore, 11th October 1864, No. 165

In answer to your letter 2869, of the 19th ultimo, to the Acting Collector, requesting a report about the Vellore Mahals, as called for in paragraph 7 of the Government Order 1465 of the 9th September 1862 (Judicial Department), I have the honor to state that the Proceedings being on a letter from the Inspector General of Jails the report was, I believe, called for from him.

2 A report has been now sent in as to the use that might be made of such part of the building as is not required, as you will see from the copy of it, which I enclose, in the Proceedings of Government of the 30th ultimo (to be returned).

3 I have merely to forward, in addition to that, a list of the persons living in each Mahal As the three persons living in Pasha Begum's Mahal only require the front half of the whole enclosure that they now have, I propose to shut up the entrance at A into the other Court yard and set of buildings at the west side, and to give this portion, together with the small Mahal at the west of the Palikonda Mahal, to the eleven women, who at present live in parts of the large Tippoo and Hyder Mahals. An opening would be made at B, so as to join this western half of the Pasha Begum Mahal to the small empty Mahal next to it. This latter is perfectly distinct from the Palikonda Mahal, there being, as you will see, no opening between the two.

4. Supposing that more room were wanted, a similar arrangement might be made at the back of the Gumsur Mahal, as the present inmates only require half of it; or the whole of this might be taken, by moving them into the adjoining Mahal occupied by the Kandian Stipendiaries, as they are mere residents there and not State detenues.

5. The plan is returned.

Referred to the Judicial Department, with reference to the orders in that Department, No. 1465, dated 9th September 1862.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

CHEPAUK, 18*th October* 1864.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1864, No. 1685.

In the Proceedings of Government under date the 30th September last, with reference to a proposal made by the Inspector General of Jails for relieving the most crowded Jails by transferring from them convicts, unfitted by age or other causes for out-door hard labor, to the Mahals at Vellore, the Government directed that officer to submit a report upon the following points:—

1*st.*—What Jails it was proposed to relieve.

2*nd.*—The number of prisoners now confined in each of the Jails in question, and the average cubic space available for each prisoner in such Jails.

3*rd.*—The number of prisoners to be removed to Vellore.

4*th.*—The average cubical space that would be available for the remaining prisoners in the Jails thus relieved.

5*th.*—Which of the Mahals, Tippoo's or Hyder's, should be converted into a prison; and what arrangements would be required for the accommodation of the prisoners.

6*th.*—The number of Police guards.

7*th.*—Whether the cost of the Jail establishment proposed by Mr. Rohde for the Mahals would be met by reductions in the Jails to be relieved.

8*th*.—Whether the Mahals would not be a suitable place of confinement for any class of convicts, except perhaps the most desperate, and not for those only whom Mr. Rohde proposed to confine in them.

2. In his letter of the 14th instant, the Inspector General of Jails has furnished replies to some of the foregoing queries. He states, with reference to the first, that he is unable to give the exact number he would transfer from each Jail; but proposes to relieve the Jail at Chittoor, those on the line of rail as far as Coimbatore and Ootacamund in the one direction, and Cuddapah in the other, and the Jails of Chingleput, Vellore, and Cuddalore. He also thinks it probable that some relief may be given to other Jails.

3. The exact number of prisoners to be taken from each Jail not having been determined (why it has not been, the Inspector General does not explain), Mr. Rohde is of course unable to reply to the 2nd and 4th queries.

4. The answer to the 3rd and 5th questions is, that 500 prisoners may be removed to Vellore and placed in Tippoo's Mahal. Mr. Rohde, in his letter of the 10th September last, estimated the number which might be accommodated in the Mahals, at from 1200 to 1500 prisoners. His reason apparently for limiting the number to be sent to 500 is, that the total number of the classes specially indicated in his former letter does not exceed 500; and, with reference to the suggestion made in the last of the above queries, he observes that, without destroying the character of the institution and greatly enhancing the cost, he could not propose the confinement of other classes of male convicts. He adds, however, that he contemplates recommending that the smaller, or Hyder's, Mahal should be used as a Central prison for females, but that the subject is one which requires consideration and some previous extension of the Railway. Mr. Rohde does not furnish any specific answer to the 7th question, viz., whether the cost of the establishment of Jailer, Warders, &c., would be met by reductions in the Jails to be relieved; but states, with reference to the number of guards which will be required, that a reduction, and not an increased expenditure, will be the result of the proposed arrangement. The Inspector General of Police, who was directed to inform Mr. Rohde what would be the number of Police guards required, has reported, in a letter addressed to Government direct, that if the number of convicts be 1000, 50 Constables will suffice; if 500, 35 Constables; and so on in proportion. The arrangement will thus entail a considerable reduction in the cost of Police guards; and it is to be presumed that a portion, at least, of the proposed expenditure on the salaries of Warders will be met by reductions in other Jails.

5. Pending the thorough clearing of the Vellore Mahals, which is now in progress, Mr. Rohde applies for authority to transfer to Vellore 100 sickly prisoners from the gang employed on the Lawrence Asylum works, and 100 from the Coimbatore Jail. This may be done at once, if sufficient progress has been made in converting the Mahals into a Jail to admit of 200 prisoners being confined in them; but the Governor in Council must request that the Inspector General will at once give his attention to the Order of the 30th September last, and furnish the Government with categorical answers to the several questions therein put to him. There can be no reason why he should not at once determine what Jails stand most in need of relief; and having done this, he should have no difficulty in furnishing, in a complete form, the information called for by Government.

6. The letter from the Inspector General of Police, under date the 17th ultimo, should have been addressed to Mr. Rohde, and not to Government.

(True Extract.)

G. Anderson
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Jails.
" " of Police.
" Joint Magistrate of North Arcot.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

P W 1864 Deptt
Pro. of Govt. for November
No. 5083

Pro: of Govt. in the
Indl. Deptt.
D/ 28 } Novr.
Recd. 25 }
No. 1685

Passing orders on the papers relative to the transfer, to the Mahals at Villa, Ir-Arcot Dt., of the Convicts of certain Jails, who are unfitted by age or other causes for out-door hard labour.

No. 613 - 614

With an order
No. 3431 - 30th Novr. 1864

No. 3431

Communicated to the Supg Engineers 4th and 7th Divisions -

[illegible]

Chepauk
30th Novr. 1864

To The Supg Engineer 4th Dn
" " - 7 Dn

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Secy 7th December