

(1) Number of pages 10
(2) Date of repair 2-4-43
3. Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1446	Press ~~Mis.~~
312-13	
Dated 13. 5	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th May 1867.*

No. 312. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department.

Passing orders on a report of a fatal accident to
a convict while employed in drawing water } (Here enter 1st May 1867, No. 700)
from a well in the Coimbatore Central Jail.

No. 313. ORDER THEREON, 13th May 1867, No. 1,446.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 31.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 7th Division for
such explanations as he may have to
offer regarding the alleged inattention of the Public Works Department to the
representations made by the Superintendent of the Jail of the dangerous condition
of the platform in question. Colonel Walker will also ascertain and report why no
measures were taken for protecting the well by a fence.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

here

3

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

1st May 1867.

No. 11. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 11th April 1867, No. 8.

I have the honor to forward a letter from the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, dated 8th February, together with the Proceedings held at an inquest on the body of a convict, named Madatil Pudikel Kootan, who was killed by an accidental fall from the platform of a well in the Jail, on the 4th idem. This platform was suspended about half way down, and was constructed, under the orders of Colonel Moberly, for the use of the men employed in widening and deepening the well.

2. In November last, while writing to the Superintending Engineer upon the subject of the water supply generally, I suggested that the well in question should be built up, and be fitted with a proper wheel and appliances; in reply to which, he stated "I have drawn up a specification for a large pump to be fitted up in the 1st well, when it can be given up for completion by this Department. Lieutenant Smith is meanwhile to adopt better measures for emptying it of its present supply daily than have hitherto been availed of—a point which I have frequently before pressed on the attention of his predecessor, as well as himself." Nothing, however, appears to have been done that time.

3. The platform has now been removed, and a wheel for drawing water has been fixed at the top of the well.

From the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Coimbatore, to the Inspector General of Jails, Madras; dated Coimbatore, 8th February 1867.

I have the honor to report that, on the 4th instant, convict No. 201, Madatil Pudikel Kootan, a West Coast man, was accidentally drowned in the large well, in No 5 yard, of the Central Jail, under the following circumstances

2. The deceased was one of the Jail well gang, drawing water for bathing, and supplying water for building purposes. He was on the platform, which is situated about half way down the well, which is a very deep one; he was drawing water with a bucket. The rope to which his bucket was attached broke, causing the deceased to lose his balance and fall. In his fall, he turned a somersault, hitting his head against the side of the well, which is of rocks. Upon reaching the water, his body immediately sank, and it was only recovered by a convict lowering himself down by a rope, and diving. There was about eight feet of water in the well at the time. The accident happened between twelve and one (noon). There was no midday rest on this day, as the convicts were not sent out to work until after nine o'clock, owing to the weekly inspection of the Jail by the Medical Officer and myself.

3. I arrived in the Jail just after the accident had occurred, and immediately proceeded to the well, the body was at that moment being drawn out of the water. Upon getting it on the platform, life was extinct. There was a wound on the back of the head, and bruises between the shoulders. Death was probably caused by the prisoner hitting his head against the side of the well in his fall.

4. An inquest was held on the body, about an hour after the accident occurred. I beg to forward the depositions taken by the Head Assistant Magistrate, as also his letter remarking that some precautions ought to be taken to prevent a similar accident occurring.

5. The well, as you may recollect, is the first well dug in the Jail, and is of a great width and depth. About the middle of it there is a platform, on which convicts stand, drawing water with ropes and buckets, which water is again drawn from the top, and passed down to the bathing cisterns. There has never been any railing, or any kind of protection, to prevent a man falling in. The platform is also on a gradual slope towards the centre. A man losing his foot-hold cannot possibly

1445

Public Works Department

No. 1446

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 13th May 1887
Read the following

Proc. of the Madras Govt in
the Judicial Dept. (Here enter No. 700 dated 1st May 1887.)

Communicated
to the Superintending En-
gineer of the 7th Division
for such explanation as
he may have to offer re-
garding the alleged inat-
tention of the Public Works
Department to the re-
presentations made by
the Superintendent of
the fail of the dangerous
condition of the platform
in question. Col. Walker
will also ascertain and
report why no measures
were

1887
1698

Proc of Govt
Judicial Dept.

1887
1698

No 700

Having orders
in a report of a fault
accident & a comic
while employed in
drawing under
power a small in
the jurisdiction
Central Jail
No 1446-13th May 1887

No 312

were taken for pro-
tecting the well by
a fence.

W. B.

- Love you

Dec 14/96

W. B.

312 2513

Pub. Works 1867 Departs

Pro. of Govt. for May

No 1446

Pro. of the Madras Govt.

Of 13th May 1867

Pro. Judicial Departs
Passing orders on papers
relative to Accident at the
well, in the Coimbatore Central
Jail on the 11th February last
communicated to the Sup^g
Engineer of the 7th Division,
for report.

No 312-313