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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

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354-55

Dated 19 1 1867.

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I

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 19th January 1867.

No. 354. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department :—

Disposing of Major Farewell's application for convict labor for employment on the new Goodaloor Ghaut and on the road between Pykara and the Ghaut in the Coimbatore District. } (Here enter 15th January 1867, No. 89.)

No. 355. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1867, No. 174.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 27.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 3,816, dated 30th November 1866.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th January 1867.

Read the following papers :—

No. 161. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 7th December 1866, No. 113.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 29th ultimo, of the order of Government noted in the margin, directing me to make an early report upon an application made by Major Farewell, Executive Engineer, Ootacamund, for Convict labor.

Judicial Department, 22nd November 1866, No. 1849.

2. He asks for 190 men in all, 40 of whom are to be located in the Chuttrum at Pykara, 100 in tents at Hamilton's Saddle, and 50 in the Jail at Neddiwuttum. Until the receipt of the order in question, I believed that the requisition was limited to 40 men at Pykara, which was all that Major Farewell gave me to understand that he required, and I was prepared to address Government as soon as I was informed what arrangements had been made for the accommodation of the Police, a preliminary measure which has been enjoined in several recent orders on the subject of locating Convicts in tents or in temporary Jails. I was averse to send men to Pykara, but as the Engineer appeared very anxious to have them, I consented to meet his views if possible. The present proposal, however, is a different matter altogether, and seems to me open to serious objection. I doubt that tents, even with the additional cumbly suggested by Major Farewell, will afford sufficient protection, and I consider that the experiment will be hazardous. Between the 8th March and 31st May last, 28 Convicts were sent in sick from the small gang in the Pykara Chuttrum. It is possible that Major Farewell's hopes may be realised, and that the Convicts may remain healthy, but we are not well prepared for the opposite contingency. The Hospital accommodation at the Native Jail at Ootacamund is insufficient for the wants of the Jail itself, and the Hospital at Neddiwuttum has not yet been commenced. Where then are the sick men to be sent? It is not desirable to turn the Jail at Ootacamund into a Depôt for the sick of the working gangs; to transfer them to the plains will be troublesome and expensive, and the Hospital accommodation both at Coimbatore and Salem is still very limited.

3. Every separate establishment of Convicts involves additional monthly accounts, which must be checked in this office, and forwarded in due time to the Accountant General. This branch of work is already sufficiently heavy, and will be increased when the gangs are hutted on the sites of the Central Jails at Cannanore, Vellore, Trichinopoly, and elsewhere, consequently I am not desirous to add to the number.

4. Mr. McIvor will state his views on the last paragraph of Major Farewell's letter, but I may mention that he is about to commence to build a Hospital of the following dimensions to contain 12 men, viz., 30 × 14 × 15. This allows only 6 per cent. of sick to his intended complement of 200 men, and gives 35 feet of superficial area and 525 feet of cubical space to each. Provision should be made for the reception of at least 8 per cent. of sick, and the allowance of space increased. The location of the additional men at Neddiwuttum is the only part of Major Farewell's scheme that I feel able to support, but I do not recommend that it should be carried out before the Hospital is ready.

5. The Convicts at the Lawrence Asylum works are very healthy and their labor is efficient. I attribute this result to their being well housed, and to the strict supervision and constant presence on the spot of Captain Hankin, Superintendent of the Jail and Officer in charge of the works. He informs me that he could make good use of 100 additional Convicts, and that he could finish a Barrack for their reception in three weeks. I should infinitely prefer such an arrangement to that proposed by Major Farewell, that is to say, as far as regards Pykara and Hamilton's Saddle.

6. Having stated my objections, I will now mention what appears to be necessary, should it be determined to carry out the measure.

I.—The Apothecary at Neddiwuttum should afford Medical aid to the gang at Hamilton's Saddle, and also to that at Pykara, being allowed horse allowance for that purpose in addition to his pay.

II.—If the labor of 50 men at the Neddiwuttum Jail is given for the road, their clothing, food, and any extra establishment or guards required on their account should be borne by the Public Works Department, but it must be defrayed, in the first instance, by Mr. McIvor.

III.—The undermentioned establishments will be required, viz:—

For Hamilton's Saddle.

1 [illegible]

1 Head Warder at 14 Rupees.

4 Warders at 12 Rupees each.

For Pykara.

1 Jailer at 30 Rupees.

2 Warders at 12 Rupees each, and one Clerk to do the work of both Jails, unless Major Farewell has one available in his own establishment, or unless the Jailers are competent to perform the duty.

IV.—Extra cumblies and a warm cap for each man should be provided.

V.—The Pykara Chuttrum, the encampment at the Saddle, the accommodation at Neddiwuttum, and the establishments should all be reported complete before the transfer is ordered.

VI.—If the transfer to the plains of sick men should be found necessary, the cost ought to be borne by the Public Works Department, as well as all other expenses extra to those in the plains.

VII.—The gangs would be formed by transfers from the Jail at the Lawrence Asylum works, and from that at Ootacamund, according to circumstances, and the places of the men withdrawn would be filled from Salem and Coimbatore.

7. In case of any future requisition of this kind it would be well to give longer notice, but it is fortunate that the men are not in tents at present, as the weather has been cold and rainy for several days past.

8. Copies of my letters to Major Farewell, and his replies in original are herewith forwarded.

From Major W. FAREWELL, Executive Engineer, Neilgherry Range, to Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 24th October 1866, No. 433.

Government having sanctioned a further sum of money for expenditure in 1866-67 on the estimate for the road from Ootacamund to Neddiwuttum, and understanding that it is the wish of

Government, in order to reduce the over-crowding of Jails, that as many Convicts as possible be employed on Public Works and temporarily accommodated on those works, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government for my again employing 40 Convicts on the road in question from the 1st of December 1866.

2. The Convicts to be accommodated in the Chuttrum at Pykara as last year, application for the services of a Native Dresser to have medical charge of the gang will be necessary. The Senior Medical Officer of Ootacamund inspected the Chuttrum last year, and if you remember saw no objection to 40 men being therein located.

3. Anticipating sanction to the arrangement proposed, I have built four substantial thatched huts, each 10 × 12, for the use of the Police Guard; three permanent quarters for the Police already exist at that station. The Police Guard should, in my opinion, be provided with a Guard room in front of the Jail, the room occupied as a Guard room last year will then be available as a Hospital for the sick. On hearing from you of the sized Guard room considered necessary for the small Guard required for 40 Convicts, I will immediately put the structure in hand, and will also, if you think such a step desirable, provide the wards to be used by the Convicts with good ridge ventilators.

4. The Chuttrum measures as follows:—

Main ward.....	65 × 14 × 8 = 7,280
Roofing	65 × 7 × 6 = 2,730
Total...Cubic feet	10,010

5. I have named the 1st of December, as from this time the weather at Pykara is generally settled and fine.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to Major FAREWELL, Executive Engineer, Ootacamund; dated Ootacamund, 29th October 1866, No. 794.

In reply to your letter of the 24th instant, No. 433, regarding the location of a gang of 40 Convicts at Pykara, for employment on the road to Neddiwuttum, I have the honor to state that no extra expense can be incurred by this Department. The ordinary cost of food and clothing will be a Jail charge, but the wages of the Jailer and Warders, as well as all other extra expenses, must be defrayed by your Department, and it is therefore necessary for me to be in possession of all particulars of the proposed arrangements before I can address Government on the subject.

2. I concur with you as to the necessity of providing Hospital accommodation, but the question of quarters for the Police should be settled between you and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, and until that Officer is satisfied, no transfer can be ordered. If the present Guard room cannot be given up to the sick, some other provision should be made.

3. With regard to a Dresser, I am of opinion that it will not do to be without one, while at the same time I apprehend some difficulty in procuring one for so small a party.

4. In conclusion, I beg to state that for several reasons I am averse to detach a gang to Pykara, and it is only in consideration of the requirements of your Department that I can undertake to propose the measure to Government.

From Major W. FAREWELL, Executive Engineer, Neilgherry Range, to Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 6th November 1866, No. 451.

In reply to your letter No. 794, dated 29th October 1866, I have the honor to inform you that I am quite prepared to pay from my Estimates any extra expense that may have to be incurred in locating a gang of 40 Convicts at Pykara, for employment on the new road between Ootacamund and Neddiwuttum.

The following establishment will be required:—

1 Dresser, pay unknown.
1 Jailer at 30 Rupees.
2 Warders at 12 each.

2. I have this day communicated with the Deputy Inspector General of Police as suggested in your letter, and have no doubt that the arrangements proposed will meet with his approval.

3. It is essential that a Dresser be provided for the party to prevent malingering, and the expenses of constantly sending in men to Ootacamund to be treated as last year, many of whom on arrival were reported to have nothing the matter with them.

Extract from a letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Executive Engineer, Ootacamund, dated 29th November 1866, No. 886.

I have the honor to inform you that your letter of the 31st ultimo, No. 122, has been referred to me for report, and was received this day.

2. I conclude that you wish to have 40 men at Pykara, and 100 at Hamilton's Saddle under yourself, and the use of 50 additional men who are to be located in the Jail at Neddiwuttum; but as I am not certain whether I am correct in my supposition, I beg you will let me know.

3. I also request you will favor me with information on the undermentioned points, viz.:—

I.—Who is to attend to the clothing, feeding, Monthly and Quarterly Returns of the 50 extra men at Neddiwuttum, and who is to bear their expenses?

II.—I presume the Dresser at Pykara is also to attend the gang at the Saddle. Is this so?

III.—If 190 men are brought up it may be expected that a number will be sent away sick. The Hospital accommodation at Ootacamund is very limited, besides which it is by no means desirable to make that Jail a Depôt for the sick of other Jails, or of working parties, especially as it is generally found necessary eventually to send them to the plains. I therefore wish to be informed whether you are prepared to pay for the transfer of sick to the plains.

IV.—Colonel Walker in his covering letter to Government, in speaking of tents, says, "provision being made for the warmth of their inmates at night by extra clothing." Such provision is indispensable in weather like this, but judging from my own personal experience, I doubt whether, even with such an addition, tents will afford sufficient cover for Natives from the low country. However, I should like to know the particulars of the extra clothing you propose to give them.

V.—New forms of Monthly, Quarterly, and Annual Returns have recently been introduced by order of Government. It will be requisite, if the gangs are formed, that these Returns should be forwarded punctually.

4. I observe you propose one Jailer and two Warders for the 40 men at Pykara. For the 100 men at the Saddle you will require one Jailer, one Head Warder, and four Warders.

5. Your letter, No. 451, dated 6th instant, was not delivered to me until the 10th. The matter to which it refers has now become a part of the general question, and will, therefore, be disposed of at the same time. Not having received any information on the subject of the 2nd paragraph of my letter of the 29th ultimo, regarding accommodation for the Police, I have consequently not taken any steps in the matter, nor shall I be able to reply satisfactorily to the present reference until I know what has been arranged with regard to giving up the Guard* room for a Hospital.

* i. e., at Pykara.

(True Extract).

(Signed) W. J. WILSON,
Inspector General of Jails.

From Major W. FAREWELL, Executive Engineer, Neilgherry Range, to Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails; dated Ootacamund, 3rd December 1866, No. 521.

Your letter No. 886, dated 29th November 1866, to which I have the honor to reply *seriatim*.

2. I wish to have 40 men at Pykara in the Chuttrum, 100 in camp at Hamilton's Saddle, and 50 additional men located in the Chinchona Plantation's Jail.

3. I.—The 50 extra men located in Neddiwuttum Jail I would recommend to be fed, clothed, and returned by the Neddiwuttum Jail authorities, their cost being transferred to this Department. The requisite accommodation, Jail establishment, &c., being already provided at this locality, the sooner the 50 men required here are sent out the better, and as it is of great importance that the services of 50 men be immediately obtained at Neddiwuttum for the Goodaloor Ghaut, orders might be sent to supply the Public Works Department at once with 50 men from the Jail established there.

II.—The Dresser with the larger gang might attend the smaller, the distance between the gangs would be only three or four miles.

III.—I presume the men sent would be mostly men selected from the Ootacamund Jail, many of whom are well acclimatized, and it is hoped will not in the fine healthy locality they are to be employed in fall sick; this question however, generally I think, requires the decision of Government. I want the men, and am prepared of course to pay whatever Government may direct.

IV.—I consider good tents to be quite as warm as sheds, the portion of the floors used for sleeping being well dried, covered with tarpaulins and again with bamboo mats, would, I think, be quite safe (European Soldiers in Camp are never better treated) to make the beds more comfortable; grass, which is to be had in abundance close to the proposed Camp, might be introduced between the tarpaulins and bamboo mats. Each man might be provided with an additional cumbly to be used only as a covering at night.

V.—The new forms alluded to shall be as punctually submitted as possible; a writer will, however, of course be necessary.

If [illegible] advisable, the Pykara Chuttrum gang of 40 men might be dispensed with, and the Ch[illegible] fitted up as a Hospital for the larger gang, which might be increased to 25 men more requiring another tent.

5. A European Jailer would be necessary for the larger gang on a salary of not less than sixty Rupees per mensem.

6. The arrangements I have proposed have been agreed to by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Western Range, and I have already built an iron roofed Guard room to be placed in front of the Chuttrum in lieu of the room formerly occupied by the guard, which I proposed should be used as Hospital Ward for the sick.

No. 162. From the Superintendent, Government Chinchona Plantations, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 11th December 1866, No. 89.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 1849, under date the 22nd November 1866, I have the honor to inform you that there is room for 200 Convicts in the Neddiwuttum Jail. Our present number being only 132, a gang of 50 could therefore be received for employment by Major Farewell, for completing the new Ghaut through the Plantations.

2. The Department of Public Works will be required to pay in cash the cost of feeding and clothing these men, so long as Major Farewell has their labor.

No. 163. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 89.

The Governor in Council cannot accede to Major Farewell's application in its present form. The Government are averse to placing prisoners under canvas on the Hills under any circumstances. In the present cold season, and in the absence of any suitable arrangements for the proper shelter of the men and their guards, it would be extremely undesirable to do so. The Governor in Council will not,

however, object to the 40 men proposed to be located in the Pykara Chuttrum being placed at Major Farewell's disposal, if Colonel Wilson is satisfied with the arrangements made for the lodging of the men and their guards at the Chuttrum, and provided the use of that building by the Convicts does not interfere with the convenience and comfort of travellers. Fifty men may also be located in the Neddiwuttum Jail, when the Inspector General of Jails is satisfied that sufficient Hospital and other accommodation has been provided.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
„ Inspector General of Jails.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

To be substituted for the Proceedings bearing the same date and No. already communicated.

Lid

Extract

No 174

Comm^d to the Supt^g Engineer of the 7th Div^n with reference to the Proc^s of Govt No 3816, dated 30th Nov^r 1866.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Fort St George 17th Jan^y 1867

Recd Copies of the Jud^l Pro: forwarded to the Dep^t Sec^y 24th January 67

Dep^t 21st January 67

P. W. 1867 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for January
1869.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
in the Jud. Dept.

Dy 15
Rec 18 } January 1867

No 89.

Disposing of Major
Farewell's application for
convict labor for employ-
ment on the new Good-
-ur Ghaut and on the
road between Pykara
and the Ghaut in the
Coimbatore Dt.

No 354-355

William Robinson
Encs. 174-19th January 1867