

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1134	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
309 to 313		
Dated	19. 4	1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th April 1873.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 309. Endorsement of the Judicial Department, dated Fort St. George,
1st March 1873.

From the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort
St. George, dated Madras, 31st January 1873, No. 12.

With reference to my letter No. 1, dated 17th instant, I have the honour to
forward a letter from the District Engineer at Madura, in which he requests, for
certain reasons stated, that the Jail at Paumben may not be given up.

2. Two propositions are made by Colonel Roberts, namely,—

I. That the labour of every convict employed by the Department of
Public Works should be paid for at the rate of 4 annas a day, or

II. That 3 annas a day should be paid for every convict whether employed
by the Department of Public Works, or on the necessary menial
occupations for the service of the Jail. This last proposal is coupled
with the condition that the officer in charge of the works should
be the Superintendent of the Jail.

3. The accounts for 1872 are not complete, but those for 1871 will suffice
for the present purpose. The daily average number of prisoners during that year
was 111, and the cost per man for everything, guarding included, came to
Rupees 104-7-7 per annum, or to Rupees 0-4-6 per diem. The cost of guarding is
not paid in cash by this department, and if that item be deducted, the cost per man
comes to Rupees 89-1-4 per annum, or Rupees 0-3-10 per diem.

4. From inquiry I made at Paumben I came to the conclusion that there
would be a difficulty in obtaining a sufficient and continuous supply of free labour

Judicial Department, 23rd September 1872, at a moderate rate, owing to the nature
No. 1,293. of the locality and the severe character
of much of the work. Colonel Roberts

does not say anything regarding this point; but from his offering to pay 3 annas
a day for each prisoner, which for 90 men would come to upwards of Rupees 6,000
per annum, whereas the allotment required by him in addition to the ordinary
maintenance allowance is only Rupees 4,000, I infer that some such difficulty is
apprehended.

5. Should it be determined to keep prisoners at Paumben, the sum to be paid
by the Department of Public Works ought, I think, to be determined on the follow-
ing principle, namely, that it should bear all expenses which would be saved were
the convicts to be removed, that is to say the cost of the establishment and that of

Establishment...	Rs. 214 per mensem.	contingencies, such as lighting, etc., etc.,
Allowance of Deputy		and that it ought also to pay a fair rate
Magistrate ...	.. 25 ..	for labour. The cost of establishment

comes to about Rupees 2,868 per annum,

and that of contingencies to between Rupees 500 and Rupees 600. If the sum of
3 annas and 6 pie per head per diem be paid for every man in Jail it will
cover these two items, and a moderate charge for labour. Taking the daily average
number at 111, as in 1871, the sum paid for labour would be about Rupees 0-2-1 per
man, but if the proposed arrangement is carried out, the strength of the Jail will
be kept down as much as possible to the number actually required for Public

Works *plus* that wanted for the service of the Jail, and the number will therefore probably be between 80 and 90. With 90 prisoners the rate paid for labour would only be about Rupees 0-1-9 per man.

6. I am unable to consent to the transfer of the superintendence from the Deputy Magistrate to the Supervisor or Overseer of the Works, but the direction of the labour will be left to him, and any complaints of short work or of misconduct will be disposed of by the Superintendent.

7. Considering that arrangements had been made for transferring the convicts on the 31st December, when the march was countermanded on the requisition of Colonel Roberts, I think the payment, if determined upon, should commence from the 1st instant.

8. Colonel Roberts makes certain observations upon the question as it affects the Jail Department, which I would not notice were it not that if allowed to pass unanswered they might create an erroneous impression. When it is put forward that the labour is suitable, all that can be said in favour of the Jail has been said. Whether owing to the locality, or to the nature of the labour, but most probably to the latter, the Jail cannot be considered as healthy, for, although the death rate generally has been low, except in 1871, when it came to 4.15 per cent., the number of admissions into hospital has been very large, and the ratio per cent. of daily average sick to strength is considerably higher than that of any other Jail in the Presidency. Again, little is to be procured on the island, as food and clothing have to be brought from a distance, and the population of the Jail is made up of transfers from other Jails, so that all things considered it is the most inconvenient one there is as far as this department is concerned.

REFERRED to the Department Public Works for remarks.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 310. From the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 11th March 1873, No. 5,313.

In reference to your telegram, dated 8th instant, and received this day by post, and my telegram in reply, I have the honour to state that the amount, Rupees 7,000, recommended by me for the maintenance allotment for the Paumben Channel when convict labour is dispensed with, is arrived at as follows:—

(a.)—Annual maintenance allowance as at present	RS.
(b.)—For maintenance of a gang of coolies for one dredge, namely, 41 men, at about Rupees 8 per mensem	2,000
(c.)—Maintenance of a gang of coolies for blasting operations, namely, 32 coolies (for 8 jumpers) for 20 days per mensem for 6 months at 5 annas per cooly	4,000
	1,200
Total	7,200

2. As however, the gangs of coolies thus entertained would be of use in undertaking special jobs for which the convicts were not available, and which had to be executed therefore by paid labour out of the annual allotment of Rupees 2,000, a certain saving in this respect may be anticipated, and I am of opinion therefore that Rupees 7,000 will suffice for the annual allotment when the convicts are withdrawn.

3. I take the opportunity of forwarding to you herewith a copy of my letter No. 4,341, dated 30th December 1872, to the address of the Inspector General of Jails, wherein I have fully explained my views in regard to the expediency of retaining the convicts at Paumben.

From the District Engineer, Madura, to the Inspector General of Jails, Cannanore, dated Paumben, 30th December 1872, No. 4,341.

In reference to G. O., 23rd September 1872, No. 1,293, and the correspondence printed therewith, also to your letter No. 2,403, dated 3rd October 1872, intimating that the Jail at Paumben will be given up on the 31st idem, I have the honour to request the favour of your re-considering the question of the abandonment of the Jail on the following grounds, and should you concur with these views by your being so good as to address the Government on the subject.

2. My reasons for wishing you to re-consider the question are simply these:—In paragraph 5 of my letter printed with the Government Order above quoted, I have distinctly explained that should the convicts be removed it will be necessary to make an allotment of Rupees 4,000 per annum, in addition to the annual maintenance allowance of Rupees 2,000 for the sand bank channel.

3. Unfortunately up to the present moment no notice whatever has been taken by Government of this representation, and even the maintenance allowance of Rupees 2,000 has been sanctioned only on the 26th instant, after my oft repeated solicitations for the same.

4. When I suggested the removal of the convicts from Paumben, I did not anticipate that the order would be passed for the same without any steps being taken to supply their place. It now appears however quite futile to expect that any additional allotment will be made for the channel this year. If therefore the prisoners are now removed from Paumben and the present season for dredging the sand bank channel be allowed to slip by, the efficiency of the channel will be greatly impaired, as no work can be undertaken on this portion of the channel until the corresponding season next year, and by that time there will be two years' silt to remove.

5. I am quite aware that your answer may be that this is no affair of yours, but I would submit that it is clearly to the interests of the Government that all departments should work in harmony together.

6. We have at Paumben Jail premises admirably adapted for the detention of prisoners; the locality and the site are remarkably healthy, and they offer, moreover, no facilities for escape. The work on which the convicts are employed is suitable, being hard and continuous and at the same time attended with advantage to the State. On the other hand, the Jail premises, on the repair of which a sum of no less than Rupees 4,900 was spent but four years since, are scarcely adapted for any other purpose. It seems a pity therefore to remove the prisoners unless there are cogent reasons for that step.

7. The point on which the whole question hinges is how is the cost of the establishment to be met? What is the reasonable sum which we are all agreed should be paid for the labour of the prisoners? In calculating this, it appears to me too late in the day to consider the question how it is that convicts happen to be located at Paumben. It is sufficient to know that they are here, and that they have been housed here at a considerable expense to Government. It is also to be borne in mind, in arranging the charge for the prisoner's labour, the great inconvenience experienced on the channel work by the fact of the men not being allowed to work except in gangs of eighteen, and with a maistry over every eight men, while by reason of their gyves, the prisoners are incapacitated for performing certain kinds of work.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th April 1873.*

8. The rate paid by this department to coolies, for such work as the convicts at Paumben are in the habit of performing, is 4 annas per diem; and if that rate be charged to every prisoner told off daily to the department, it is, I think, as much as we can be fairly expected to pay.

9. On the other hand, if, as you say, you consider it preferable that "the labour of every convict should be paid for, whether employed on public works or in the necessary menial duties of the Jail," let the sum to be so paid be calculated at the rate of 3 annas per prisoner per diem. I am quite prepared to consent to this arrangement provided that the Public Works Officer in charge of the Paumben operations be also Superintendent of the Jail, as was always formerly the case.

10. I would suggest, therefore, that either the one or the other system be started from the 1st proximo, and I shall feel greatly obliged by your favouring me with your views on the subject.

11. In the meantime I have taken upon myself the responsibility to request the Superintendent of the Paumben Jail not to remove the prisoners therefrom until he is furnished with fresh instructions from you in reply to my telegrams to you of the 26th instant, and of this day's date, respectively, as also to this letter.

12. I may mention, in conclusion, that I believe that the Local Fund Board will not refuse to pay half the salary of the present Jail Apothecary on the establishment of a suitable Dispensary at Paumben.

P.S.—Your telegram of this day's date received just as this letter was being despatched.
(Initialled) R. A. R.

No. 311. Telegram from the District Engineer, Madura.
(Here enter No.—, dated 13th March 1873.)

No. 312. From the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department, dated Madura, 24th March 1873, No. 5,509.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your telegram, dated the 22nd instant, and received by me this day, I have the honour to state that I anticipate no difficulty in obtaining free labour up to the amount of the proposed allotment of Rupees 7,000 for the maintenance of the Paumben channel.

No. 313. ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1873, No. 1,134.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 24.

It does not appear from the further correspondence herewith recorded that any good object will be secured by

retaining convicts at Paumben. And His Excellency the Governor in Council accordingly directs that measures be adopted by the Inspector General of Jails for carrying into effect the Order of 23rd September 1872 after the 1st April, when the maintenance allowance for channel clearings will be increased from Rupees 2,000 to Rupees 6,000.

2. The additional sum of Rupees 1,000, now asked for by Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts, cannot be conceded as an annual maintenance allowance, being for new work; nor does it appear to be required: the estimate of Rupees 43,340 for cutting the inner angle of the reef channel, sanctioned in 1862, having been worked out this year, and Rupees 3,000 being entered in the Provincial Budget for progress with

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th April 1873.*

the work of deepening the channel to 14 feet on the estimate of Rupees 22,810 sanctioned in 1866. Whatever additional funds may be required must be duly estimated for.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
.. Judicial Department.
.. Inspector General of Jails.
.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.
.. Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No 550.9.

District Engineer's Office
Madras 24 March 1873

From

Lieut. Colonel W. A. Roberts R.E.
District Engineer, Madras

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your Telegram, dated the 22nd instant, & received by me this day, I have the honor to state that I anticipate no difficulty in obtaining free labor up to the amount of the proposed allotment of Rupees 7,000, for the maintenance of the Pamban channel.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servant

Wm. A. Roberts Lieut. Col. R.E.
District Engineer

1 Copy / 22

Telegraph Message

From Coll Walker To District Eng^r
Madras. " Madras

Your letter Eleventh March.
are you satisfied you can obtain free
labour for the same stated.

Signed G. W. Walker Coll & E
Secretary to Govt.
P. W. Dept.

P. M. 1873 Madras
No. 1134. 19 April 73
of 11/19. 19 April 73
of 11/19. 19 April 73

Mr. District Engineer
Madras

Mr. Secretary to
Government Madras

Dated 24 March 1873
Received 27 do

States that the
anticipation in
difficulty in obtaining
free labour up to the
amount of the proposed
allowance of Rs. 7000
for the maintenance
of the Government channel

No. 1134. 19 April 73

No. 1134

This is very positive -
The draft should be
sent. M. W.

Moandra

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(T 123)

For Message
Receiving Form
for Delivery.

MADRAS RAILWAY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

NOTICE.

NOTICE—The Madras Railway Company forward paid Messages for the public on the following conditions:
1st. That the Wires are not occupied by Messages relating to the Company's Service.
2nd. That the Company are not held responsible for the accuracy of the Message, or for any Delay in its transmission or delivery from whatever cause it may arise.

The following Messages received at Madras Station from Chennai Station on 13th March 1873

From <u>Mr. Roberts</u>	To <u>Mr. Walker</u>
Name <u>District Engineer</u>	Name <u>Secretary to</u>
Address <u>Madras</u>	Address <u>Government</u>
	<u>Madras</u>

Telegram received
this day—Please make
annual maintenance
allowance for Pambore
Channel Seven Thousand
Rupees.

Signature

Signaller in charge

No enquiry respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper.

Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page.

P. M. 1873 Madras

From Mr. Roberts
District Engineer
Madras

To Mr. Walker
Secretary to
Government
Madras

Recd 14th March 1873

Forward copy of no.
Telegram dated 11th March
1873, requesting to make
the annual maintenance
allowance for Pambore
Channel Rs. —

13/1873
Dy. of Govt. of Madras
No. 1044
Telegram
from Col Roberts

13/1873
Dy. do. {
13/1873

Requesting that
an annual main-
tenance allowance
of Rs 7000 may be
made for the
Pamunhen Channel.

No 311

No 1134-19 April 73.

No 5313

From.

District Engineer's Office
Madras 11th March 1873
Lieut. Colonel R. A. Roberts Esq.
District Engineer Madras

To.

Colonel G. W. Walker Esq.
Secretary to Government

Sir,

In reference to your telegram
dated 8th instant, and received this day by
post, and my telegram in reply, I have the
honor to state that the amount Rs 7,000.
recommended by me for the maintenance
allowment for the Pamunhen Channel when
convict labor is dispensed with, is arrived
at as follows:-

a. Annual maintenance
allowance as at present Rs 2,000.-

b. For maintenance of a gang
of coolies for 1 dredge vizt 41 men
at about Rs per man Rs 4,000.-

c. Maintenance of a gang of coolies
for blasting operations vizt 32 coolies
(for 8 gunners) for 20 days per season
for 6 months at 5 annas per cooly Rs 1,200

Total Rs 7,200
passed for the same

1. Copy of Letter No 4344
to the Inspector General
of Jail.

80

2. As however, the gangs of coolies thus entertained would be of use in undertaking special jobs for which the convicts were not available, and which had to be executed therefore by paid labor out of the annual allotment of Rs 2,000, a certain saving in this respect may be anticipated, and I am of opinion therefore that Rs 7,000 will suffice for the annual allotment, when the convicts are withdrawn.

3. I take the opportunity of forwarding to you herewith a copy of my letter, No 4341, dated 30: December 1872, to the address of the Inspector General of Jails wherein I have fully explained my views in regard to the expediency of retaining the convicts at Poonamallee.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt

Piet. J. Roberts Lieut. Col. R.E.

4
District Engineer's Office
No 4341
Pamunam 30 December 1872

From
Lieut Colonel N. A. Roberts AC
District Engineer, Madam

To
The Inspector General of Pails
Pamunam,

Sir
In reply to No 23 September
1872, No 1293, and the correspondence
printed therewith also to your letter,
No 2403, dated 3^d October 1872,
intimating that the pail at Pamunam
will be given up on the 31st idem,
I have the honor to request the favor
of your re-considering the question
of the abandonment of the pail
on the ^{following} grounds, and should you
concur with these views by your
being so good as to address the

passed for the same

Received 1873
Pamunam
No 1699
The District Engineer
Pamunam
To The Secretary to Govt
Pamunam

Recd 11th
Dec 14th March 1873

Encl

Forwarded copy of a letter
to the District General Officer
and shall have the same
re-considered of 1873
as recommended by him
for the Pamunam Channel
is moved at

No 330
to 28 March 73

Al 1134-19th April

Government on the subject.

2. My reasons for wishing you to re-consider the question are simply these. In para 5 of my letter printed with the $\frac{2}{3}$ above quoted, I have distinctly explained that should the convicts be removed, it will be necessary to make an allotment of Rupees 4000 per annum, in addition to the annual maintenance allowance of Rupees 2000 for the sand bank channel.

3. Unfortunately, up to the present moment no notice whatever has been taken by Government of this representation, and even the maintenance allowance of Rupees 2000 has been sanctioned only on the 26th instant, after my oft-repeated solicitations for the same.

4. When I suggested the removal of the convicts from Faumbara I did not anticipate that the order would be passed for the same without any steps being taken to supply their place. It now appears however quite futile to expect that any additional allotment will be made for the channel this year. If therefore the prisoners are now removed from Faumbara and the present season for dredging the sand bank channel be allowed to slip by, the efficiency of the channel will be greatly impaired, as no work can be undertaken on this portion of the channel until the corresponding season next year, and by that time there will be 2 years' silt to remove.

5. I am quite aware that your answer may be that this

is no affair of yours; but I would submit that it is clearly to the interests of the Government that all Departments should work in harmony together.

6. We have at Faumbrun fair premises admirably adapted for the detention of prisoners; the locality and the site are remarkably healthy, and they offer moreover no facilities for escape. The work on which the convicts ^{are} employed is suitable, being hard and continuous, and at the same time attended with advantage to the State. On the other hand, the fair premises, on the repair of which a sum of no less than Rupees 4900 was spent but 6 years since, are scarcely adapted for any other purpose. It seems a pity therefore to remove

10
the prisoners unless there are cogent reasons for that step.

7. The point on which the whole question hinges is how is the cost of the establishment to be met? What is the reasonable sum which we are all agreed should be paid for the labor of the prisoners? In calculating this, it appears to me too late in the day to consider the question how it is that convicts happen to be located at Faumbrun. It is sufficient to know that they are here, and that they have been housed here at a considerable expense to Government. It is also to be borne in mind, in arranging the charge for the prisoner's labor, the great inconvenience experienced on the channel works by the fact of the men not being

allowed to work except in gangs of 18, and with a master over every 8 men, while by reason of their gyves, the prisoners are incapacitated for performing certain kinds of work.

8. The rate paid by this Department to coolies, for such work as the convicts at Pannabum are in the habit of performing, is 4 annas per diem; and if that rate be charged to every prisoner sold off daily to the Department, it is I think as much as we can be fairly expected to pay.

9. On the other hand, if, as you say, you consider it preferable that the labor of every convict should be paid for, whether employed on public works, or in the necessary menial duties of

the jail. Let the sum to be paid be calculated at the rate of 3 annas per prisoner per diem. I am quite prepared to consent to this arrangement provided that the Public Works Officer in charge of the Pannabum Operations be also superintendent of the jail, as was always formerly the case.

10. I would suggest therefore that either the one or the other system be started from the 1st proximo. And I shall feel greatly obliged by your favoring me with your views on the subject.

11. In the meantime I have taken upon myself the responsibility to request the Superintendent of the Pannabum jail not to remove the prisoners therefrom until he is furnished with fresh instructions

from you, in reply to my telegram
to you of the 26th instant, of this
day's date, respectively, as also to this letter -
12. I may mention, in

conclusion, that I believe that the
Local Fund Board will not refuse
to pay half the salary of the present
paid Apothecary on the establishment
of a suitable Dispensary at Faimburn

I have &c

signed/ R A Roberts *Vient Col RE*
District Engineer

P.S.

Your telegram of this day's
date received just as this letter was
being despatched.

(Initialed) R A R

/ True copy /

R A Roberts *Vient Col RE*
District Engineer

Encls: 2. In a letter dated
11th March 1873 No 5313 from
the Dist Engineer, Madras.


The Secretary to Govt
P.N.D.

P. W. 1699/73 -
P. 19 April/73 B. 310.

Copy of letter No 4341
dated 30th December 1872
to the Inspector General
of Jails. -

No 4341

L

The Inspector General of Jails

Sir

In reference to G.O. dated 23rd September 1872
No 1293, and the correspondence printed therewith also to
your letter No 2403 dated 3rd October 1872 intimating that the
Jail at Poombeh will be given up on the 31st idem, I have the
honor to request the favor of your re-considering the question
of the abandonment of the Jail on the following grounds, and
should you concur with these views by your being so good as to
address the Government on the subject.

2 My reasons for wishing you to re-consider the question
are simply these. - In Para 5 of my letter printed with the
G.O. above quoted, I have distinctly explained that should
the Convicts be removed, it will be necessary to make an
allotment of Rs 4,000 per annum, in addition to the an-
nual maintenance allowance of Rs 2,000 for the Sand
Bank Channel.

3 Unfortunately, up to the present moment no
notice whatever has been taken by Government of this
representation, and even the Maintenance allowance of
Rs 2,000 has been sanctioned only on the 26th inst, after
my oft-repeated solicitations for the same.

4 When I suggested the removal of the Convicts from
Poombeh, I did not anticipate that the order would be
halted for the same reason.

passed for the same, without any steps being taken to supply their place. It now appears, however, quite futile to expect that any additional allotment will be made for the channel this year. If, therefore, the Prisoners are now removed from Paumben and the present season for dredging the Sand Bank Channel be allowed to slip by, the efficiency of the channel will be greatly impaired, as no work can be undertaken on this portion of the channel, until the corresponding season next year, and by that time there will be two years silt to remove.

5 I am quite aware that your answer may be that this is no affair of yours; - but I would submit that it is clearly to the interests of the Government that all Departments should work in harmony together.

6 We have, at Paumben, Jail premises admirably adapted for the detention of Prisoners, the locality and the site are remarkably healthy, and they offer moreover no facilities for escape. The work, on which the Convicts are employed, is suitable, being hard and continuous, and at the same time attended with advantage to the State. - On the other hand, the Jail premises, on the repair of which a sum of no less than Rs 4,200 was spent but 4 years since, are scarcely adapted for any other purpose. It seems a pity therefore to remove the Prisoners unless there are cogent reasons for that step. -

7 The point on which the whole question hinges is, how is the cost of the Establishment to be met? What is the reasonable sum which

reasonable sum' which we are all agreed should be paid for the labor of the Prisoners? In calculating this, it appears to me too late in the day to consider the question how it is that the Convicts happen to be located at Paumben. It is sufficient to know that they are here, and that they have been housed here at a considerable expense to Government. It is also to be borne in mind, in arranging the charge for the Prisoners' labor, the great inconvenience experienced on the channel work, by the fact of the men not being allowed to work except in Gangs of 18, and with a maistry over every 8 men; while by reason of their gyves the prisoners are incapacitated for performing certain kinds of work. -

8 The rate paid by this Department to Coolies for such work as the Convicts at Paumben are in the habit of performing is 4 Annas per diem; and if that rate be charged to every prisoner sold off daily to the Department, it is, I think, as much as we can fairly be expected to pay. -

9 On the other hand, if, as you say you consider it preferable, that the labor of every convict shall be paid for, "whether employed on public works, or in the necessary menial duties of the Jail," let the sum to be so paid, be calculated at the rate of 3 Annas per prisoner, per diem. I am quite prepared to consent to this arrangement, provided that the Public Works Officer in charge of the Paumben operations be also Superintendent of the Jail, as was formerly the case. -

10 I would suggest therefore that either the one or the other system be started from the 1st proximo. And I shall feel great pleasure in

feel greatly obliged by your furnishing me with your views on the subject.

11 In the mean time I have taken upon myself the responsibility to request the Superintendent of the Paumben Jail not to remove the Prisoners therefrom until he is furnished with fresh instructions from you, in reply to my telegrams to you of the 26th Instant, and of this days date, respectively, as also to this letter.

12 I may mention, in conclusion, that I believe that the Local Board will not refuse to pay half the Salary of the present Jail Apothecary, on the Establishment of a suitable Dispensary at Paumben.

District Engineer's
Office - Paumben
30th December 1872
Despatched Dec^r 31st 1872

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Rich^d J. Roberts A. Col. R.
District Engineer - Madura

P.S. Your telegram of this day's date received -
just as this letter was being despatched.

Recd 25/12/72

Received 30th December 1872
Received 8th January 1873
to the District Engineer
of Paumben
Requests that the
Prisoners at
Paumben may
not be removed

No

No 12

From

Lieut. Col. W. J. Wilson
Inspector General of Jails

The Honble W. R. Anderson
Chief Secretary to Government
For Madras

Sir,

With reference to my letter
No. 1 dated 17th instant, I have the honor
to forward a letter from the District
Engineer at Madura in which he
requests, for certain reasons stated,
that the jail at Paumben may not
be given up.

2. Two propositions are made
by Colonel Roberts viz:
1. That the labor of every convict
employed by the Department of Public
Works should be paid for at the rate
of

of 4 annas a day, or

11. That 3 annas a day should be paid for every convict whether employed by the Department of Public Works, or on the necessary manual occupations for the service of the Jail. This last proposal is coupled with the condition that the officer in charge of the works should be the Superintendent of the Jail.

3. The accounts for 1872 are not complete, but those for 1871 will suffice for the present purpose. The daily average number of prisoners during that year was 111, and the cost per man for every thing, guarding included, came to Rupees 104. 7. 7 per annum, or to Rs. 0. 4. 6 per diem. The cost of guarding is not paid

in

in cash by this Department, and if that item be deducted, the cost per man comes to Rupees 89. 1. 4 per annum or Rupees 0. 3. 10 per diem.

4. From enquiry I made at Pannabur I came to the conclusion that there would be a difficulty in obtaining a sufficient and continuous supply of free labor at a moderate rate, owing to the nature of the locality and the severe character of much of the work. Colonel Roberts does not say any thing regarding this point, but from his offering to pay 3 annas a day for each prisoner, which for 90 men would come to upwards of Rupees 6000 per annum, whereas the allotment required by him in addition

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1872

addition to the ordinary maintained allowance is only Rupees 4000, I infer that some such difficulty is apprehended.

5. Should it be determined to keep prisoners at Panmure the sum to be paid by the Department of Public Works ought, I think, to be determined on the following principle viz that it should bear all expenses which would be saved were the convicts to be removed, that is to say the cost of the establishment and that of contingencies such as lighting &c &c, and that it ought also to pay a fair rate for labor. The cost of establishment comes to about Rupees 2868 per annum, and that of contingencies to between Rs 500 and

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and Rs 600. If the sum of three annas and six pice per head per diem be paid for every man in jail it will cover these two items, and a moderate charge for labor. Taking the daily average number at 111 as in 1871 the sum paid for labor would be about Rs 0.21 per man, but if the proposed arrangement is carried out, the strength of the jail will be kept down as much as possible to the number actually required for Public Works, plus that wanted for the service of the jail, and the number will therefore probably be between 80 and 90. With 90 prisoners the rate paid for labor would only be about Rs 0.12 per man.

6. I am unable to consent to

to the transfer of the Superintendent from the Deputy Magistrate to the supervisor or overseer of the work, but the direction of the labor will be left to him, and any complaints of short work or of misconduct will be disposed of by the Superintendent.

7. Considering that arrangements had been made for transferring the convicts on the 31st December when the march was countermanded on the requisition of Colonel Robert, I think the payment, if determined upon, should commence from the 1st instant.

8. Colonel Robert makes certain observations upon the question
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as it affects the Jail Department which I would not notice were it not that if allowed to pass unexamined they might create an erroneous impression. When it is put forward that the labor is suitable, all that can be said in favor of the Jail has been said. Whether owing to the locality, or to the nature of the labor, but most probably to the latter, the Jail cannot be considered as healthy, for although the death rate generally has been low except in 1841 when it came to 4.15 per cent, the number of admissions into Hospital has been very large, and the Ratio per cent of daily average sick to strength is considerably higher than that of any other

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Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Engineer
Madras

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 2

G. O. 19th April No. 1134.

No. 309 @ 313

Pannchen Channel.

Passing orders on ~~the~~ ^{the} papers
Subject of the retention
of convicts at Pannchen
& the add^l funds re-
quired ~~for~~ on account
of the channel.