

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following letter

From the Surgeon General with the Government
of Madras dated 23rd September 1881, No. 131.

In forwarding the accompanying
letter from the Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum
Waltair, reporting the escape of a criminal
lunatic on the 28th August, and the insecure
state of the buildings for the detention
of Criminal lunatics, I have the honor
to recommend to the Honorable the
Governor in Council that the Public
Works Department may be directed to
expedite the measures necessary for
the better security of the Criminal insane.

From the Superintendent Lunatic Asylum Waltair, to the
Surgeon General with the Gov^t of Madras dated 28th August 1881,
No 93.

I have the honor to report for the
information of the Surgeon General that
Criminal lunatic Chuvathi Sanaki
Ramayya, the same man who escaped on
20th June last, again effected his escape
during the night of 20th August 1881 and
has

has not as yet been recaptured.

This man was shut up in the guard room in one of the corners of the Verandah of the Criminal ward as it was considered more secure than the ward itself; the warder on duty was apparently asleep in front of the door of this guard room, but on awaking heard some noise at the gate of the enclosure and on going there found one of the venetian windows of the ward propped up against the door, he then returned to the guard room and found that this lunatic had removed the tiles from the Verandah roof and had thus escaped; on ascertaining this an alarm was raised and the asylum premises searched but the man had completed his escape by getting over one of the gates to the Asylum compound.

At the last meeting of the Official Visitors the insecure condition of the doors of all of the wards particularly those of the Criminal ward, and the easy way in which the gates could be scaled were brought to their notice but it was argued that

that as the doors had proved sufficiently secure hitherto that there was no necessity to incur the expense of having iron barred doors, but I beg to differ on this point and consider that every precaution should be taken to render an escape impossible, and therefore strongly urge that immediate steps be taken to make the wards more secure.

At present too much depends on the vigilance of the warders on duty at night time; there are 8 warders, four of whom are on duty at the different wards at night, and four or more as circumstances may require during the day, consequently it often happens that the warders are on duty both day and night and as at night there is no relief it cannot be expected that the watch will be very vigilant.

There are 9 criminal lunatics at present, and I am anxious about their safe custody particularly so there are amongst them two men who have never shown any symptoms of insanity since their admission and being guilty of murder

murder and knowing that Government
have repeatedly refused to remove such
cases to jails or elsewhere I fear they
in desperation may attempt and perhaps
succeed in escaping.

Order thereon 28th September 1881, No 2017.

Communicated to the Public
Works Department, where the necessary
orders will be issued for effecting
the better security of the inmates of the
Lunatic Asylum at Waltham.

2. The Government desire to be
informed of the result of any further
enquiry into the circumstances attending
the escape of the criminal lunatic
in question and whether it was in
any way due to the negligence of
the warders on duty.

Sh

3. It is observed that the fact of the
escape of the same lunatic on 20th June
last, does not appear to have been
reported to Government.

(True Extract)

J. S. Davis
Adj Under Secretary.

To.

The Public Works Department.

Govt. of {188 } Madras.

No 2492 W. of 11 Oct/81

Comd to the Supt
Engineer 1st Circle
in view to the necessary
repairs being carried
out without delay

S
M.

To

Dated

Recd.

188 , No.

Nos.

Along letter from
Surgeon Genl reporting
the escape of a Cri-
minal lunatic
at Walahra

No 2492 W of 11 Oct/81
B

Supt 1st Circle

Supt 1st Circle

12/10/81

With order

Subd. in Receipt Regr