Re 1800 Wdy 26th June 83

P.W.

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Govt. of [1883] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

P.W.C. No 4339

9 S.C.

Issued

Recd. 23/5/83 Encl.

G.O., 14th May 1883, No. 955.

Re 1800 Way 26-6-83

MAY.

Convict Labor Fund.

Considering that the time has arrived when the — should be amalgamated with "Provincial Jails," and directing the Accountant-General and the Inspector-General of Jails to take the necessary steps to carry out this object, with effect from the commencement of the current official year.

Copy
7/6

To Supdg. Engineers
To Supdg Engrs
Exc. P.W. accounts

Withdrawn

Entd. in Accredit Reg.

Entd. in Accredit Reg.

Wdy 14/6 Rep 23/6 Ab 28/6
Cs 31-6

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From H. F. CLOGSTOUN, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 10th January 1883, No. 42.

I have the honor to reply to your memorandum, No. 901, dated 8th September, forwarding, for my opinion, correspondence between yourself and the Inspector-General of Jails regarding a proposal to abolish the Convict Labor Fund.

Your object in now suggesting the abolition of the fund is based apparently on the fact that the present mode of showing receipts from jail manufactures in our accounts renders any comparison between the figures in the Local Accounts and in those of the Supreme Government very difficult. There is not, I think, any necessity for continuing the present system of showing in the General Account of the Presidency the receipts from convict labor or jail manufactures which now appertain to the Convict Labor Fund distinct from the similar receipts which are credited to the General Provincial Revenues. The total receipts from jail manufactures or from convict labor might be shown each in a single entry, and, if Government consider it necessary that a portion of these receipts should go to form a special fund, a statement dividing the receipts might be prepared outside the General Account.

2. Whether it is advisable that a fixed proportion of these receipts should be set aside to form a fund with an accumulating balance is a question for Government to decide. In my opinion there is not sufficient reason for the continuance of the fund, especially now that Government is prepared to allot from its general revenues for some years to come the equivalent of the average annual expenditure on jails from Convict Labor Fund and Provincial.

From Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 27th April 1883, No. 104.

I have the honor to return the papers referred to me with your endorsement, No. 394, dated 19th February 1883.

2. The principal objection taken by the Head of the Finance Department to the retention of the Convict Labor Fund appears to be, that, under the present system of keeping the accounts of this fund in his office, he is required on the mere authority of the Superintendents of the Jails to enter a large portion of the receipts from this labor as *profits*, and that his office is entirely without any sort of proof to show that the sums claimed as profits are really so.

3. I will endeavour to show that these objections are fallacious. In the annual accounts of the Jail Department, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India and shown in the Administration Reports, the amount drawn from the treasuries ; the amount repaid to the treasuries, and the actual profits made, are clearly shown. It is, therefore, obvious that the Accountant-General can ascertain the results if he chooses, and the necessity of accepting the statement of profits on the *ipse dixit* of the Inspector-General of Jails rests not with this Department, but on the Accountant-General's own office. The statement shown below exhibits the amount

drawn from, and repaid into, the treasuries on account of jail manufactures, and the excess over-drawings or profits for the last five years. I submit that if the Finance Department remains in ignorance of the state of the jail accounts it is no fault of the Prison Department which is always ready to afford any particulars required by the Account Department. Moreover, the Accountant-General was invited to audit and scrutinize the Jail Manufactory Accounts, but owing to some difficulty in respect to the Examiner's pay, this arrangement was not carried out:—

Years.	Amount Drawn from the Treasuries.	Amount Paid into the Treasuries by Cash and Invoice.	Excess over-drawings or profit.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1878	3,30,403	4,36,598	1,06,193
1879	2,14,019	3,26,899	1,12,880
1880	2,47,528	3,36,522	88,994
1881	2,68,895	4,00,581	1,31,686
1882	2,46,094	3,69,295	1,23,201

4. In my former letters I have set forth the arguments for the retention of the Convict Labor Fund; at the same time I am quite sensible that there may be objections to the separation of this Fund and "Provincial Jails" from an account point of view, and if it is the desire of Government to abolish the Convict Labor Fund I will raise no further objections.

5. In surrendering the Fund, I trust Government will not allow my Department to be starved, but will allot on jails for some years to come, at least the equivalent of the average annual expenditure on jails from Convict Labor Funds and Provincial.

ORDER—dated 14th May 1883, No. 955, Financial.

Serious objections having been found to exist from an account point of view to the retention of the Convict Labor Fund, the question of its abolition was referred to the Inspector-General of Jails for reconsideration.

2. Colonel Tennant's reply and the subsequent correspondence having now been carefully considered, the Government are satisfied that the time has arrived when the "Convict Labor Fund" should be amalgamated with "Provincial Jails." The Accountant-General and the Inspector-General will accordingly take the necessary steps to carry out this object, with effect from the commencement of the current official year.

(True Extract.)

W Bennett
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Inspector-General of Jails.
" Accountant-General
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Re 1800 W dy 26 to June/83

Recorded.

P.W.C. No 4339

Govt. of {1883} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

95 C.

Issued

Read. 23/5/83 Encl.

G.O., 14th May 1883, No. 955.

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MAY.

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