

Précis of replies from Superintending Engineers to G.O., No. 3042 W., dated 16th November 1882, calling for reports as to what large works in this Presidency can furnish suitable employment for Convict Labor.

The Superintending Engineer, First Circle, does not know of any other work in his circle than the Dowlaishweram quarries on which convicts could be employed with success for any considerable time, and even there he would prefer not to employ them, as he has just induced a considerable amount of free labor to come to the quarries from distant places on the promise of long-continued employment. He states that temporary work might be provided for about 500 convicts on the Godáviri left embankment if they can be moved frequently and sent some 15 miles or so from Rajahmundry.

The Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, does not think that convict labor could be suitably employed on any of the earthworks of the Kistna completion project. The bulk of these works are drainages to be carried through swamps, and the difficulty of providing proper camp jails would be considerable. He believes, however, that a gang of convicts might be usefully employed on the aqueduct which is eventually to supply the Divi Island. This will be a large work and the convicts could be employed in making and carrying bricks, and in lime, mortar and surki making, and, if trained men be available, they could be employed in building. A camp jail could be maintained throughout the work, which, however, is not likely to be put in hand for four or five years. All other masonry works in the project are small and not likely to be suitable for the employment of convict labor.

The Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, reports that there are no works in his circle which can furnish suitable employment for convicts.

The Superintending Engineer, Fourth Circle, states that of large works in prospect in his circle, the following are likely to be most suitable for convict labor:—

- I. *Wynaad communications*.—Temporary camps would be necessary at suitable places along the different lines of road.
- II. The several works * now being investigated by the B. Project Division.

* Barur tank.
Marandahully project.
Vanniar do.

III. All Local Fund roads.

The labor on these works would have to be directly supervised by officers and subordinates of the Public Works and Local Fund Departments; but Colonel Beatty is of opinion that the wishes of the Government of India might also be met by the jails generally becoming depôts for the supply of building materials to the Public Works Department. He suggests that jails should be utilized, as far as practicable, in the preparation of rough and dressed stone, bricks, lime, &c., and especially woodwork. This preparation of materials could go on in, or within a few miles of, every jail, under the direction of the Superintendent, aided by competent maistries.

The Superintending Engineer, Fifth Circle, considers that the only large public work in his circle, suitable for the employment of convict labor, is the Buckingham Canal. He presumes that the labor will be given free † of charge, and therefore, before a gang of convicts is engaged for a particular work, the cost of extra guards and hutting will have to be calculated, to see whether it will be covered by the saving in labor. He remarks that, if convict labor be thus utilized to any extent, some additional supervising staff will be required, as works will have to be carefully laid out and watched.

The Executive Engineer of the Buckingham Canal reports that convicts could be suitably employed in the excavation of earthwork on the several contemplated diversions of the canal, and in preparing broken stone for concrete required for flood gates

† Such is evidently the intention of the Government of India Resolution.

and masonry works. The labor could be concentrated by employing convicts from Madras prisons on the basin works and the reach to Ennore, while prisoners from Chingleput and Nellore could be employed on the Pálár and Pennér flood embankments.

The Superintending Engineer, Sixth Circle, is of opinion that the question as to convict labor cannot be answered in a satisfactory manner until it is authoritatively laid down what modifications of the present jail rules will be allowed, and under what new rules and restrictions the convicts are to be employed. He presumes that the

* The Government of India Resolution clearly indicates that convict labor will be given free of charge, while the cost of guards, hutting, &c., will be charged to the work.

Public Works Department will pay * only for work turned out at market rates, and that the cost of hutting, guards, &c., will be deducted from the value of the work, while the cost of extra superintendence

will be met by the Jail Department. In this case Colonel Mead fears that the direct return in employing convicts on public works will be very small indeed, for, unless the work is in one place and likely to last for some time, it would not be worth while to incur the heavy expenditure in hutting both for convicts and their guards.

Colonel Mead proceeds to name the following works in the Fourth and Sixth Circles on which convicts might be employed:—

- (1.) *Nilgiris*.—A large gang might be employed in re-making the road from Ootacamund to Naduvatom and the Gúdalúr Ghât.
- (2.) *South Canara*.—A gang of about 100 convicts might be permanently employed in quarrying and dressing laterite at Mangalore for use as required on public works and also for sale to private parties.
- (3.) *Malabar*.—No public work available, but a laterite stone quarry might be established near Calicut.
- (4.) *Coimbatore*.—No work available, unless the Bhaváni scheme be found practicable and is sanctioned. A large gang of probably 400 could be advantageously employed on it, but a portion of them would have to be placed in portable jails.
- (5.) *Salem*.—No work available. The irrigation works under consideration are too small and scattered for convict labor.
- (6.) *North Arcot*.—No work available. The Pálár works are not adapted for convicts.
- (7.) *Trichinopoly*.—No work available.
- (8.) *Tanjore*.—A gang of about 100 might be employed in quarrying stone, making bricks, &c., for the Cauvery and Vennár regulators, and the Tanjore jail will afford work for some little time.
- (9.) *Madura*.—No work available; but if the Periyár project be sanctioned, a large gang of about 400 could be advantageously employed for six months in the year. Should the Pámban channel work be carried out, a very large number of convicts could be employed.
- (10.) *Tinnevely*.—No work available except the jail, which will afford work for a short time. The irrigation works in the district are not adapted.

Colonel Mead thinks that in all districts of the Presidency the Jail Department might, with advantage, take up the maintenance of Local Fund and Municipal roads on contract to within a distance of, say, three miles of the jails. He also names the Sangam project as a work on which a large gang might be advantageously employed. He remarks that it is only on very large public works which will take many years to complete that convicts can be employed with any saving to Government, but he believes that, if the present stringent jail rules be relaxed, there are many places where gangs of about 80 men might be advantageously employed for one or more years. He states that if he is informed under what general rules as regards accommodation, guards, hours of work, &c., the convicts would be employed, he could make definite proposals for their employment in the Sixth Circle.

The Consulting Architect to Government reports that there are no works under his charge which would afford a suitable field for convict labor.

The Superintendent of the Madras Harbour Works does not think that convicts could be advantageously employed on the harbour works. Certain divisions of the

works which are merely manual would be suitable, but the work is so hard and continuous and the hours are so long that it is necessary to employ two relays of men, and to allow each relay a full day's pay for the apparent half day's work. From the late hour at which convicts are brought to work, the early hour at which they are taken away, and the long midday rest allowed them, it is not possible to obtain a full day's labor from them, and it is almost impossible to employ them in relays. The experience he has obtained in England leads him to believe that convicts cannot be advantageously employed on large public works unless, indeed, the work is undertaken purposely to give them employment. The Consulting Engineer for Railways states that there is no work at present, nor is it likely that any will be soon undertaken, which would afford suitable employment for convicts on either the Madras or South Indian Railways.

No. 72 W.

MEMORANDUM.

Employment of Convict Labor.

There is one great obstacle in the way of the employment of convicts on irrigation works. Most of our work is done against time, during the closure of canals, or after the cultivation season and before the early rains, and I do not suppose that if we employ convicts we could enforce a daily task.

Another obstacle of lesser moment is the necessity of keeping the convicts altogether apart from the ordinary laborers, and this effectually bars their employment on concentrated works, such as the construction of the Cauvery and Vennár regulators, and the Sangam head works.

There are two descriptions of works on which I think convict labor could well be employed—

- (1.) Quarrying, where the work to be done consists chiefly in excavating and breaking up stone and delivering it at a fixed point.
- (2.) The excavation of portions of a canal or large channel in dry soil where work can be carried on throughout the year.

It is possible that a third head might be added to the above, viz., the preparation of materials for a large work, but this would entail some of the labor employed being skilled labor, which might not be available among the convicts.

Under the first head I think, perhaps, the Dowlaishweram quarries might be worked, now that there is likely to be a continuous demand for stone, and possibly a quarry in connection with the Sangam works. I can think of no others, the Kistna quarries being so closely connected with the head works and demanding the employment of skilled labor, but the Superintending Engineers' replies may show that there are others available.

Under the second head there may be a section of the Bank Canal, Eastern Delta, Kistna Delta, which could be handed over and some part of the Sangam channels. There is no other extensive earthwork that I know of to be undertaken; a small channel would not do, as it would necessitate frequent moves of the camp and add greatly to the expense, but here also the Superintending Engineers may have suggestions to make.

No information is given as to the charge to be made for the labor. It is stated that, in the case of a public work executed by the State, it would be quite justifiable to charge any extra expenditure on police guards or portable jails to the work. It will be evident that, in the case of our large works, most of which are classed as "Productive Public Works," any extra charges in addition to the labor rates would necessitate the revision of the estimates and the preparation of fresh accounts. We are in these cases tied down and cannot go beyond our maximum rates, and it has to be seen whether these rates would cover all charges for convict labor.

KURNOOL CANAL,
7th December 1882.

(Signed)

J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Ag. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

Memorandum by the Chief Engineer.

Under paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 21st October 1882, No. 1643, Judicial, the question of employing convict labor on public works having been referred to me for remarks, it appeared necessary to consult the several Superintending Engineers, and I have now the honor to submit a précis of the replies by these officers.

2. This supplies all the information which it is at present possibly available, and though in some respects meagre and even conflicting, it will perhaps meet the immediate object in view as showing generally the classes of work in this Presidency which may be considered suitable or otherwise for convict labor.

3. The main difficulties in regard to the employment of convict labor are of two kinds—one connected with the payments for work done, the other with the provision for temporary shelter on comparatively small or scattered works.

4. The method hitherto usually followed of paying for convict labor, according to the strength of the parties supplied, instead of by results, has always and must till altered prove a stumbling-block, and render this method of executing public works unpopular with officers of the department. The convicts often arrive late and leave early, cannot be worked like ordinary coolies, in fact are not sufficiently in hand. Extra guards, &c., have to be paid for, special arrangements made to keep the men apart from the hired work-people, &c., all of which involves a great deal of real trouble and not unfrequently leads to unpleasant discussions with the jail authorities. To crown all, progress is slow and it may also happen the rates turn out higher than were estimated for.

5. Under the second head the difficulties connected with the provision of temporary shelter are such that it may be doubted whether it would be in any way desirable to work convicts on any such small undertakings as would give constant employment to any body of less than 100 convicts, daily working strength, for, say, four or six months.

6. Till both of these points have been very thoroughly sifted and worked out by the Inspector-General of Jails, it would be almost useless to consider the question of extramural labor for convicts, though as regards the preparation of materials in the way of sawing timber, manufacture of bricks and tiles, road metal, &c., there would appear to be ample scope.

7. All such work classed as intramural presents apparently no difficulties, and, so far as I am enabled to judge from the experience I have had as Superintendent of the Moulmein Jail in 1858-59, I should be disposed to think that the first of the difficulties to which I have above drawn attention could be overcome by giving complete freedom of action to both the Superintendent of the jail and the Executive Engineer to deal with each other in respect to the execution of works simply as contractor and employer, the engineer to pay for work as turned out at departmental rates and have nothing whatever to say to the times of coming or going, extra guards, &c.

8. As regards the second difficulty, this also I should think might find a somewhat similar solution under such general rules regarding the class of shelter, strength of parties, &c., as the Inspector-General might frame. In any case I venture to think that this plan might be tested by experiment in one or two selected divisions.

13th January 1883.

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 28th June 1883, No. 166.

With reference to Judicial Proceedings, No. 1643, dated 21st October 1882, I have the honor to report that, in accordance with the orders of the Government of India on the subject of jail manufactures, a circular was issued on the 25th October Circular No. 438, copy enclosed for information. To all Superintendents promulgating revised instructions for the employment of convicts in the Madras Jails.

2. Not many alterations in existing rules were involved, as in this Presidency it has always been a well-understood principle that no competition with private industries or local trades is allowable, and our endeavours have been directed to devote prison labor to the furnishing of articles required by Government departments, rather than to enter the market as sellers of goods to private individuals.

3. Owing partly to the faulty construction of some of the old District Jails and partly to the difficulties of providing suitable in-door employment for prisoners whose sentences are short, a large proportion of the convicts in District Jails have always been employed on extramural labor, thus the new rules will not involve any appreciable change of system in these jails. Excepting weaving of cloth and a little mat-making as a mode of employing certain prisoners whom it may not be desirable to send outside the prison, manufactures have not been carried on generally in our District Jails; for, when a prisoner's sentence is very short, there is obviously no time to do much in the way of teaching him a trade, consequently the prisoners have been employed on such out-door works as quarrying, stone-dressing, digging gravel, carting stone and lime, road-making, and excavating tanks and wells, &c. On some occasions gangs are given to Municipalities, with the sanction of Government, without charge. Convict labor has also been employed on Public Works at Ootacamund; as an example of the style of work done by the prisoners at this hill station may be mentioned—the reclamation of swampy ground near the head of the lake, the building of reservoirs for the supply of water to Ootacamund, the drainage and improvement of the lake, the works in connection with Government House, and the new approach road, &c. Prison labor has also been successfully applied to the buildings of the Lawrence Asylum and on the Government Cinchona Plantations. In the statement appended will be found full accounts of the different employments at which the prisoners are now engaged.

4. In our Central Jails, which are complete so far as the present standard of jail discipline requires, the labor may be described as intramural, the farm lands and buildings attached to most of these jails being surrounded by an outer wall or other enclosure. The convicts are largely employed in the cultivation of the enclosed farm lands, such labor being very suitable to the classes of criminals composing the bulk of our prison population. There is, however, a large proportion of convicts in every Central Jail who must, for obvious reasons, be employed within the prison walls, and it is not possible to dispense altogether with in-door labor. It therefore becomes necessary to consider in what way these convicts can be most suitably employed. In

the selection of industries to be carried on, I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to meet the wishes of the Supreme Government, but it is anything but an easy problem to devise suitable industries for a Central Jail, which, whilst fulfilling the requirement of our prison system, shall, at the same time, be in accordance with the principles laid down by the Government of India.

5. There is no steam machinery in any of the Madras Jails, so the observations of the Government of India on this subject have no application to this Presidency. In the Penitentiary Branch of the Government Printing Press at Madras, the printing machines are worked by motive power from the treadmill, and the hand presses by convicts; but further than this the prisoners have nothing to do with the printing establishment. The printers and compositors are free men attached to the Government Printing Establishment and work quite apart from the convicts. The treadmills are highly useful as providing first-class hard labor for the class of offenders committed to Presidency Jail.

6. In the Central Jail at Coimbatore some power-looms and weaving machinery were procured from England in 1872 under instructions from Lord Napier. The power-looms are used for weaving cloth for prisoners' clothing and for the Police Department. The looms are worked by treadmill and crank, and afford suitable hard labor for convicts during their probationary period; there appears no objections to the present system of working, and I strongly recommend the retention of the power-looms and treadmills. It is proper to mention that a centrifugal pump, intended to be worked by a small steam engine, was brought out from England by Colonel Bowen, Acting Commissioner of Police, at the time he purchased the weaving machinery. The pump and engine were transferred from the Madras Penitentiary to the Central Jail at Coimbatore along with the weaving machinery; they are not used nor required in the jail, and may be sold if a purchaser can be found. In the other Central Jails the weaving of prison and Police cloth and the making of coarse cotton and woollen fabrics is done by the ordinary native hand-looms.

7. In regard to the authorized industries. It may be mentioned that the manufacture of woollen and cotton carpets, which for many years has been a jail speciality at Vellore, Salem, and Rajahmundry, has not been disturbed; there is no reason to suppose that any private firm is ready to supply the existing demand for rugs and carpets of the same texture or design as manufactured in jails, nor is the manufacture of carpets or woollen fabrics in the jails of this Presidency carried on beyond the limit prescribed by the Supreme Government. Next, as to tent-making—an industry taken up at the time of the Afghan war at the special request of Sir Neville Chamberlain, Commander in Chief of Madras, and with the sanction of Government—it should be pointed out that there are no tent manufactories in this Presidency similar to those in Northern India. By putting a stop to this industry in jails, officers will have to procure their tents from Northern India as formerly—a considerable hardship—as the cost of carriage in many cases exceeds the value of the tent. Great attention has been paid, especially by the Superintendent of the Vellore Central Jail, to tent-making, and the Vellore tents are now pronounced quite equal to the tents made at Jubbulpore, and are spoken of with the highest encomiums by the purchasers. The Salt Department has been supplied with a large number of tents, and the Commissioner has expressed himself as satisfied with the outturn. Tent-making ought to be continued until private enterprise shows itself ready to supply the demand. We still continue the weaving of cotton cloth, the making of woollen blankets, and working in leather for the Police Department. All the linen uniform, sandals, and blankets required for the whole Police force are manufactured in our jails. This system has been in force for the last ten years and has given satisfaction. Moreover, the furnishing of these articles provides suitable, continuous, and profitable labor for a large class of prisoners, such as Burmese lifers, desperate characters and others, who must be employed within the jail walls. Coir work, equivalent to "oakum picking," is given to men in cells, and a little rattan cane-work is allowed as occupation for aged prisoners and certain Chinese convicts. Sales to consumers amongst the outside public have been discouraged, in fact the prices at which goods are now sold have reduced such sales to a minimum.

8. I will now proceed to consider the steps that can be taken to give effect to the views of the Government of India regarding the employment of convicts on Public Works. A list of the various works, as furnishing appropriate labor for convicts, has been submitted by the Chief Engineer in accordance with the orders of Government. It will be seen that these projects divide themselves almost entirely into schemes for the excavation of canals or channels, and for the quarrying of stone and the preparation of materials for building purposes. The works are, for the most part, small undertakings or of short continuance, giving employment to less than 100 convicts working, say, for four or six months. No large public work, giving employment for a large number of convicts for a long time, is proposed.

9. As far as concerns the schemes for the formation of canals and channels, it is evident from the nature of the work that the prisoners would be employed in small scattered parties, that the work would be irregular, involving frequent moving of the prisoners. The supervision would be difficult, and the security of the prisoners endangered. Much expense would be entailed in moving the prison frequently, as the works would not take long to execute; the Police guard required to watch scattered parties of convicts would also involve heavy extra expense. As regards the second suggestion of employing convicts in the preparation of building materials and in carpentry, &c., this scheme is inadmissible as opposed to the principles laid down by the Government of India.

10. No doubt the employment of convicts on large public works, carried on under efficient superintendence and under restrictions essential to prison discipline, is by far the most satisfactory way of utilizing convict labor. But to secure success it is essential to concentrate a large number of prisoners and keep them occupied on one work, day after day, and year after year, without the necessity of moving the establishment every few months, as must be the case in works of a minor character scattered over different parts of the country.

11. In reading the minutes of evidence taken last year before the Committee on the employment of prisoners at home, I observe that the Committee, without hesitation, expressed a preference, over all other schemes, to the employment of convict labor in the construction of harbours, and Sir John Cooke stated that for the last seven or eight years a large number of convicts had been employed under his direction in constructing the harbour at Colombo and in Table Bay. At Colombo about 550 convicts were employed, 320 of whom were engaged at the quarry, and the remainder at the harbour in the construction of concrete blocks. Sir John Cooke also stated that the construction of these works by convict labor entirely satisfied the expectations of the Colonial Governments.

12. The Madras Harbour is now in the course of construction. If convict labor has been used with such success at Colombo, may it not prove feasible to employ convict labor on the Madras Harbour Works? There will probably be a difficulty in finding a suitable site for a prison in the immediate vicinity of the Harbour Works, and there are obvious objections against marching gangs of prisoners a distance of two or three miles through the crowded streets and bazaars lying between the Penitentiary and the Harbour. Moreover, the employment of convicts in the construction of the concrete blocks, &c., might not meet with the approval of the Supreme Government as interfering with private enterprise and the labor market.

13. But many of these disadvantages would be avoided by employing the prisoners in quarrying rough rubble stone at Pallavaram, a distance of about twelve miles from the harbour, and from whence stone is now brought by railway. There is ample ground in the vicinity of the quarries for constructing the necessary prison buildings and housing the staff. I understand that there would be work for some years for the prisoners, and there would not be the same difficulties and disadvantages in connection with sanitary considerations as there would be in locating the prisoners at Rayapuram.

14. There is yet another project on which convicts might be employed, it is the Harbour Works at Cocanada, which, I understand, are about to be undertaken. Should Government approve, convict labor might be given gratuitously, whereby the

outlay in money would be considerably reduced. I shall not attempt to go further into these schemes, but merely indicate that if some such large public work can be given to the convicts, I see no reason why the policy of the Government of India cannot be carried out in this Presidency.

15. At the same time it is my duty to point out that there is at present no necessity, so far as the prison department is concerned, of seeking employment for our convicts on public works. The jail farms and works connected with new jails by the extension of the cellular system will provide ample work for our convicts for some time to come without having recourse to employment on public works. The public work prisons will be additions to our present accommodation, requiring extra guards and additional staff, thus adding enormously to the cost of the jail administration of this Presidency. Our Central Jails have been constructed with care and forethought, and possess the means of carrying out a strict system of discipline and punitive labor; further, the statistics of mortality show that our prisoners are duly cared for in all that pertains to health. To employ our convicts on jobbing work scattered in gangs over the country, and worked in chains, will neither be reformatory nor remunerative, and it is more than doubtful whether the mortality will not largely increase under such a system. Under these circumstances, it becomes necessary to consider whether any change of system in the employment of convicts is called for so far as this Presidency is concerned, and whether the change contemplated will not entail a heavy and unnecessary financial loss to the State.

ENCLOSURES.

CIRCULAR No. 438.

Jail Manufactures.

With reference to the Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department, dated 22nd September 1882, Nos. 20—1400-19, republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 3rd instant, the undersigned has the honor to request Superintendents of Jails will consider and report without delay, how the convict labor of their jails can be most suitably employed so as to meet the wishes of the Government of India.

2. The Government of India have determined that labor on public works shall in future be looked upon as the principal mode of employing long-term prisoners. It will, of course, be impossible to dispense altogether with in-door employments, but after the drafts to public work gangs have been made, it is evident that the numbers in the Central Jails will be much diminished, and the prisoners left will probably have enough to do to turn out articles for Government consumption without manufacturing for the open market.

3. With regard to intramural labor, it will be observed that the Government of India specially direct that multifarious manufactures should be discouraged. A certain number of authorized industries will be laid down, and no others will be allowed without special sanction. In the selection of these industries careful attention ought to be paid to their penal character. The production of one or two industries carried on on a large scale will make supervision easier and avoid much laxity of discipline, and whilst utilizing the labor of prisoners to the best advantage, the Jail Department will not be exposed to the reproach of interfering with free labor.

4. The first object to which jail industries should be devoted is the supply of jail requirements. When these are satisfied, the supply to other departments may be considered, but jails are not to undersell the local markets, and must compete for custom on equal terms with other suppliers. There is no objection to their turning out certain authorized articles for Government consumption, provided a proper price is charged for labor, wear and tear of tools, &c., in addition to the value of the raw material, which, in other words, will bring jail outturn up to the market price. With regard to percentage on account of profits, the Government of India have laid down that in the case of article supplied to Government or to wholesale dealers, this may ordinarily be fixed at 10 per cent. on the cost of the raw material and labor, for sales to retail dealers at 15 per cent. on that cost, and for sales to private consumers at 25 per cent.

5. In paragraph 18 of the Resolution certain forms of in-door prison labor are indicated. Superintendents should, therefore, set themselves without delay to remodel the in-door industries of their jails, in order to bring them into harmony with the orders of the Government of India. Existing contracts for the supply of jail manufactures will be carried out, but no new contracts should be accepted save such as are in accordance with the principles laid down. The existing arrangements for the supply of Police clothing will continue for the present. The manufacture of cotton and woollen carpets, which is already a jail speciality at Vellore, Rajahmundry, and

Salem, will be allowed until further orders. Tent-making in the Central Jails at Vellore, Rajahmundry, and Coimbatore will continue until private enterprise shows itself ready to supply the demand. Woollen horse-blanket making is a jail speciality at Bellary, and may be carried out on the principles laid down by the Government of India.

6. There is no steam machinery in any of the Madras Jails. As regards the European machinery driven by treadmill and crank, special orders will be issued on the subject. The Penitentiary Branch of the Government Press, where the printing machines are worked by motive power from the treadmill, and the hand presses by convicts, will continue until further orders.

7. In regard to present stocks of manufactured articles, they will be sold off, at present or reduced prices, so as to clear the stocks on hand by the 15th December 1882. Existing stocks of raw material will be worked up without delay, and no fresh purchases will be made except for authorized industries. All outstanding bills due by private individuals to jails are to be adjusted without delay. In future, sales to consumers amongst the outside public ought to be discouraged. The prices at which goods are to be sold (which are to include 25 per cent. profit) will, it is believed, reduce such sales to a minimum.

(Signed) T. E. TENNANT, Colonel,
Inspector-General of Jails.

25th October 1882.

MADRAS JAILS.

STATEMENT showing on what Occupations the Prisoners are at present employed in the Jails of the Madras Presidency.

Russellkonda Hill Jail.—This jail is used for prisoners belonging to the hill tribes, principally Khonds and Sauras. The prisoners are employed in repairing roads and jail buildings, in gardening, quarrying and carting stones, and in the menial duties of the jail.

Berhampore District Jail.—The prisoners are worked on the farm lands and garden. They are also employed in digging and carting gravel and in menial duties connected with the jail.

Vizagapatam District Jail.—The prisoners are employed in quarrying stone and in building the boundary wall to the jail enclosure.

Párvatipur Hill Jail.—Like the jail at Russellkonda this jail is used for prisoners of the hill tribes. Under the special sanction of Government the labor is entirely at the disposal of the civil authorities for the improvement of the station Belgaum-Párvatipur.

Rajahmundry District Jail.—The prisoners work as a branch of the Central Jail at Rajahmundry. The whole of the grain for both jails is cleaned, winnowed, and ground by the District Jail prisoners. The convicts are also employed in gardening and in hauling gravel and stone for the District Jail buildings now under construction.

Guntúr District Jail.—With the exception of the prisoners required for the service of the jail, all are given for the improvement of the station under the direction of the Municipality or the Local Funds Board.

Nellore District Jail.—The prisoners are employed on the conservancy of the casuarina plantations, in gardening and fencing the jail lands, and in repairing roads and jail buildings.

Kurnool District Jail.—For the last two years the labor has been entirely at the disposal of the Municipality for the improvement of the station.

Cuddapah District Jail.—The labor of this prison is principally employed by the Municipality and the Local Funds Board.

Bellary District Jail.—This is the only District Jail in which the prisoners are employed in manufactures; there being long termed prisoners as well as short-sentenced prisoners in this jail. Woollen blanket making is a jail speciality at Bellary. This prison supplies a large number of jails with woollen blankets, the Police Department is supplied with cumblies, and horse blankets are made for the Commissariat Department. But the manufacture of woollen fabrics in this jail is not carried beyond the limits prescribed by the Supreme Government. The prisoners are also employed in gardening and in other suitable out-door work.

Chittoor District Jail.—The prisoners are worked on the roads of the station and in gardening.

Chingleput District Jail.—The convicts are principally employed on road-making, digging and carting of gravel, and other suitable extramural occupations.

Cuddalore District Jail.—Formerly weaving was carried on extensively in this jail, and the demand for the Cuddalore Jail cotton fabrics was large. Manufactures have now been entirely stopped, and the looms and raw materials disposed of. The prisoners are now employed in gardening and in digging stone and laterite for the Municipality, and occasionally gangs are let out on hire to work for private individuals.

Tranquebar District Jail.—The prisoners are employed in repairing roads, in cleaning the drains in the town, and in the menial duties of the jail.

Tanjore District Jail.—With the exception of the prisoners required for the service of the jail, all are employed on the new jail works under the direction of the Public Works Department.

Trichinopoly District Jail.—The prisoners are employed in road-making, in carting stone and gravel, and in cleaning, winnowing, and preparing the grain for the consumption of the prisoners in both jails.

Madura District Jail.—Manufactures have been entirely stopped in this jail, and the prisoners are now worked on the roads.

Tinnevely District Jail.—The prisoners are employed in gardening and on the new jail works under the direction of the Department of Public Works.

Calicut District Jail.—The prisoners are employed on the reclamation ground near the jail, in cultivating the garden, and sinking a well therein.

Tellicherry District Jail.—The prisoners are employed on the station roads and in cultivating the garden.

Mangalore District Jail.—The prisoners are principally employed in quarrying and cutting laterite; the stones are sold to the Municipality and to private individuals. The quarry forms suitable and continuous work for the convicts.

Coimbatore District Jail.—The convicts are worked at stone-breaking, digging, hauling gravel, and works connected with the farm.

Ootacamund District Jail.—With the exception of the prisoners required for the services of the jail, all are employed in the improvement of the station. A gang of 80 or 90 prisoners are supplied daily to the Public Works Department, and a gang of 30 or 40 is engaged in cutting away a large embankment at the back of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Rajahmundry Central Jail.—Employment is found for a large number of prisoners in farming and in cultivating the jail lands. The Nankin or fawn-colored cotton is largely cultivated on the farm. Attention is also paid to sericulture, and large plantations of mulberry trees are being formed. The extramural labor also consists of hauling stone, Godavari silt and sand-digging, stone-dressing, carting lime and gravel. The prisoners are also employed in assisting in building and in digging a well at the Superintendent's quarters. The undermentioned manufactures are also carried on in the jail:—Weaving cloth for prisoners' clothing; coir mat making for prison use; carpentry and blacksmith's work in connection with the jail buildings; woollen and cotton carpet weaving, boot and sandal making for the Police Department; a little rattan work gives occupation to the Burmese convicts.

Vellore Central Jail.—The extramural labor consists in building the residence for the Superintendent of the Jail; in excavating and blasting rock; in carting and hauling building materials; in stone-breaking, stone-dressing, digging, quarrying, and gardening; also in hauling and preparing building materials for the cellular close prison. The undermentioned manufactures are carried on, viz.:—Weaving cloth for the Police Department and for prisoners' clothing; woollen blanket or cumbly making, tent-making, sandal and boot making for the Police; cotton and woollen carpet weaving, basket-making for the use of the jail. This jail manufactures articles almost entirely for Public Departments, and, with the exception of tents and cotton carpets, there are no sales for private individuals in India. The woollen carpets are exported to England and France.

Salem Central Jail.—The extramural labor consists of gardening, farming, road-making, and repairing jail buildings. The intramural manufactures consist of weaving cloth for prison use, boot and sandal making for the Police Department; rattan basket making for work connected with the jail; woollen carpet weaving. These carpets are principally sent to New York. None are now made for sale to private individuals.

Coimbatore Central Jail.—There are about 200 acres of land under cultivation in the farm. The lands are being ploughed and got ready for the cultivation of the Chinese Tze-micwha or Nankin cotton for the purpose of making khakee-colored cloth. The cultivation of this cotton is very important, and the Superintendent will give his attention to the subject. It is proposed to have a filature for spinning the thread, which will be woven in the power-looms. The prisoners are also employed in hauling and preparing building materials for the cellular close prison about to be commenced. The in-door manufactures are confined to weaving cloth for prison and Police use, boot and sandal making for the Police Department, and in woollen blanket making for the various prisons. This jail, being conveniently situated, near the Anaimalai teak forests and the Superintendent's house at Vellore, thereby saving a large sum of money.

Trichinopoly Central Jail.—Owing to the sickness and mortality in this jail, I have transferred large bodies of prisoners to other jails, and there are only about 450 prisoners left in this jail, of whom nearly 250 are employed on extramural labor, such as gardening, drawing water, and on suitable occupation about the jail farm. The lifers and Burmese

convicts are principally employed in making sandals for the Police. The rest of the convicts are engaged in the jail service.

Cannanore Central Jail.—The Cannanore Central Jail is used as a convict establishment for life and term transportation prisoners, who from time to time have been rejected by the Medical Committee as unfit for deportation to the Andamans. There is danger in employing many of these convicts outside the jail walls, but apart from this these men are for the most part too old, or are otherwise unfit for severe extramural labor on public work gangs. The industries carried on in this jail have already been sanctioned in G.O., No. 137, dated 17th January 1883. No further alterations are at present required.

(Signed) T. E. TENNANT, Colonel,
Inspector-General of Jails.

ORDER—dated 20th July 1883, No. 1916, Judicial.

The Inspector-General of Jails and the Public Works Department were requested in October last to report with reference to the Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Judicial), dated 22nd September 1882, dealing with the subject of Jail Industries. The above papers form the answer to that reference.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that in the jails of this Presidency convict labor has nowhere been assisted by steam power, and that only in the case of one jail has any expenditure been incurred on elaborate machinery. The labor of the convicts has generally been, as far as possible, directed into channels where private industries would be affected in the least degree. The alterations, therefore, which have been made in the industries carried on in the various jails, in consequence of the policy enunciated in the Resolution of the Government of India, of September last, have not been considerable. It appears from the statement appended to the letter of the Inspector-General, that, in all the District Jails, with one exception, manufactures have ceased. In the Bellary Jail, woollen blankets are still made for the Police and Commissariat Departments, but the manufacture of them is by ordinary hand looms, and therefore not contrary to the intentions of the Government of India. The supply of the above two departments was obtained by tender in the open market, and the jail blankets were selected as being the articles which best fulfilled the required conditions. As regards Central Jails:—In the Rajahmundry Jail, the manufactures have been reduced, and are almost entirely confined to the supply of jail requirements. In the Vellore Jail, the only manufacture still carried on, which would appear to be considered by the Government of India as not suitable for convict labor, is that of tent-making. The industry was commenced at the instance of the late Commander-in-Chief, when in consequence of the Afghan war a large demand sprung up for tents. Since then, owing to the re-organization of the Salt Department, that department has required a considerable supply of tents, for which, in the absence of the industry at Vellore, requisition would, of necessity, have been made to the tent manufactories of Northern India, whence the rail carriage adds enormously to the cost of the article supplied. His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that this manufacture may well continue to be carried on in this jail. The carpets made at the Salem Jail are made by hand looms, and are not supplied to private individuals in the country, but are sent principally to dealers in New York. In Coimbatore Jail, the manufactures have been much restricted, and are now confined to the supply of articles for the Police Department. In Trichinopoly Jail, no manufactures are at present going on, and in Cannanore Jail, the state of things is exceptional, necessitating much intramural labor. It is observed that the minor manufactures which are carried on in the jails are necessitated by the existence in the jails of certain foreign convicts, natives of Burma and China.

3. With regard to the expediency of employing convict labor on large engineering works, there are, no doubt, considerable difficulties in the way. But His Excellency the Governor in Council would wish to see the employment of convicts on one work, tried as an experiment, and the Inspector-General of Jails will report, after communication with the Public Works Department, whether he can recommend the employment of convict labor on any specific public work. The suggestion made in

paragraph 14 of the letter from the Inspector-General, that the Cocanada Harbour Works may form a project suitable for such labor, appears a good one, and further inquiries should be made relative to it. In conclusion, His Excellency in Council is glad to recognize the satisfactory spirit with which the changes made in consequence of the suggestions of the Government of India have been carried out by the Inspector-General and Officers of the Jail Department.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

True copy

Mammick
As Assistant Secretary

To the Inspector-General of Jails.

Pathe Works Dept

3275 12.12.83

M. C. 82

No 3040 w a/26th Oct/83

Gobt. of (1883) Madras.

JUDICIAL.

27-9-83
11-1-93 Communicated to

the officers of the
Public Works Dept.

It is observed that
the Coconada Harbours
Improvements have
been sanctioned in
the Marine Dept. for
execution by the
Port authorities.

Vide Pro. of Govt. Marine
Dept. dated 23rd August
1883 No. 431

Issued

Recd. 24/9/83

Encl.

G.O., 20th July 1883, No. 1916.

No 3040 w a/26th Oct/83

JULY.

+ work since
transferred
to road
department 27-9-83

S. Es (including Bank & State Ry)

Supt M. W. Works

La E. for Ry

Cons. Architect to Govt.

Ch. E. for S.

27-9-83
25/9/83
136/10

Jail Manufactures.

Passing orders on reports from the Inspector-General of Jails and Public Works Department with reference to the Resolution of the Government of India laying down certain principles of reform in the present system of —, so as to allow more scope for the growth of native industries.

With order

Sub. Recd. Ry