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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1632

Press
Mis.

Dated

27-10-

1918/1

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th October 1871.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 157. From the President of the Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizagapatam, 29th August 1871, No. 817.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, a letter from the Municipality of Vizagapatam, applying for the gratuitous services of some convicts for the reclamation of the swamp land lying between the town of Vizagapatam and the swamp land given to Dr. Tissot in G. O., dated 17th March 1869, No. 722.

2. It would be a great boon to the towns' people if this land were effectually reclaimed, as it would give the means of enlarging the town and what is more, improving its sanitary condition as pointed out by the Municipality. The labour of the prisoners is available as there are no means of giving them intramural labours.

From the Secretary of the Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam, to the President of the Municipal Commission, Vizagapatam, dated Vizagapatam, 26th August 1871.

The Commissioners having, at a meeting held on the 19th August 1871, resolved upon Government being addressed on the subject of the swamp lying to the west of this town being reclaimed, I am instructed to bring the following facts to your notice.

2. It will be seen from the Civil Surgeon's reports for the years 1867-68, 1868-69, and 1869-70, that the awful diseases that are prevalent in this town are, in a great measure, attributable to the malarious vapours arising from this swamp. Dr. Tissot, the Roman Catholic Bishop, has obtained the lease of 1,000 acres of this swamp land for the purpose of reclaiming it, but his eastern boundary only extends to the causeway road, and there is still a strip of the swamp lying between the above-mentioned road and the town which is the worst portion of it as it lies lower than that granted to Dr. Tissot. The effluvia arising from the swamp during the dry season is something awful, but the funds of the Municipality will never admit of this undertaking, and I am desired by the Board respectfully to suggest that an application be made to Government to grant them prison labour, free of charge, as there is a large number of prisoners in the jail doing nothing.

3. The Board further desire me to state that they are of opinion that Government would grant their request if it were properly represented, viz.,

1st.—That it is for the benefit of a large population suffering from the most painful diseases, and that the Municipality have not the means for undertaking the work.

2nd.—That there is no intramural work for the prisoners in the jail at present, and by granting their labour free, it will enable the Board not only to reclaim the swamp, but remove a great portion of the hill lying at the back of the Civil Dispensary running north-east, and cause a flow of fresh breeze from the sea to the lines of the 2nd Regiment, N. I., as well as all that part of the town from which it is completely shut out at present.

3rd.—That it is worthy of consideration also, that, in cases of epidemics breaking out, Government are exceedingly liberal in granting medical aid and medicines, gratis, but is it not better to remove the principal cause of sickness? Now, by granting the Board the services of the prisoners who are sentenced to hard labour, Government will confer a blessing on the people; for what can sanitation do when a large portion of the town is completely shut out of the sea breeze, and to the south-west and west of it lies a pestiferous swamp, the exhalations from which are at times unbearable.

Referred to the Inspector-General of Jails for report as to the number of prisoners available and the work on which they are at present employed.

OOTACAMUND,
5th September 1871.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Board

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

27th October 1871.

No. 158. From the Acting Inspector-General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 23rd September 1871, No. 167.

In reply to your endorsement, dated 5th instant, on the letter from the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, in which he forwards an application from the Municipality for the gratuitous services of the convicts, I have the honour to inform you that 100 convicts are at present available for any work required of them; they are now employed on works in the new jail.

2. As the maintenance of convicts is a considerable expense to the State, and as many, if not all of the Municipalities are anxious to obtain the services of convicts gratuitously, which concession Government has already refused to some, I would beg to suggest that an exception should not be made in favour of the Municipality of Vizagapatam, unless it can show that its finances are in such a state as to preclude its carrying out the proposed reclamation scheme without the assistance asked for.

No. 159. From the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizianagram, 10th October 1871, No. 14.

In reply to your Official Memorandum, No. 266, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the 100 convicts would probably be able to do the work in two seasons of six months each, viz., from December to May.

No. 160. ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1871, No. 1632.

Before passing final orders on these papers, the Governor in Council desires to be informed exactly on what description of work the 100 prisoners at Vizagapatam are now employed, who are said to be available for any work that may be required of them, and whether, if their services are given to the Municipality, hired labour will need to be engaged for the "works in the new jail" on which these convicts are said now to be employed.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector-General of Jails.

„ Acting Collector of Vizagapatam.

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I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

Cotacaramund }
23^d Sept. 1871

Henry Hyman.

Asst. Insp. Genl. of Jails

10

Sir,

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Board

John H. Johnson

The City: Shop, Part of Davis

Polacanthus

The Chief Secretary

to Government

Do Tacchini

S. C. N. 1632

Dated 23rd }
 Recd. 25th }
 24th 1871

Recd. 25

Sept 1871

Dr. 2054

197

34

Refers to endorsement

(on letter from J. B. Colburn)

(Ligustrum) dated 5"

Proctor's

Man. to Lib. of Congress
Oct 1867

158

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Sanitation do when a large portion of the town is completely shut out of the sea breeze, and to the south west and west of it lies a pestiferous swamp, the exhalations from which are at times, unbearable.

I am,
Sir, Your most Obedt. Servant

Chapman &
Secretary and P.

18.11.1941

Aff. Oct. 13/71
 Aff. Oct. 29. Aug.
 Aff. Sep. 23. Sept.
 Aff. Oct. 10 Oct. 71.

Order No. 1632827, 16 Oct. 71.
 Before passing final
 was a check paper
 the for inf. details
 I am informed exactly
 a what description
 from the prisoners
 at Vegas. are now
 employed there and
 said the available

10/13/71
 Enclosure 2 p. 1

In a letter from the
 Collector and President
 Municipal Commission
 of the State of
 29 August 1871, No. 81

14. 22 Oct/71
 In 13. 1. 154

Letter from the U.S.
 Department of Agriculture
 of the U.S. Department of
 Agriculture and Labor is
 sent in the same way as
 during the
 in 1888/71

No. 13407
 29th August 1871

For any work that may
be required of them.

Whether if this service
assigned to the municipality
kind labor will need
the ^{expense} ~~employment~~ of the
"books in the new jail"
and these convicts
are said to be
employed. L.F.

Sup: Gen. of Dist. {
Aff: Gen. of Dist. {

dist. Prison/Prison