M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1388 — Press ~~Mis.~~

60-62

Dated 3 - 8 - 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd August 1864.

Read the following letters :—

No. 60. From W. G. McIVOR, Esq., Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 8th July 1864, No. 107.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will be good enough to submit, for the consideration of Government, that for some time past great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient labour to perform the works connected with the Chinchona Plantations, and as this difficulty is still increasing, I would respectfully solicit the favour of being furnished with about 500 prisoners, to be located on our plantations, making the principal station at Neddiwattum. Here it would be necessary to build a temporary prison, a Plan and Estimate of which will be submitted after consultation with the Inspector of Prisons.

2. I understand that Chinese convicts can be procured from the Straits Settlement ; these perhaps would be better suited to work in this climate than Natives from the plains, and being generally good and careful cultivators, they will probably prove more useful.

3. Not only is the scarcity of labour severely felt and the cost enhanced, but the labourers now refuse to perform their ordinary tasks, and thus unless by the assistance of the prisoners, it will, I fear, be impossible to perform the operations of the present year within the estimated cost

4. The Dodabetta Plantations being situated within two miles at the farthest point from the Native Jail of Ootacamund, here accommodation might be afforded for 100 prisoners appointed to work on these plantations.

No. 61. From J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 14th July 1864, No. 63.

SIR,

1. In acknowledging your Memorandum of the 9th July 1864, on Mr. McIvor's letter of the 8th idem, therein enclosed and now returned, I have the honor to state that I consider that officer's suggestion, as more fully detailed in his letter of the 12th instant, and Memorandum therein enclosed, unobjectionable. I should be disposed to relax discipline in the case of prisoners so employed; but, if the full establishment of guards is to be maintained, I think it probable that the arrangements with the Police may be a hindrance. As far as the Prisons Department is concerned there is no difficulty.

2. Mr. McIvor will provide suitable accommodation, his plans for which meet my approval.

3. I have said convicts from the Jail cannot conveniently work at the Dodabetta Plantation, on this point Mr. McIvor is satisfied.

4. Mr. McIvor spoke to me about the Chinese Convicts, I have already stated myself favourable to their employment in Government Plantations (see Proceedings of Government, 3rd September last), and see no reason to change my views.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1864, No. 1388.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Governor in Council is of opinion that, with reference to the great scarcity of free labour on the Neilgherry Hills, the labour of convicts may with much advantage be made use of on the Chinchona Plantations now in progress.

2. Mr. McIvor will submit, through the Inspector General of Jails, Plans and Estimates of the prisons he proposes to erect, providing accommodation for 500 persons to be employed on the plantations at Pycara, Neddiwattum and Melkoondah. Mr. Rohde, when forwarding these plans, will state definitely and in detail the arrangements he would suggest for guarding the prisoners, maintaining discipline, &c.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations.
„ the Inspector General of Jails.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 111

Government Gardens
Ootacammund 12th July 1864

From

F. G. McIvor Esquire
Superintendent Govt Chinchona Plantns

To

J. Rohde Esqr
Inspector Genl of Jails Ootacammund

Sir

In acknowledging your letter of the 9th Instant No 59 I have the honor to enclose a memorandum giving a general outline of the mode in which I proposed to locate, and employ the 500 Convicts applied for in my letter of the 8th Instant

2) As pointed out in Para 2 of your letter, inconvenience may be experienced in supplying the Dodabetta Plantations with prisoners lodged in the zillah jail (except as a temporary measure) consequently I propose to locate 100 of the prisoners on this Plantation a portion of the Chinese prisoners could be located on each of the four Plantations, thus lodging many

many of them need not be clubbed together in one spot.

3 The reason for my preference to Chinese prisoners is that I believe they will prove better adapted to work in this climate and as they could not fraternise with the natives, the means of escape would be rendered impossible & consequently not likely to be attempted, and thus the number of guards may be reduced.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servant
(Signed) W G. McIvor
Supt. Govt. Chinchona Plantns

No 112

Memorandum of the mode in which 500 Convicts are proposed to be employed on the Government Chinchona Plantations on the Neilgherries for the information of the Inspr. Genl. of Jails

I propose that 200 prisoners be located on the Seddiroattum, 75 on the Pykara, 125 on the Malab Hoondah, and 100 on the Dodabetta Plantations The works on which I contemplate employing them would be, trenching, potting, road making, buildings & weeding, staking, and planting, thus they would be employed in open grounds only, and worked close together in large gangs of probably the whole number on each plantation, the felling lopping and burning will be done by the Hoorumbers as at present, this being work upon which these men can be most profitably employed, and could not be so well performed by Convicts. It will be necessary to erect on each plantation substantial gaols, with accommodation for Police Guards &c.

Govt. Gardens -
Ootacamund 12th July 114

(signed) W G. McIvor
Supt. Govt. C. P.

(True Copies)

Inspr. Genl. of gaols

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Referred to the Inspector General of Jails for early report in communication with the Superintendent of the Govt. Circular Penitentiary.

2. Mr Rhode will ascertain from Mr Mechan on what description of work he proposes to employ the prisoners and how many can be worked effectively, and with a due regard to their safe custody, on each description of work at each of the penitentiaries. Medical Officers should be requested to report fully and clearly on this point, and a copy of his letter should be submitted to Govt with Mr Rhode's report.

9 July 1864.

G. J. Grubbe
Chief Secretary

To The Inspector General of Jails.

Rec'd 1986/64

Enclosure letter
Dated 14th July 1864
No 63.
From

The Inspector of gaols to the Chief Secretary to Government
Otaheiteland.

P.S. 3rd Aug 64
CC. 1382
B11

Revenue
~~Judicial~~ Department.

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Press

1388 Pr. 1388.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT. 3 Augt 64.

Read the following papers.

From the Superintendent Govt. Cinchona Plantations.	dated 8 July 1864.	No. 107.
From the Inspector General of Jails.	" 14 "	No. 63.

Order thereon.

The Governor in Council is of opinion that, with reference to the great scarcity of free labor on the Neilgherry Hills, the labor of convicts may with much advantage be made use of on the Cinchona Plantations now in progress.

2. Mr. McIvor will submit, through the Inspector General of Jails, plans and Estimates of the prisons he proposes to erect, providing accommodation

Sir Joseph Hooker has written to say that he will have no objection to receive convicts from the Jail at Ootacamund

accommodation for 500
persons to be Employed
on the plantations at
Pycara, Neddiwuttum
and Melkoondah. Mr
Rohde when forwarding
these plans will state
definitely and in detail
the arrangements he
would suggest for guarding
the prisoners, maintaining
discipline, &c. —

1 ~~1~~

1 – To the Supdt. Govt. Cinchona
Plantations & Asst. to Agy.
1 – " Inspector Genl of Jails.
5 " Judicial Dept.

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Copy in a Ltr. to Engd
of 13th March No 64 1866
Mis:

14

Recd 1864. Department.
Rec: of Govt for August.
No. 1388.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 3d August 1864.

Requesting Colo McDowall
to submit in connection
with Inspector General
of Jails, Plans & Estimates
of Prisons and detailed
arrangements for
maintaining prisoners
on the Neilgherry Hills.

No 60 to 62.

Commd
Returned herewith
13 Aug 64