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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

424

Press
Mis.

Dated 3-3-1875 196..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
20th February 1875.*

Subsidiary Jails.

No. 174. Read the following letter from A. MacGREGOR, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vythery, 12th February 1875, No. 7 :—

I have the honor to report as follows on the subject of G.O., 31st July 1874,* regarding alterations to Jail wards, so as to render suicide by the occupant less easy.

* Enclosures (10) herewith returned.

2. My attention was first called to the matter by a suicide in the Ponany Sub-Jail; and, on examining the wards there, I found they were so constructed that nothing was easier than for a man to hang himself there. Every prisoner must have the materials for a rope in the shape of clothes, cumby, and matting; the only other requisite is a beam or bar, within reach of a ledge, having a drop of 18 inches or so below the ledge.

3. On receipt of the orders of Government, I proceeded to have an examination made of all the wards in the District Jails, and I have ascertained that in the twenty-one Jails, comprising ninety-four wards, there are thirty-four wards having this defect.

4. As many of these were built on plans approved by the Sub-Jail Committee, I presume that the defect prevails in all districts, and the cost of alteration would probably be very great.

5. No doubt it is almost impossible to defeat the purpose of a determined suicide; but a ward should be so constructed as to make it as difficult as possible for a man to hang himself. If there are window-bars or beams within reach it is always possible for him to hang himself; and if there happens to be a low masonry wall, forming a ledge on which he can stand and adjust the noose, and from which he can then throw himself, the greatest facility is given; and this is the plan on which most of the thirty-four wards, referred to above, are built.

No. 175. ORDER THEREON, 20th February 1875, No. 405.

The Governor in Council has received no complaints from other districts and must decline to sanction the outlay, which would be quite disproportionate to the risks existing.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Malabar.

- .. Public Works Department, with 10 enclosures.
- .. Revenue Department.
- .. Inspector-General of Jails.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

[Signature]

4 To the Board of Commissioners

84761
Respectfully
Comd. of 1873

JUDICIAL.

THE MAGISTRATE OF MICHIGAN,

For the County of ...

State of Michigan, 1873

And ...

O. O. DONN, District Attorney, No. 408

RECORDED

No. 154, 174

...

Notary Public, State of Michigan, to ...
qualifications for the execution of the same in
this State, and to prevent the same from
being used elsewhere.

84761
Comd. of 1873
Board of Commissioners

39th Nov/73