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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

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

1796A

Press
Mis.

Dated

23-5-1877

197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1796-A
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

23rd May 1877, No. 1,796-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 467-A. From Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 7th May 1877, No. 130.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 1,610, dated 1st May 1877, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

2. It is presumed that the "punitive ration" mentioned in the above order and directed to be introduced into the Nellore Jail as a temporary and experimental measure is intended in substitution of the present punishment diet allowance authorized under Act V of 1869, and that the experiment is not to be made on the general body of convicts. If such be the intention of Government, I beg to point out that the proposal to extend the "punitive ration" to a period of one month will be in direct opposition to the standing orders of the Jail Department, which require that no prisoner shall be subjected to labor of medium severity, and that the "punitive ration" shall not be given for a longer period than seven days at one time.

4. Should it, however, be the intention of Government to subject the general body, or even a certain number, of the prisoners to this experiment, I solicit the indulgent consideration of Government to the following remarks.

5. The scales of diet at present in force in our jails have been determined after long and large experience, and no subject in prison administration has received more close attention than the effects of food on prisoners, and as the vital returns prove that we only manage to keep our prisoners in about the same state of health in which we receive them, it is obvious that any general diminution of diet must be perilous in the extreme.

6. An unusual amount of sickness in the Central and District Jails at Coimbatore during the year 1873 induced the Government to call for a special inquiry into the subject, the results of which went to show that the infliction of the punishment of punitive diet for any period beyond two or three days is incompatible with the exaction of *bona fide* hard labor, and that half rations with labor of medium severity cannot be continued for more than seven days without, in a greater or less degree, lowering the bodily condition so as to become injurious to health.

7. So far as my observation goes the bulk of under-trial prisoners received into the jails in the distressed districts are evidently suffering from privation and insufficient food, and the excessive mortality amongst this class tends to show the impoverished condition of the people. In the month of December, with a population of 13,700 prisoners in jail, the mortality amongst convicts was 3.40 per mille, whilst amongst under-trials the death-rate was as high as 36.00 per mille. In January the death-rate amongst convicts was 5.20 per mille; amongst under-trials the mortality was 19.30. In February the mortality amongst convicted prisoners was 5.30 to 10.40 amongst under-trials, and in March the death-rates were 2.90 against 10.60.

assured of the necessity

8. During this season of distress when, owing to the prevalence of crime and the enormous increase of prisoners, our jails are much overcrowded, the necessity for keeping the prisoners strong and healthy cannot be too strongly urged. Cholera, the invariable accompaniment of famine, prevails throughout the country, and unless our prisoners are kept fairly well-fed they become more liable to disease. If disease prevails in an overcrowded jail the loss of life must be

9. It is in no captious spirit, nor from inability to recognize the importance of testing Sir Richard Temple's experimental ration, that I submit these remarks. I am bound to express my conscientious belief that the introduction of such an experiment as is now contemplated into an overcrowded and cholera-stricken jail like Nellore will probably be attended with fatal and disastrous consequences.

No. 1,005.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department with reference to docket of this department, No. 347, dated 13th April 1877.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
9th May 1877.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

No. 467-B. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1877, No. 1,796-A.

Miscellaneous.

As the Government have abandoned the rate of wage which was it may be abandoned and orders to this effect will go to the Superintendent of the Jail at Nellore.

2. The Inspector-General of Jails will be informed through the Judicial Department that he ought not to have stopped an experiment which was authorized to be carried out after due deliberation by the Government, under the watchful care of the Superintendent of the Jail who is a Medical Officer and had himself suggested its trial.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.
,, the Superintendent of Jail, Nellore.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Financial Department.

Ed. T. D. Ryan.

17296a

is sent as assured of the necessity

No 84

Municipal Dispensary
St. Elms 14th May 1899

From

Mr. H. Ross Esquire
Fellah Surgeon

To

The Dep^y Surgeon General
and Mr. Ross Esquire
Pres^y and St. Dist
Madras

Sir

I have the honor with re-
-ference to your No 3958 of the 10th
instant on G.O. No 1610 of the 1st May
to inform you that I have been peremptorily
only requested by the Inspector General
of jails not to give effect to the order
of Government until the results of his
protest against it is known.

2

The delay I think a matter
for regret. Matters regarding the
famine and the consequences to the
people are daily becoming more
serious and the sooner the Govern-
-ment is assured of the necessity

Printed and published by the Government
of India, at the Government Press, Calcutta.
of this order not to have adopted an expedient
authorized by Government.

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, CALCUTTA.

NO. 497A-1899

G.O. No 1610 May 1899, No. 1780-A

REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
Madras

REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
Madras

REVENUE
DEPARTMENT
Madras

...of a higher ration
than 1th of grain daily for an
adult male the better. Should
the experiment suggested prove
re I fear it will demonstrate
that the 1th grain ration is insuffi-
cient, to say, if not longer
delayed, furnish that proof not
too late to prevent a serious injury
to the health of the people and
much avoidable mortality.

3 If on the other hand
the experiment prove that the 1th
ration is sufficient to maintain
a man on light labour in tolerable
health, the Government will be
able to act with decision, and
whatever may in future happen,
without that reproach or regret
for the past, which must arise
should a doubt exist as to the
sufficiency or otherwise of the

the issue of relief sanctioned by
Government.

4 I cannot myself see the
slightest objection on any grounds to the
experiment being tried in the jail nor has the
Inspector General of Jails informed me
what his objections are.

5 It can hardly be accounted
hardship that a convicted prisoner should
be placed in a diet sufficient for
the free labourer. While on the other
hand the experiment would be so carefully
conducted and watched that any injury
to the health of the prisoners experim-
ented on would be out of the question.

6 The interests involved are in
my opinion so serious and of such
magnitude as regards the welfare
both of the people and of the State that
I cannot conceive any objections which
could weigh for an instant with
them.

No. 4898

Forwarded for orders.

R. J. van Dornen and

Respectfully,
M. S. P. M. P. M.

Madras 1/10/77

I have the honor to be,
Sir

Your Obedt Servt

Alfred W. Ross. Surgeon Major
Genl. H. S. S. S. S.

4/17.

I don't tell A.G. this, but
say at the same time
that as the text was
suggested by the Pres. Off.
in charge of the jail
the A.G. himself has
carried out the experiment.
The Govt. see no reason
to doubt that all rich

Do not ask Mr Stokes
about the facts as
he is under trial
Prisoners - indic-
cating famine -
December 1896

Feb 3 1857
J. W. Allen

the *Strophomena* found

1084

I have got the introduction
 to send into the chapel
 and as an experimental
 measure of one (I am
 sure & I am sure) to the
 benefit.

Life or health but have
been observed.

I don't think it was
ever proposed to place
more than a few cases
in the station for trial
outside of the
main jail.

I have just returned
from India where I
very carefully noted the
appearance of the prisoners
in the (and jail) and
those who were working
the appearance of
robust health &
fully grown and
& night well contented
from their reasons
same food of
some 200 men

The contrast between
them & the relief
laborers was painful
& demoralizing.

Page 21/5

The experiment ought
to be tried out & can only
be in a prison where
exhaustion supply in
the surreptitious going
away of the food is
impossible. Be

1796 A
6

Revenue Department.

1796
Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read endorsement of the
Chief Secretary to Government dated 9th
May 1877 No. 1005, on letter from the
Inspector General of Jails dated 7th
May 1877 No. 130, submitting ^{resolutions} with
reference to the "primitive ration" —
directed by Government to be intro-
duced as an experimental measure
into the District Jail at Kellore.

Order thereon May 1877 No.

As the Government are about to
abandon the rate of wage which
was to be tested on the prisoners,
the experiment may be abandoned
and orders to this effect will go to
the Superintendent of the Jail at
Kellore.

2. The Inspector General of Jails
will be informed through the Ins. Dep. that he
ought

ought not ~~however~~ to have stopped
an experiment which was autho-
rized to be carried out after due
deliberation by the Government, under
the watchful care of the Superinten-
dent of the Sail who is a medical
Officer and had himself suggested
its trial.

(True Extract)

M.

A.P.

Add. Secy. to Govt.

To

The Inspector-General of
Sails.

No 17962

Passes in Council 8.

4.0 22nd May 1877

As the Govt. ^{have} ~~abandoned~~ the rate of
wage which was to
be tested on the prisoners
the experiment may
be abandoned & order
to the effect will go to
the effect of the Jail
at Nellore.

2. The Inspector Genl.
will be informed through the Judge
of Jail's right not to
have the experiment which
has authorized to
be carried out after the
deliberation of the Govt;
under the watchful
eye of the Inspector of the
Jail, who is a medical
officer & has himself
suggested its trial

23/5/77 J.S.

and copy to the Judicial Offr. on 23rd May
as the Insp. of Jail Nellore on
35 as the Insp. of Jail on
5 as the Sanitary Commissioner of
5 the Financial Offr.

7/100

No 130

1796
Ottawa 7th May 1877

Sir

Lieut Col. J. E. Tennant

Inspector General of Jails

The Honble D. F. Carmichael

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St. George

Sir

In the Press
With reference to the
Proceedings of Government Revenue
Department No 1610 dated 1st May 1877
I have the honor to submit the
following remarks.

2 It is presumed that the
"munitivations" mentioned in
the above order and directed
to be introduced into the Kellars
Jail as a temporary and experimental
measure is intended in

substitution of the present punish-
ment diet allowance authorized
under Act V of 1869, and that
the experiment is not to be
made on the general body
of convicts. If such be the
intention of Government, they to
point out that the proposal
to extend the "punitive ration"
to a period of ~~one~~ month will be
in direct opposition to the standing
orders of the Jail Department.

3 These rules direct that
convicts punished by restriction
of diet are to be subjected to
labour of medium severity and
that the "punitive ration" shall
not be given for a longer period
than seven (7) days at one time.

196/2
4 Should it however be the
intention of Government to subject
the general body, or even a certain
number of the prisoners to this
experiment, I solicit the indulgent
consideration of Government to the
following remarks.

5 The scales of diet at
present in force in our jails
have been determined after long
and large experience and no subject
in prison administration has
received more close attention than
the effects of food on prisoners,
and as the vital returns prove
that we only manage to keep our
prisoners in about the same
state of health in which we
receive them, it is obvious that

any general diminution of diet
must be perilous in the extreme.
6. An unusual amount of
sickness in the Central and Dis-
trict Jails at Coimbatore during
the year 1873, induced the
Government to call for a special
enquiry into the subject; the
results of which went to show
that the infliction of the punish-
ment of punitive diet for any
period beyond 2 or 3 days is
incompatible with the exaction
of bonafide hard labour, and
that half rations with labour of
medium severity cannot be
continued for more than 7 days
without, in a greater or less degree,
lowering the bodily condition so

1903
as to become injurious to health.
7. So far as my observation
goes the bulk of under trial
prisoners received into the jails
in the distressed districts are
evidently suffering from privation
and insufficient food and the
excessive mortality amongst this
class tends to show the impoverish-
ed condition of the people.
In the month of December with
a population of 13,700 prisoners
in jail the mortality amongst
convicts was 3.40 per mille
whilst amongst under trials
the death rate was as high as
36.00 per mille. In January
the death rate amongst convicts
was 5.20 per mille; amongst

under trials the mortality was
19.30. In February the mortality
amongst convicted prisoners
was 5.30 to 10.40 amongst under
trials and in March the death
rates were 2.90 against 10.60.

8 During this season of
distress, which owing to the prevalence
of crime and the enormous
increase of prisoners, our jails
are much overcrowded the
necessity for keeping the prisoners
strong and healthy cannot be
too strongly urged. Cholera,
the invariable accompaniment
of famine, prevails throughout
the country and unless our
prisoners are kept fairly well

1796A
fed they become more liable
to disease and when epidemic
disease prevails in an overcrowded
jail the loss of life must be
very large.

9 It is in no captious
spirit, nor from inability to
recognize the importance of
testing Sir Richard Temple's
experimental ration that I
submit these remarks. I am
bound to express my conscientious
belief that the introduction of
such an experiment as is
now contemplated, into an
overcrowded and cholera
stricken jail like Newmore
will probably be attended

with fatal and disastrous
consequences.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

J. H. Mendenhall

Inspector General of Fairs

No 1036

Transferred to the
Revenue (Finance)
Dept. with up to
& Decret of this
Dept No 547 and
13th April 1877.

Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear] Secretary

For the [unclear]
9th May 1877 }

Received 1972-1877-8492
from [unclear] (bills)
No Receipt No 3574

Sum of Rs. 100
to [unclear] Secretary
to Government

For 1st of June

Dated 17th May 1877.

Mr. [unclear]
Sum of Rs. 100. 8/1

1972-1877-8492

Exhibit No 1036
with reference to the
sum of Rs. 100 and up-
to the District Officer
at [unclear] (Muzaffar)