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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2768	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	16-11-1878	197:

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

5th November 1878, No. 2255.

Jails—Palghaut Fort.

Read the following papers:—

No. 13. *Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 26th October 1878, No. 1733.*

ABSTRACT.—Directing that it may be ascertained from the Inspector-General of Jails what it is proposed to do in regard to the continued occupation of the buildings in the Palghaut Fort.

No. 2020.

Referred to the Inspector-General of Jails for report.

Ootacamund,
27th October 1878.

C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 14. *From Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 30th October 1878, No. 220.*

In returning Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, noted in the margin, received with your endorsement, Dated 26th October 1878, No. 1735. No. 2020, dated 27th October 1878, I have the honor to state that I do not at present see my way to recommend the closing of the Fort Jail at Palghaut.

2. The Central and District Jails in this Presidency are constructed to contain 11,860 prisoners. At the present time we have 22,090 prisoners, or more than double the usual jail population. The number of prisoners is already on the wane in most jails, and it may be hoped that it will decrease still more rapidly hereafter, especially if a measure of remission is carried out. But, in the first place, it will be desirable, on sanitary and other grounds, to get rid of the camp jails attached to the several District Jails; secondly, to close the temporary prisons connected with the Central Jails; and, lastly, to close the Fort Jail at Palghaut.

3. The number of prisoners sentenced by our Courts to transportation has for some years been steadily increasing; whilst, owing to the want of accommodation at the Penal Settlement, the number of convicts deported is made contingent not upon judicial considerations, but upon the demands of Port Blair for certain classes of convicts. Consequent on the restriction as regards deportation, the number of transportation convicts to be maintained in this Presidency is increasing, and will increase unless the Authorities at Port Blair are in a position to receive the convicts annually sentenced to transportation by the Session Courts in this Presidency. There are at present 560 convicts available for despatch to Port Blair, and before the close of the transportation season (30th April 1879) the probable number will be upwards of 700. Instructions have been received (G.O., No. 1714, dated 24th August 1878) not to send more than

350 convicts to Port Blair during the present transportation season. Moreover, the number of foreign convicts in this Presidency is steadily increasing as shown in the following statement:—

Month and Year.	CLASSES OF FOREIGN CONVICTS.			Total.
	Chinese.	Malays.	Burmese.	
31st December 1870	64	39	40	143
Do. 1871	45	32	69	146
Do. 1872	28	21	116	175
Do. 1873	41	16	137	194
Do. 1874	36	15	155	206
Do. 1875	32	14	181	227
Do. 1876	27	14	197	238
Do. 1877	13	6	202	221
29th October 1878	12	2	233	247

Of the total number of 247 foreign convicts 215 are under sentence of transportation for life and 32 are term-transportation convicts. If, therefore, we are to continue to receive transportation convicts from British Burmah and the deportation of Madras transportation convicts is to be restricted, some additions to the prison accommodation of this Presidency will be required, and it may become a matter for consideration whether, as an economical measure, permanent jail buildings should not be constructed within the Fort at Palghat.

No. 15.

ORDER THEREON, 5th November 1878, No. 2255.

Communicated to the Revenue Department, with the remark that it is not likely that the Palghat Fort will cease to be occupied by the Jail Department.

(True Extract.)

Glacier
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
Inspector-General of Jails.

Encl. F. R. Dantleman.

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Revenue Department

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Communicated to the

Board of Revenue