Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4694

DATED 7 Sept 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Proceedings of the Judicial Department passing orders on Mr. Hay's proposals for the reduction of work in connection with the Periodical returns now submitted from sub-jail

BACK PAPERS.

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Government {1897} of Madras.

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Sub-Jail Returns.

Passing orders on Mr. Meyer's proposals for the reduction of work in connection with the periodical returns now submitted from sub-jails.

U.O.
R.D. 3/9.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter:—

From W. S. MEYER, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th August 1897, No. 3581.

With reference to G. O. No. 955, Judicial, dated 5th July 1897, I have the honour, at the suggestion of the Inspector-General of Prisons, to submit for the immediate orders of Government the following proposals for the reduction of clerical work in connection with the periodical returns now submitted from *Sub-jails*.

2. Specimen copies of the returns now submitted are appended to this letter (Enclosures A to E) and Mr. Cardew and I have discussed each of them in personal conference.

3. The returns marked A are submitted monthly by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate or other officer in charge of each sub-jail. They consist, in addition to the simple and preliminary "General Summary," of eight elaborate statements showing the classes of prisoners in the sub-jail, their religion, previous occupations, jail-employment, &c., &c. The compilation of these statements imposes considerable work on the Stationary Sub-Magistrate's scanty establishment, and the information which they contain is required only for the Inspector-General's annual Administration report and the returns prescribed by the Government of India in connection therewith. I accordingly asked Mr. Cardew whether these returns might not also be submitted annually; but he says that this would, in the event of their being delayed, prevent the submission of his administration report on the prescribed date. At present, if some of the last monthly returns are unduly late, the figures can, in case of need, be averaged from those of the months preceding. Mr. Cardew, however, agrees with me that the monthly submission of these returns can probably be dispensed with and that *quarterly* returns might, as I suggested to him, be substituted. He would however prefer to try this first as an experiment in the six districts* marginally-noted and I accordingly recommend that this be done.

* Chingleput.
North Arcot.
South Arcot.
Tanjore.
Salem.
Coimbatore.

4. The individual sub-jail returns (A) above referred to were formerly tabulated in the Sub-divisional Magistrate's office, and then again by the District Magistrate for the whole district, being submitted in this form to the Inspector-General of Prisons. In most districts, however, the present practice is for the District Magistrate to receive and compile the returns from the sub-jails direct. This causes much labour in the District Magistrate's office and also considerable delay. The returns for the whole district may be kept waiting because a single sub-jail officer has failed to send his in time or to explain discrepancies discovered therein. Again, the returns when submitted to the Inspector-General are often found to contain errors and discrepancies and this necessitates a fresh reference to the District Magistrate, as the Inspector-General cannot ascertain from the district-war return in what sub-jail the error arises. I would therefore suggest that the sub-jail returns be forwarded direct to the Inspector-General and tabulated in his office. They will then at once receive the more intelligent criticism which that office can give, and delays and references in regard to one sub-jail will not, as under the present system, affect the remainder. The statistics are of such an entirely technical description that the District Magistrate will lose nothing by not receiving them. The Inspector-General's establishment would of course have to be somewhat strengthened; but the expense would be well repaid by the more prompt disposal of the statements and by setting the Collector's magisterial clerk free for more important work.

Mr. Cardew agrees with me in principle; but would for the present try the new system as an experiment in the same six districts in which the returns would, under the previous proposal, be made quarterly and he will defer asking for any extra establishment till he sees what amount of additional labour the new arrangements will involve.

5. The form marked B is a quarterly return of dieting charges in sub-jails. It was prescribed, on Mr. Cardew's recommendation, in G. O., dated 10th April 1894, No. 860, Judicial, and, though submitted like the A returns, *via* the District Magistrate's office, it goes up to the Inspector-General with the information for each sub-jail individually. Here again the returns might well go from each sub-jail to the Inspector-General direct. The latter would of course make a reference to the District Magistrate in the event of the statement indicating that the cost in any jail or jails was excessive. Mr. Cardew sees no objection to the course proposed, but would for the present confine the change to the six districts referred to in paragraph 3.

6. Return C is a monthly statement of receipts and charges. Mr. Cardew thinks that it will be possible to do away with it, if he can get certain slight alterations made in a separate statement which is now furnished to him by the Accountant-General. He is in correspondence with the latter officer on the subject, and if a satisfactory arrangement can be come to, he will himself take the necessary action for the discontinuance of the return.

7. D is the half-yearly statement of inspections of sub-jails by superior officers and Mr. Cardew and I agree that its retention is desirable.

8. Form E is submitted annually from each sub-jail to the District Magistrate, who forwards a return for the whole district to the Inspector-General. It was prescribed, at the instance of Mr. H. R. Grimes, in G. O., dated 1st September 1888, No. 1853, Judicial; but Mr. Cardew says that it is no real use to him and may, as I now recommend, be abolished.

9. To sum up, my proposals are:—

(1) That the general returns (A) now submitted monthly from sub-jails should hereafter be submitted quarterly only, and that they should go direct from the sub-jails to the Inspector-General of Prisons; but that these reforms should, previous to general introduction, be tried experimentally in the six districts* noted in the margin. This will involve a modification of Section 1379 of the Jail Code.

* Chingleput.
North Arcot.
South Arcot.
Tanjore.
Salem.
Coimbatore.

(2) That the quarterly return of cost of dieting (Form B) be similarly submitted direct from the sub-jail to the Inspector-General—first in the six districts above-named and thereafter, if the system works well there, throughout the Presidency.

(3) That the annual labour return (E) be abolished.

The adoption of these proposals and the eventual general extension of (1) and (2) will, I am convinced, appreciably relieve the District and Sub-Magistrates' offices in regard to what is at present a heavy and unwelcome task.

10. Mr. Cardew is anxious to test the working of proposals (1) and (2) as soon as possible and I am therefore addressing Government at once and direct, as the Board, through whom I was ordered (paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 5th July 1897, No. 955, Judicial), to submit my general report, has no concern with Jail Administration. I have shown the dratt of this letter to Mr. Cardew and I am authorised to say that the proposals above made have his full concurrence.

11. I take this opportunity of asking whether I may not, if I should be in a position to deal completely with any subject before the time comes for tabulating the general results of my special duty, submit a similar separate report thereon. The general report contemplated in paragraphs 4 and 5 of G. O., dated 5th July 1897, No. 955, Judicial, will necessarily be a portentous document, dealing with a vast variety of matters—Judicial, Local and Municipal, and the mass of subjects which come under the comprehensive term "Revenue." The size and complexity of such a report will, I fear, lead to delay in its disposal. If, on the other hand, I can from time to time submit separate *ad interim* reports on particular matters, not only will they be more easily be disposed of, but any reductions in work which may be approved of can be at once introduced. Further, I could thus avoid troubling Government in regard to matters which the Board itself is competent to dispose of, *e.g.*, suggestions in respect to returns which it has ordered on its own authority.

12. When I find that a return which seems to me useless has a more local application and authority, I presume that I may at once suggest its abolition to the Collector concerned—See in this connection the remarks at the close of paragraph 5 of G. O., dated 5th July, 1897, No. 955, Judicial.

13. My final and general report will of course contain a summary of all previous *ad interim* reports and correspondence, with a reference to such orders as may have been already passed thereon.

ORDER—No. 1243, dated 27th August 1897.

Mr. Meyer's proposals, which are summarized in paragraph 9 of his letter, are approved.

2. All District Magistrates will note that the annual "return of labour on which Sub-jail prisoners were employed," prescribed in G.O., No. 1853, Judicial Department, dated 1st September 1888, is abolished and should no longer be submitted.

3. The District Magistrates of Chingleput, North and South Arcot, Tanjore, Salem and Coimbatore will be requested to issue early orders to all officers in charge of sub-jails in their districts instructing them—

(i) to submit the general statistical return for sub-jails in their charge for the month of September next direct to the Inspector-General of Prisons, instead of to the District Magistrate, and thereafter to discontinue submitting it monthly, furnishing it instead once a quarter and direct to the Inspector-General of Prisons instead of to the District Magistrate. The first quarterly return so submitted will be that for the last quarter of the current year.

(ii) to submit the quarterly return on the cost of dieting in their sub-jails, ordered in G.O., No. 860, Judicial Department, dated 10th April 1894, (which is now sent to the District Magistrate), to the Inspector-General of Prisons direct, beginning with the return for the third quarter of the current year.

4. The Magistrates of these six districts are particularly requested to see that their instructions in this matter are explicit, so that no confusion may result.

5. As soon as it is possible to form an opinion on the subject the Inspector-General of Prisons should report to Government whether the above orders cannot with advantage be applied to the whole of the Presidency.

6. It is observed that the Inspector-General has under consideration the desirability of abolishing the monthly statement of receipts and charges in sub-jails.

7. Mr. Meyer's proposal in paragraph 11 of his letter to report separately on particular suggestions for the reduction of work, instead of submitting all his recommendations together, is approved. It is observed that he intends that his final report shall contain a summary of such separated references with the orders passed upon them.

8. His presumption in paragraph 12 of his letter is correct.

(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Prisons.
" all District Magistrates.
" all Departments of the Secretariat.
" W. S. Meyer, Esq., I.C.S., on Special Duty.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No 189 , DATED

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
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