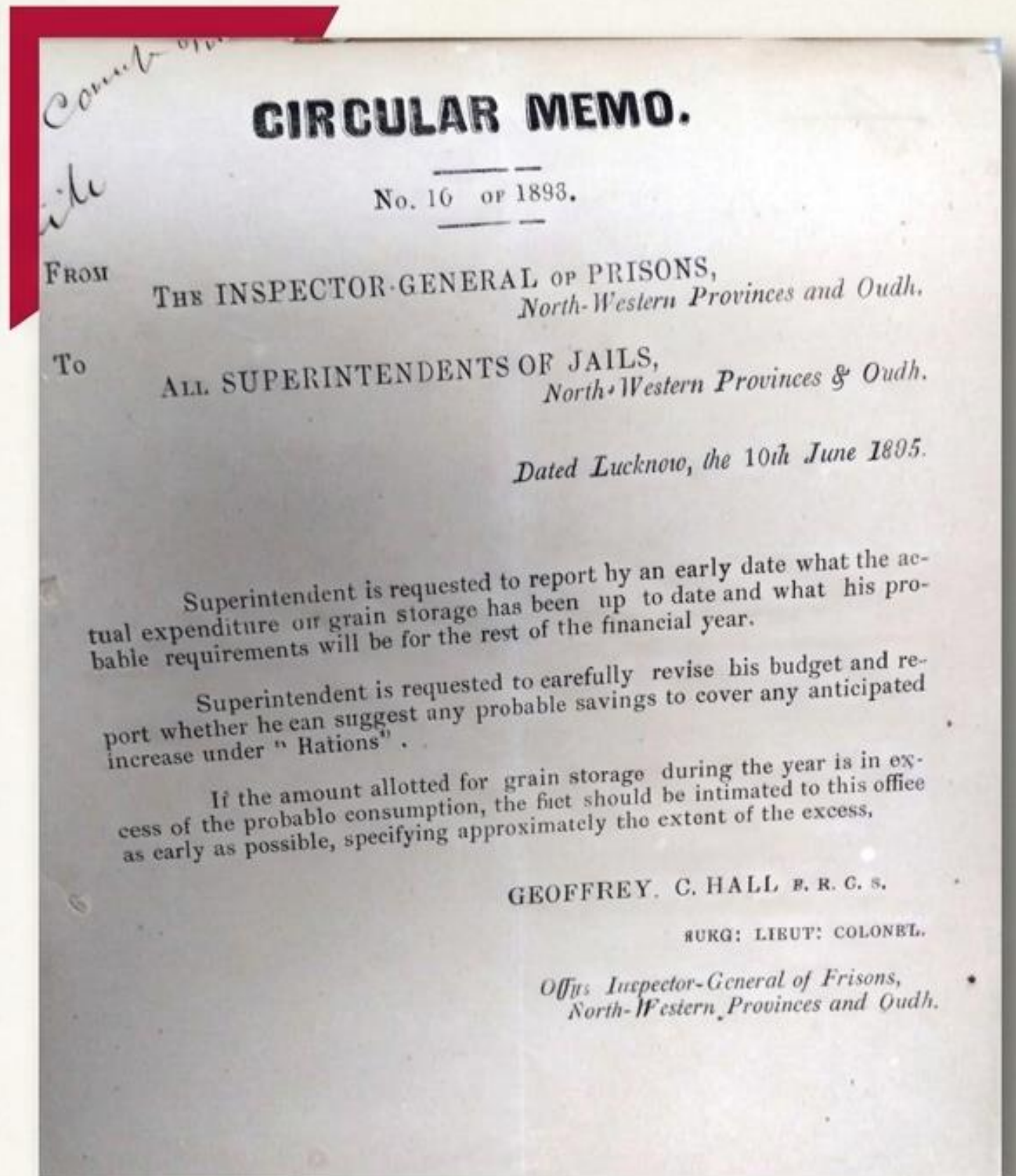


Deciphering the Colonial Ledger

An artifact autopsy of the 1895 British Indian penal budget.

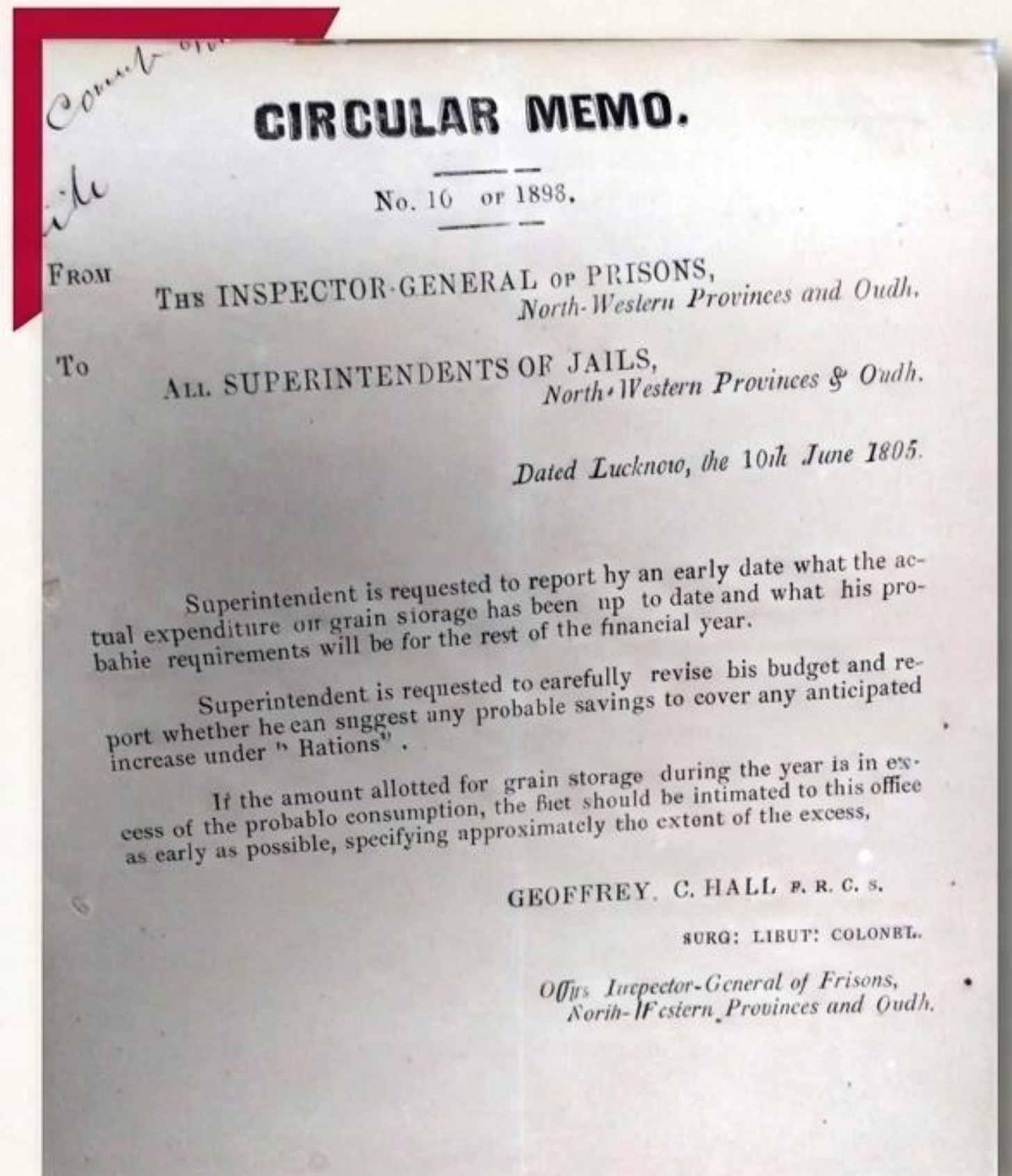
Source: Circular Memo 16, Issued Lucknow, 10th June 1895.



CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

BY DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA

Source: Circular Memo 16, Issued
Lucknow, 10th June 1895.





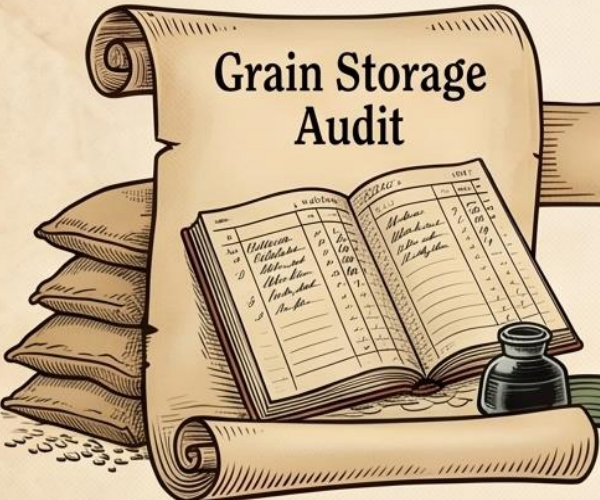
Financial Reporting & Budgeting

1895 Prison Administration: Managing Grain and Rations

A formal circular memo from the Inspector-General of Prisons, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Lucknow, June 1895.



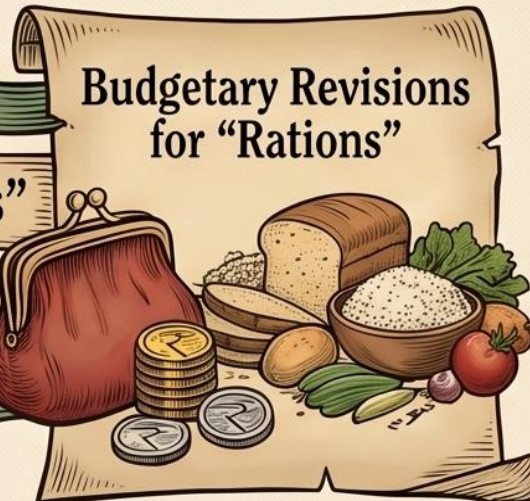
Administrative Framework



Grain Storage Audit

Grain Storage Audit

Report actual expenditure to date and projected costs for the remaining financial year.



Budgetary Revisions for "Rations"

Budgetary Revisions for "Rations"

Identify probable savings to cover anticipated increases in the cost of prisoner rations.



Surplus Disclosure

Superintendents must notify the office of any excess allotments for grain storage.



Issuing Authority

Geoffrey C. Hall, Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel and Officiating Inspector-General of Prisons.



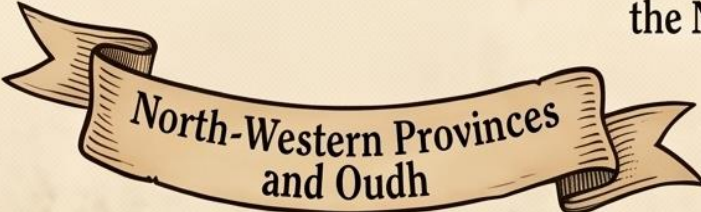
Historical Context

Issued in Lucknow on the 10th of June, 1895.



Geographic Jurisdiction

Directed to all Jail Superintendents within the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.



North-Western Provinces and Oudh

CIRCULAR MEMO.

No. 16 OF 1895.

THE HUB

FROM THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

To ALL SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.
Lucknow

Superintendent

Superintendent

Superintendent

Superintendent

Dated Lucknow, the 10th June 1895.

North-Western
Provinces & Oudh

Superintendent is requested to report by an early date what the actual expenditure on grain storage has been up to date and what his probable requirements will be for the rest of the financial year.

Superintendent is requested to carefully revise his budget and report whether he can suggest any probable savings to cover any anticipated increase under "Rations".

If the amount allotted for grain storage during the year is in excess of the probable consumption, the fact should be intimated to this office as early as possible, specifying approximately the extent of the excess.

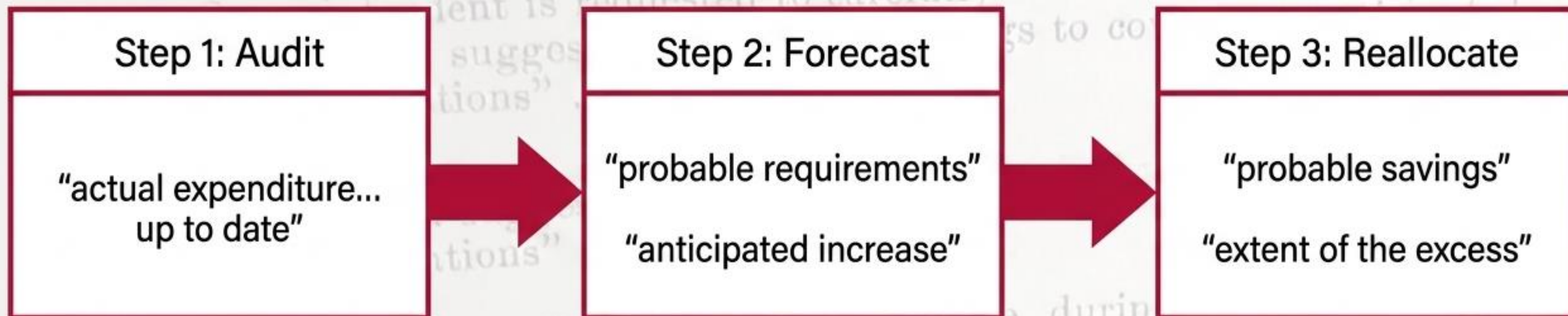
GEOFFREY. C. HALL F. R. C. S.

The Geography of Command

A single Inspector-General in Lucknow exercises direct, pan-provincial authority.

The memo bypasses regional deputies, creating a flat, highly centralised command structure between the capital and every local jail superintendent across the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Superintendent is requested to report by an early date what the actual expenditure on grain storage has been up to date and what his probable requirements will be for the rest of the financial year.



If the amount allotted for grain storage during the process of the probable consumption, the fact should be intimated to this office as early as possible, specifying approximately the extent of the excess.

The Bureaucratic Algorithm

The memo is not a simple request; it is an algorithm for budget revision. Superintendents are ordered to audit past spending, forecast future needs, and identify actionable savings to preempt a looming financial deficit.

grain storage	“ Rations”
Infrastructure / Capital holding.	Consumables / Operational necessity.
Surplus.	Deficit.
Calculate ‘extent of the excess’.	Cover ‘anticipated increase’.
Report surplus to central office immediately.	Fund internally using reallocated savings.

The Economic Pivot

The administration is executing a strict economic pivot. They are actively seeking to cannibalise static infrastructure budgets (Storage) to cover an expected crisis in daily operational feeding (Rations).

Superintendent is requested to report by an early date what the actual expenditure on grain storage has been up to date and what his probable requirements will be for the rest of the financial year.

Past
(Known)

Superintendent is requested to carefully revise his budget and report whether he can suggest any probable savings to cover any anticipated increase under "Rations".

Future
(Unknown)

If the amount allotted for grain storage during the year is in excess of the probable consumption, the fact should be intimated to this office as early as possible, specifying approximately the extent of the excess.

The Language of Financial Anxiety

Despite the authoritative tone, the language exposes deep administrative uncertainty. The repeated use of "probable" and "anticipated" forces local superintendents to predict future market fluctuations and bear the responsibility for forecasting errors.

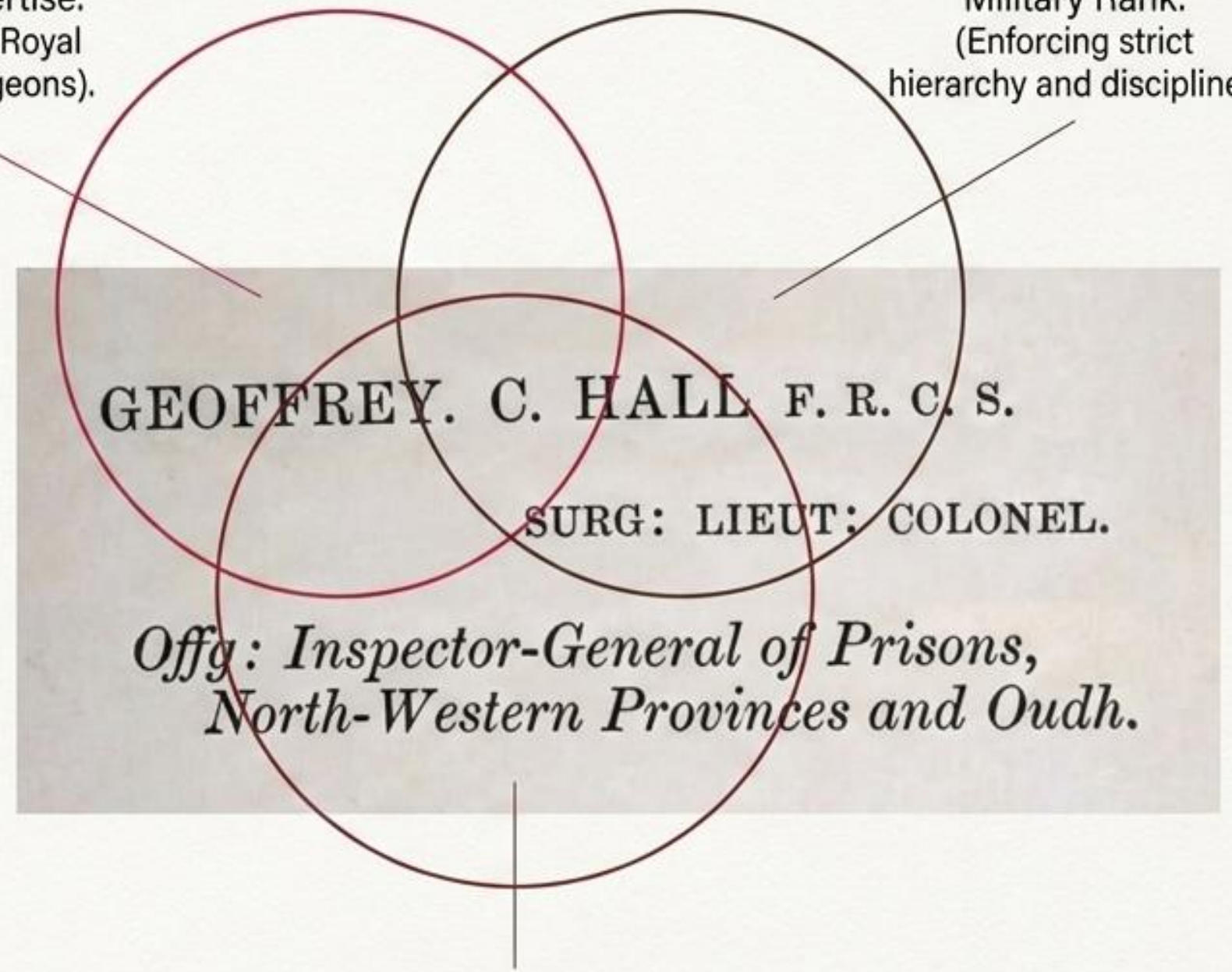
The Tripartite Administrator

Geoffrey C. Hall embodies the quintessential colonial administrator. Absolute penal authority is justified not just by bureaucratic appointment, but by the combined weight of elite medical science and military discipline.

The Anatomy of Authority

Medical Expertise.
(Fellow of the Royal
College of Surgeons).

Military Rank.
(Enforcing strict
hierarchy and discipline).



Penal Administration.
(Absolute operational control).

CIRCULAR MEMO.



Centralised Micro-management

Lucknow maintained direct, granular control over local jail budgets, leaving superintendents little financial autonomy.



Operational Preemption

The colonial state was hyper-vigilant regarding food security, preemptively shifting infrastructure funds to guarantee basic rationing.



The Medical-Military Nexus

Control of the penal population was viewed as an intersection of medical management and military hierarchy.

Conclusion Box

A single circular memo reveals a colonial machine operating under severe economic pressure, relying on strict centralisation and the cannibalisation of capital budgets to maintain daily order in 1895.