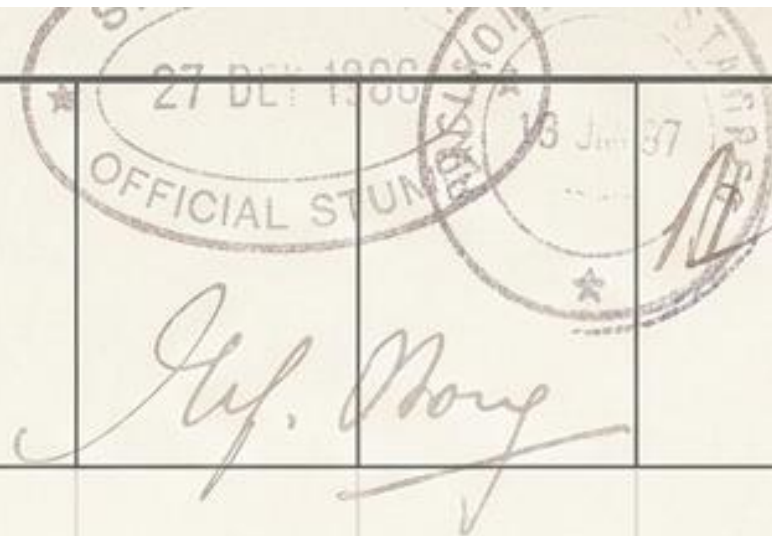


The Bureaucracy of Confinement

A dissection of Jail Department circulars from
the North-Western Provinces & Oudh, 1886.



19375
Hunnary
12th



J. Keppel



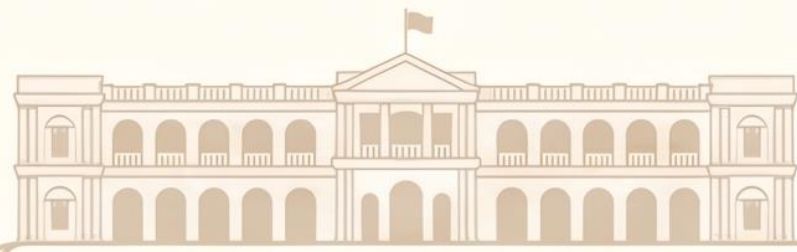
CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

BY DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA



J. H. G. Munro

M. Joratt Corib



Prison Administration in 1886

Directives of the North-Western Provinces & Oudh



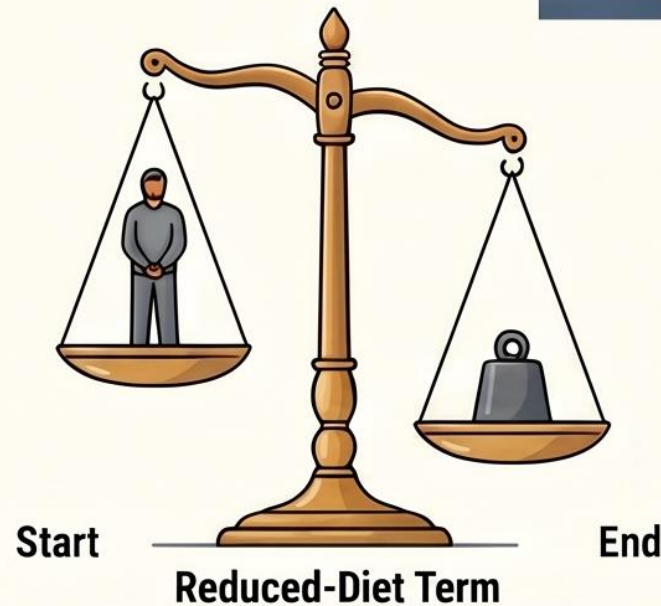
PRISONER WELFARE AND HEALTH

Protection Against Seasonal Chill

Sleeping barracks were provided with 'Tat Purdahs' (mats) to shield prisoners from cold night winds.



Sleeping barracks were provided with 'Tat Purdahs' (mats) to shield prisoners from cold night winds.



Weighment of Prisoners on Reduced Diets

Superintendents were required to weigh prisoners at the start and end of reduced-diet terms.



Medical Officer Discretion

Non-medical Superintendents had to consult Medical Officers before implementing barracks protection measures.

BUREAUCRATIC & FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

Strict Classification of Stores



Reports had to distinguish between 'European Stores' and 'Country Stores' purchased within India.

Mandatory Voucher Verification



All monthly abstracts required original signatures from the specific contractors or vendors involved.

Budgeting for Convict Transit

1887-88 budgets accounted for shifting prisoner flows as major central jail projects neared completion.



Comparison of Store Reporting Requirements

European Manufacture
Must mention authority and purchase circumstances

Country Stores
Purchased in lieu of imported stores

Blank Returns
Prohibited if items like iron or coal-tar were purchased

The Life

BESIDES the provincial measure indicated in Circular No. 576 dated 6th February, 1884, for protecting prisoners from chill, Inspector-General is willing during the cold months to provide *all* sleeping barracks with Tāt Purdahs on that side from which the cold wind blows at night. Superintendents who are Medical Officers will exercise their discretion in this matter and will if they think it necessary send in an estimate for the provision of Tāt Purdahs and all non Medical Superintendents will consult the Medical Officer in this matter and act by his advice.

Physical Control

Directives regulating the prisoner's body, exposure to the elements, and clinical observation of weight during enforced dietary reduction.

The Ledger

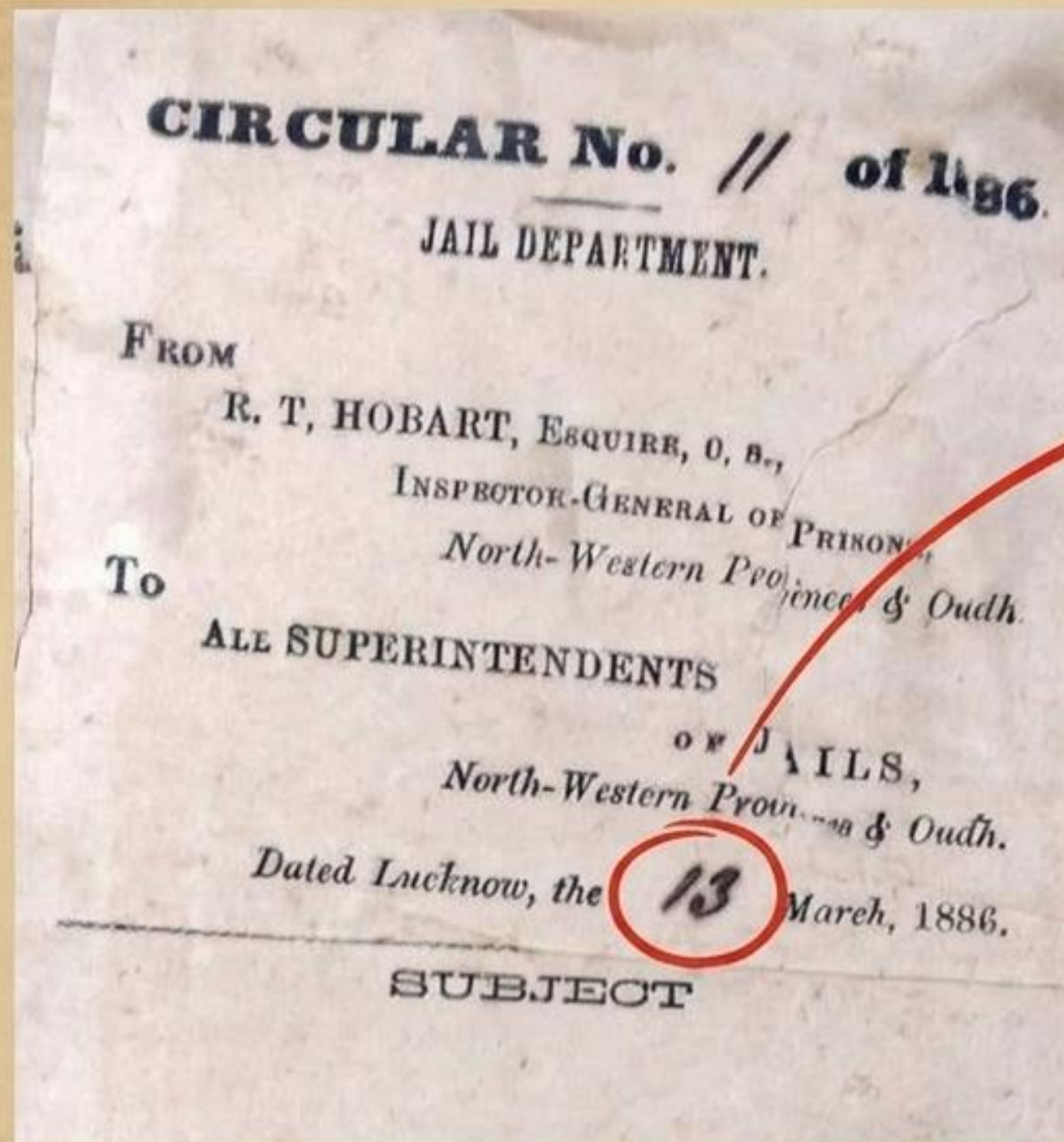
"The following are some of the principal points which the Jail Officers should be asked to attend to carefully in future:—

"A.—The submission of the Monthly Return of Stores &c. together with the monthly abstracts, whether it is blank or otherwise. The entry of the two classes of stores viz: "European Stores purchased in India" and "Country Stores purchased in lieu of imported stores" should be carefully made, with reference to the printed notes on the reverse. When stores of European manufacture are purchased in India, the authority and circumstances under which they are purchased should be mentioned in the return of stores. (It is observed that in several cases this return has been submitted blank, although stores, such as iron, zinc, sheets, screws, coal-tar, cement &c. &c. have been purchased.)

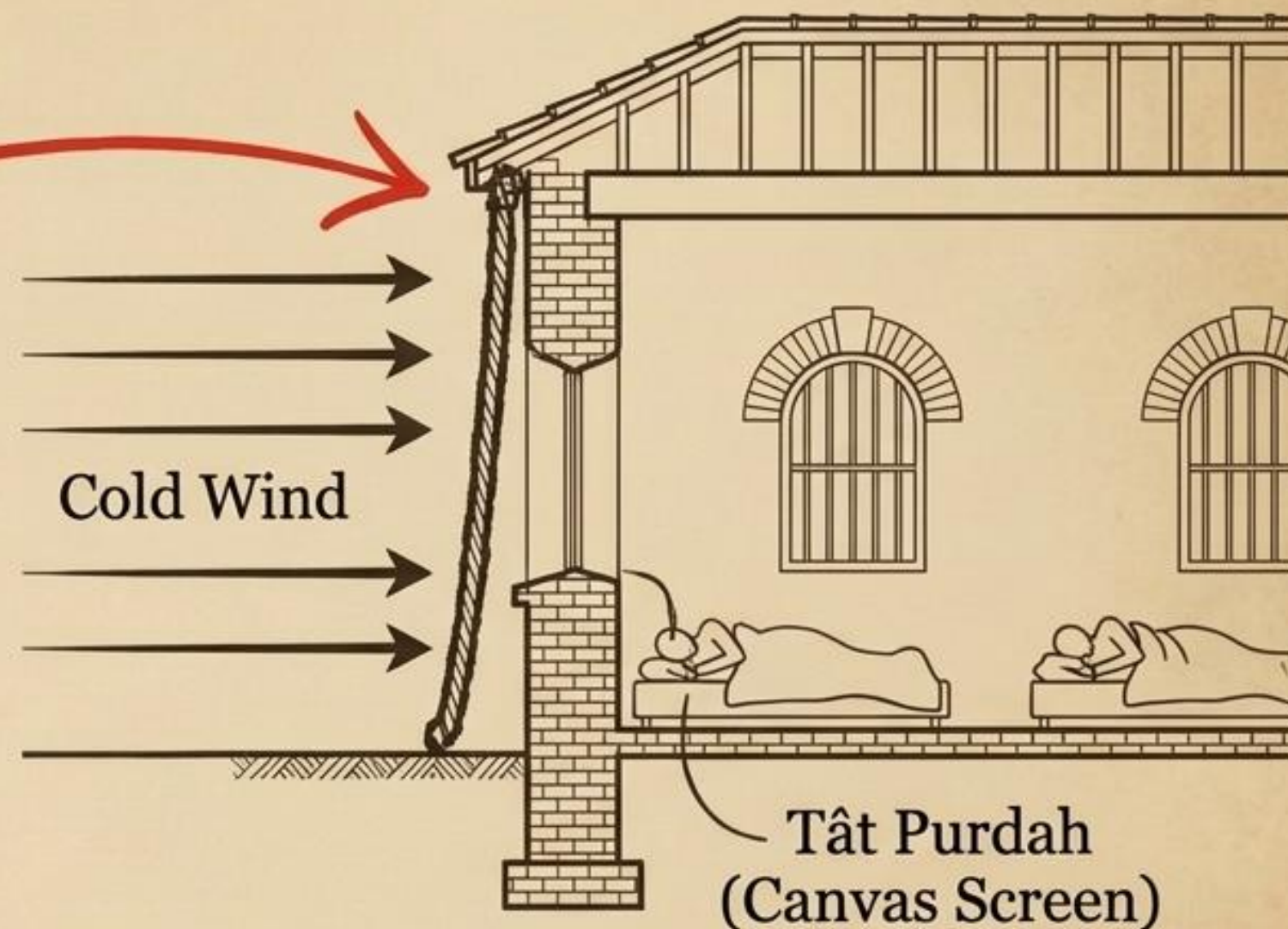
Fiscal Control

The strict mechanics of imperial audit, the origin of stores, and the obsession with witness signatures over practical realities.

The Inspector-General of Prisons in 1886 viewed the colonial jail through two distinct lenses. Human incarceration was meticulously reduced to ledger entries, balancing stark physical realities with unrelenting bureaucratic exactitude.



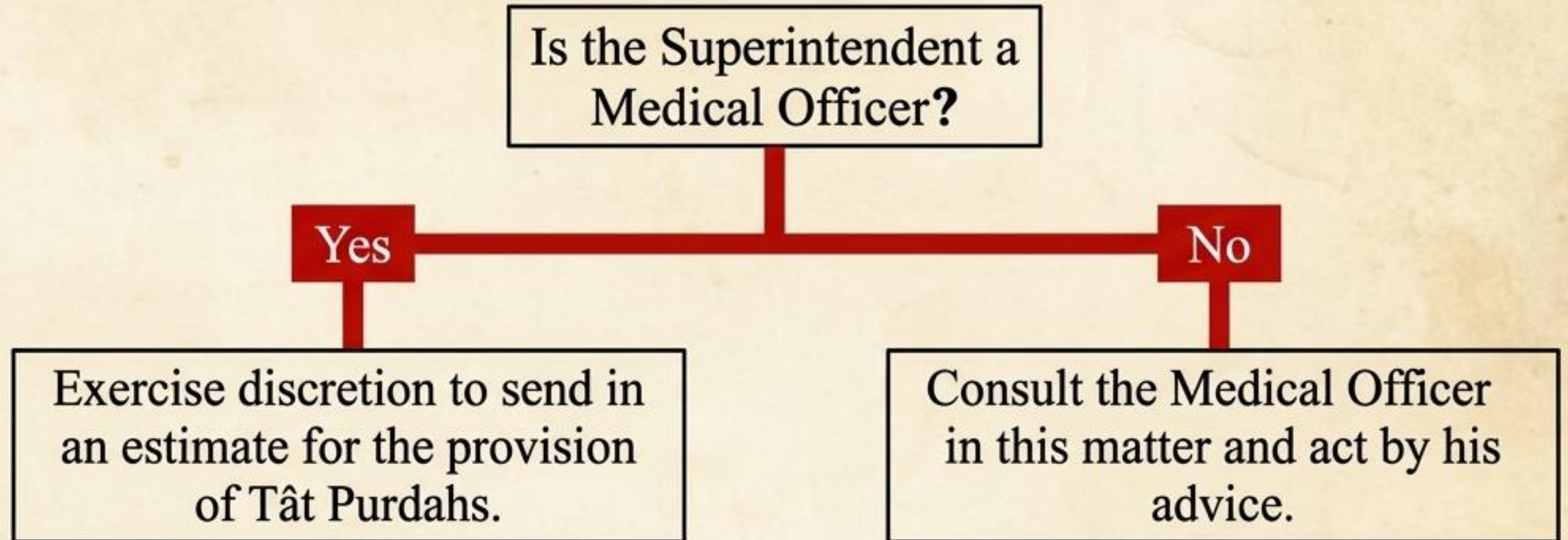
The Tât Purdah Shield



Circular No. 11 (March 1886) from R.T. Hobart addressed the provincial measure for protecting prisoners from chill. Rather than systemic heating, the solution was highly localised: providing specific canvas screens to block night drafts.

The Diagnostic Decision

The colonial administration mandated medicalised authority even for **environmental protections**. The Superintendent's power to request basic winter supplies was entirely subordinate to clinical discretion.



Superintendents who are Medical Officers will exercise their discretion in this matter and will if they think it necessary send in an estimate for the provision of Tât Purdahs, and all non Medical Superintendents will consult the Medical Officer in this matter and act by his advice.

CIRCULAR DOCKET.

(JAIL DEPARTMENT.)

FROM

COR: H. M. STANLEY CLARKE,
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

TO

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

Dated Lucknow:

The 28 June, 1886.

Received

No. 31

SUBJECT

WEIGHMENT OF PRISONERS.

With reference to Inspector-General's Circular No. 45 dated 5th August 1885, regulating the diet to be observed during the rainy season, Superintendent is requested to cause all prisoners who are placed on the reduced diet to be weighed at the commencement of the term and at its close.

H. M. STANLEY CLARKE, COL.,

Inspector-General of Prisons, N.W.P. & Oudh.

ADMINISTRATIVE STARVATION

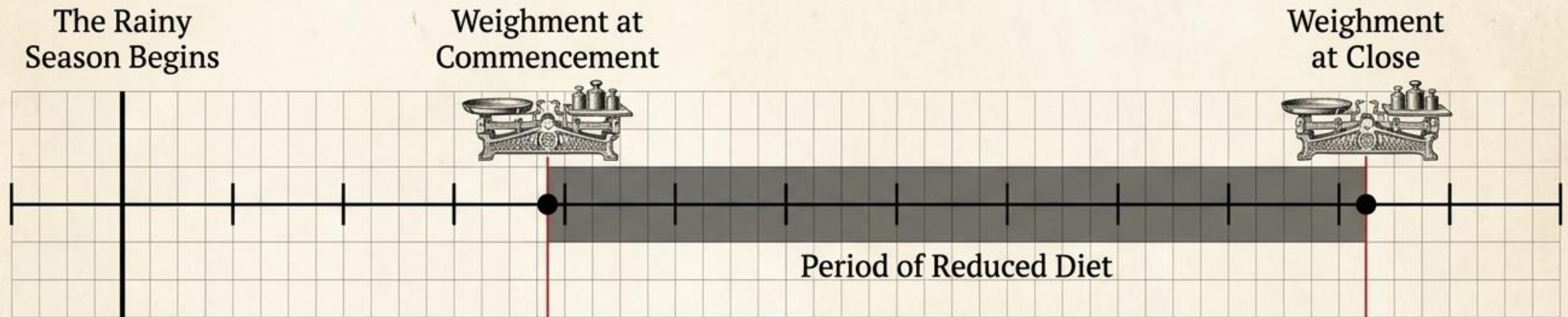
Condition: The Rainy Season

Mandate: Placement on Reduced Diet

Circular No. 30, issued by H.M. Stanley Clarke in June 1886, references previous standing orders regulating diet. The directive mandates the placement of prisoners on a reduced diet precisely when environmental conditions were most challenging. The document strips the punitive starvation of emotion, presenting it purely as an administrative procedure requiring precise measurement.

The Physical Toll: Quantifying Starvation

The physical toll of the reduced diet was meticulously quantified. The colonial state monitored enforced starvation through clinical weighments, prioritising data collection over the physical welfare of the inmate.



...is requested to cause all prisoners who are placed on the reduced diet to be weighed at the commencement of the term and at its close.

COPY.

Examiner's Office N.-W. Provinces & Oudh.
No. 6886 A. G.
Allahabad 25th June, 1886.

FROM

THE EXAMINER OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

TO

Allahabad 25th June, 1886.

THE EXAMINER OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh,

vendors who have done work or supplied materials.

2. Receipts of Darogahs or other officials through whom money is paid for work done cannot be accepted as vouchers.

2. Receipts of Darogahs or other officials through whom money is paid for work done cannot be accepted as vouchers.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) F. G. OLDHAM,

Examiner of Public Works Accounts, N.-W.P. & Oudh.

SIR,

I have the honor to be,
the Jail Officer,
voucher of
that the
those who

vendors who have done work or supplied materials.
2. Receipts of Darogahs or other officials through whom money is paid for work done cannot be accepted as vouchers.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Copy of the foregoing is for
the Superintendents of Jails North-

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) F. G. OLDHAM,

Examiner of Public Works Accounts, N.-W.P. & Oudh.

North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

for information and guidance to
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

H. M. STANLEY CLARKE, C. S.

Secretary to Government, N. W. P. & Oudh.

Circular 33 reveals the deep mistrust within the colonial financial apparatus. Examiner of Public Works Accounts F.G. Oldham explicitly invalidated the financial receipts of 'Darogahs' (local Indian officials), demanding a direct, heavily vetted paper trail from external contractors instead.

Colonial Procurement Flowchart: The Bureaucratic Labyrinth.

Action: Obtain Stores / Have Work Done.



Requirement 1: Contractor or vendor must sign voucher directly.



Requirement 2: Marks and seals must be attested by two witnesses.

B.—Marks and seals of contractors and vendors should always be attested by two witnesses vide Government of India's No. 9 of 1882.



Requirement 3: Jail Officer must sign or initial every voucher sent in support of charges.

instruct the Jail Officers who submit accounts to this office to sign or initial every voucher or receipt which is sent in support of the charges made, and further



Submission: Submit with Monthly Abstract and Bills of firms.

Purchasing basic goods required navigating an immense labyrinth of bureaucratic friction. The system prioritised multiple overlapping layers of authorisation and witnessing to prevent fiscal leakage.

The Procurement Dichotomy

European & Country Stores	Government Factories
❑ Requires detailed Monthly Return of Stores. ❑ Must explicitly categorise 'European Stores purchased in India' versus 'Country Stores'. ❑ Authority and circumstances for purchasing European goods locally must be strictly justified. 'A.—The submission of the Monthly Return of Stores &c. together with the monthly abstracts, whether it is blank or otherwise. The entry of the two classes of stores viz: "European Stores purchased in India" and "Country Stores purchased in lieu of imported stores" should be carefully made, with reference to the printed notes on the reverse. When stores of European manufacture are purchased in India, the authority and circumstances under which they are purchased should be mentioned in the return of stores. (It is observed that in several cases this return has been submitted blank, although stores, such as iron, zinc, sheets, screws, coal-tar, cement &c. &c. have been purchased.)	❑ Bypasses the cash economy entirely. ❑ Stores are not required to be paid for in cash. ❑ Adjusted seamlessly by frictionless book transfer. 'D.—Stores supplied from Government Factories are not required to be paid for in cash, but should be adjusted by book transfer.'

The ledger enforced imperial economic policy. Bureaucratic hurdles were erected around purchasing European goods locally without authorisation, while internal government supply chains operated on frictionless, cashless book transfers.

Macro-Logistical Planning

Circular 32 (July 1886)
demonstrates macro-level
planning.

The physical expansion of the
carceral state—specifically
the completion of major
Central Jails in Benares and
Fatehgarh—directly altered
the geographical movement of
bodies across the North-
Western Provinces.

JAIL 1886. DEPT.

FROM
THE INSPR.-GENL. OF PRISONS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

TO
THE SUPERINTENDENTS
OF JAILS,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

Dated Lucknow,

The 8th July,

Received

No. 32

SUBJECT.

BLANK FORM
OF
FINANCIAL BUDGET
FOR
1887-88.

In forwarding the enclosed to be filled in and returned as early as possible Inspector-General requests that the instructions contained in paras: 2, 5 and 7 of this Office No. 20 dated 8th June 1885, may be attended to.

2. Owing to the approaching completion of Benares and Fatehgarh Central Jails the flow of prisoners to these Building centres will be considerably lessened if not altogether discontinued during the next year. Estimate under "Passage Money of Convicts" should therefore be calculated accordingly.

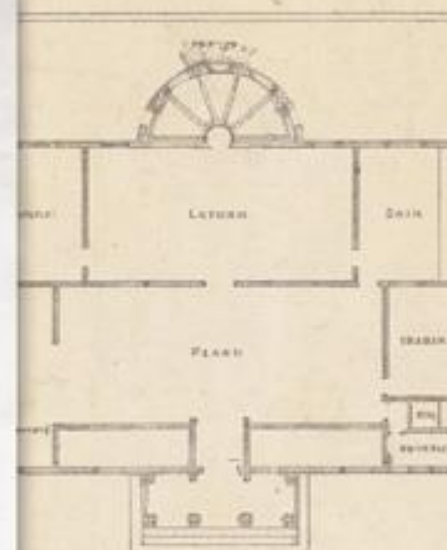
3. The provision for Establishment including Intramural Guards and Nightwatchmen should be for the sanctioned scale for each Jail.

H. M. STANLEY CLARKE, COE.,

Inspector-General of Prisons,
North-Western Provinces & Oudh.

DISTRICT MAP
OF
DISTRICT JAIL.

Traced according to the Survey.



PLAN SECTION.

Scale 1/4 inch = 1 mile.

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The Fiscal Calculation of Movement

(Completion
of Central
Jails)



(Reduced
Prisoner
Flow)



**Action Required:
Calculate "Passage
Money of Convicts"
accordingly.**

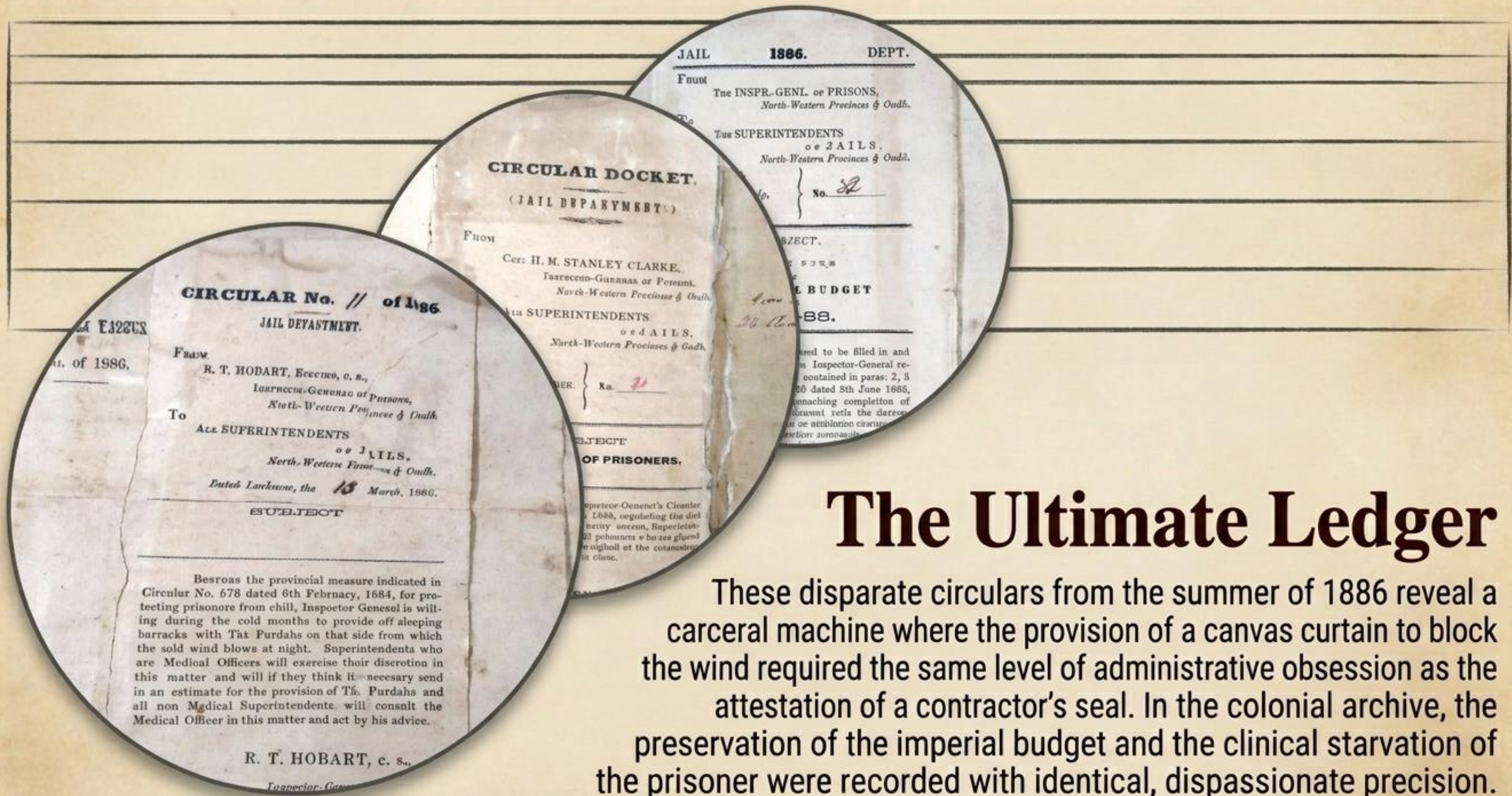
2. Owing to the approaching completion of Benares and Fatehgarh Central Jails the flow of prisoners to these Building centres "Passage Money of Convicts" should therefore be calculated accordingly.

The human experience of transit between prisons was ultimately reduced to a single line item: "Passage Money." Superintendents were required to forecast this exact expenditure a year in advance, linking the physical construction of walls directly to precise fiscal predictions.

The Dual Mandate of the Inspector-General

The Medical Officer	The Chief Auditor
 - Monitor cold winds and authorise canvas curtains. - Enforce reduced diets during monsoons. - Conduct clinical weighments of inmates.	 - Reject local official receipts. - Secure double-witnessed contractor seals. - Forecast exact 1887 passage budgets.

The 1886 Jail Superintendent was expected to be a clinician managing human frailty and a hyper-pedantic auditor managing imperial capital simultaneously. The rigid structure of the colonial bureaucracy allowed absolutely zero margin for error in either domain.



The Ultimate Ledger

These disparate circulars from the summer of 1886 reveal a carceral machine where the provision of a canvas curtain to block the wind required the same level of administrative obsession as the attestation of a contractor's seal. In the colonial archive, the preservation of the imperial budget and the clinical starvation of the prisoner were recorded with identical, dispassionate precision.