

Report of Mr Peter cherry
on the
District and village Police
of the
GANJAM ZILLAH
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REPORT

OF

MR. PETER CHERRY

DATED 14th JUNE 1905

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ON THE

DISTRICT & VILLAGE POLICE

OF THE GANJAM ZILLAH

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From Mr. P. CHENEY to BOARD of REVENUE dated 14th June 1863 reporting on the system of Village and District Police obtaining in the Zillah; and suggesting certain improvements;

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FORT ST. GEORGE

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Deputy Secretary's letter of the 28th March, giving cover to Regulations sanctioned by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, for the formation of companies of Armed Peons to be substituted in the room of Sibbendy Sepoys; and Extract from a letter from the Principal Collector in the Ceded Districts, on the abuse that prevails in the system of Police under Kavilgars and Poligars, which is forwarded to me as being connected with the subject of Police to which the services of the armed Peons are to be directed, as well as to the preservation of internal tranquility.

2nd. To assist me further in the consideration of the subject of Police, the Board are pleased to direct me to refer to the orders of the Governor General in Council of the 11th May 1799, and to Regulation XXXV. of 1802, containing the outline of the wishes of His Lordship in Council.

3rd. The abuse of power delegated to Kavilgars and Poligars is so ably discussed by Major Munro in his report to Government, that it may appear presumption in me to treat of the subject, except in pointing out how far in my opinion the abolishing the Dundasses, a class of people nearly similar to Kavilgars, may be productive of the effect expected.

4th. Previous however to the discussion of such a subject, which is a matter of very serious importance in whatever point of view considered, I beg to return to the 3rd Paragraph of the Board's letter, where it is, I observe, the intention of Government that this corps of Peons should not be considered as intended for Military purposes only, but rather as an Establishment instituted for the preservation of internal tranquillity and the prevention of crimes, which are duties of the Police; and that the expenses attending this body of People cannot in consequence be considered either a Military or Revenue charge, but is to be entered on the Books as a "Police charge."

5th. I will first mention what I think necessary for the purpose expressed in the 3rd Paragraph of the said letter, and will afterwards give my reasons for such an Establishment. For Revenue and Police purposes in the Hill Zemindaries &c. under the Zillah of Ganjam, until the Permanent Settlement is made, there should be a corps of Peons at least 800 or 1000 strong at the command and under the controul of the Collector, formed on the Regulations recently received; and if not approved of as separate corps for Police and Revenue purposes, the strength of Companies in the first corps to be increased for the present, and to be reduced on the introduction of the new system of judicature, to the number that may then appear requisite.

6th. The Zillah of Ganjam, agreeable to Regulation III of 1803, comprises an extent of territory from Mophuzbunder to Manikpatam on the borders of the Cuttack country, of 150 miles of Sea coast; Westward from Chicacole to the Borders of the Kemedi Zemindary, 60 Miles, from Ganjam to Soradah, the Western most Zemindary, 70 Miles; including in that extent 4 District Havellies and 20 Zemindaries.

7th. There might be little difficulty in introducing a system of Police into that part of the Zillah heretofore denominated the 3rd Division of Vizagapatam, or in the Havellies in this Province, but excepting Purlah Kenedy, the Zemindaries in the Zillah of Ganjam are so little under command that I should expect little permanency to the system; and that being my opinion, I should consider myself culpable in recommending at this period the introduction of it, as a failure therein would only add to the existing difficulties, and give encouragement to the general inclination to insubordination.

8th. Entertaining these sentiments, the Board may naturally be led to reflect on the inefficiency of a Police Establishment in the Havellics in the Province without the plan being general, as delinquents committing crimes may effect their escape to the Hill Zemindaries, where, as no Police Officers are stationed, they may live in security—I feel a repugnance on this account to the introduction of the Plan myself, and in order to satisfy the Board that at present the Police system should not be introduced in the Zemindaries in this Province, I beg to refer them to my letter of the 5th, as it relates to the point in question, and I shall then rest satisfied that the expression made use of in the 8th Paragraph of my letter of the 30th April will not be considered too strong, however strongly characteristic of the present state of the Ganjam Tributaries. The conduct of Jagernaut Deo of Pretabagherry, as reported in my letter before referred to, fully exemplifies the difficulty I should feel in establishing a point of so much importance.

9th. Should the Board however be of opinion that the introduction of the Police system on the principles laid down in Regulation XXXV of 1802 is feasible, I beg to submit the Plan on which I think it might be done in the Havellics and the Kemedi Zemindary in the late 3rd Division of Vizagapatam, and hereafter in this Province.

10th. The object is not only to detect and bring to justice delinquents of every description, but to establish a system of prevention, that shall in the course of time, if not totally extirpate, at least, reduce considerably the number of murders and robberies that are committed, the latter and sometimes the former are not brought forward to public investigation from the inefficiency of our Police, and which are not unfrequently committed by the very people to whom, from custom, the inhabitants are in the habit of placing in trust their property—I mean Village Watchmen, denominated in this province Dundasses, but known in the Chicacole Division by the name of Baurkees.

11th. I shall treat of the establishment of this class of People who certainly come under the description noticed by Major Munro of "Kavely," though not possessing the power he describes to have had existence in the Ceded Districts. As the Dundasses in this Province have at present no apparent Head, every man appears to act himself, and considered in their original capacity of village Watchmen, were of some utility in their own villages, in relieving the inhabitants from various duties they would otherwise have been obliged to perform; for instance, on the arrival of Troops or Travellers, they expedite the collection of supplies from the adjacent Country, attend to shew the road, give intelligence, patrol the streets of the village at night &c., which must otherwise have fallen on the renter or head inhabitant, or their servants. The Dundasses are paid by village Manium.

12th. These people, although at present without a Chief, formerly had one, and the situation was considered hereditary. It was abolished by the Moorish Government, except Naigues in each Purgannah &c., as noticed in the following observations drawn from the oldest and most respectable people in the Province, and as these observations appear just, I have united them with my own in this communication.

13th. In the Havellics there are 13 Naigues and 346 Dundasses, and they are stationed as follows, at

	Naigues.	Dundasses.		Naigues.	Dundasses.
Ganjam.....	1	20	Poobacondah Purgannah.....	1	80
Terristanum Purgannah....	1	25	Aska..... Do.	1	20
Monsurcotah..... Do	1	12	Courlah..... Do.	1	15
Moherry..... Do	1	95	Bramunachoye. Do.	1	4
Itchapore..... Do	1	30	Bavanapora..... Do.	1	6
Montreddy .. . Do	1	15	Ingilly.... Do.	1	4
Barwah... .. Do	1	20			
			Total.....	13	346

These People are intended for purposes of Police as well as Revenue, and paid by Village Maniums, except at Cusba Ganjam and Cusba Itchapore where they are paid in money by the

Circar, and the Cusba Village Dundasses of Poobacondah, besides the Maniums, get one Rupee per month paid by the Village people. This latter practice has only recently crept in.

14th. Except for gross misconduct these situations have always been considered hereditary.

15th. It is generally said they are responsible for stolen property, but they do not make good such loss without serious delay and plunder from others, as their Maniums are bare subsistence, and they possess not the means without robbing in another Village.

16th. The Naigue of one Village Purgannah has the power of sending his people into the Villages of another if he suspects a thief has secreted himself there.—Custom has established this power, and it is necessary it should be so, as any Dundassee will assist another in apprehending a thief in expectation of similar assistance when he requires it from a neighbouring Purgannah.

17th. The duty the Naigues and Dundasses are expected to perform at Ganjam and Itchapore is the protection of those Towns; they do not get Village Maniums in addition to the pay from the Circar. Their Maniums were long since struck off, whereas in the Purgannahs the duty is not confined to one Village but it is general over that Purgannah.

18th. There being no regular Head to the Dundasses above the Naigue of their Purgannah they are not under so much controul as they ought to be to make them really useful; and it is a circumstance well known, that the Dundasses are the greatest thieves in the Province. Every person wishing to preserve his property keeps a Dundassee not perhaps so much on account of the care that one man can take of extensive concerns, as from the apprehension of the depredations of these people if he has not one in his service. From their knowledge of the haunts of rogues and of every character that belongs to the Village they are attached to, giving them the power of detecting delinquents of every description, they might be made really serviceable on the new system by introducing them into the body of Police Peons, and attaching them to that part of the Country they have been accustomed to act in.

19th. If a Havelly Dundassee suspected a thief had escaped to the Zemindaries, the Sourabloo or Dundasses in the Zemindaries would afford assistance in securing the delinquent if on the borders, but from the interior certainly none, the Zemindars, jealous of their own authority, would prevent it; and it is to be regretted that the Zemindars in this Province rather protect than detect offenders of every description, more particularly Company's Deserters.

20th. The Naigues and Dundasses have no other remuneration in any Purgannah than the village Maniums before mentioned, at least, not those immediately coming under the description of Village or Purgannah Dundassee, but there are in some of the Purgannahs, Naikwaddy Peons, whose duty is acting as Tasil Peons, Zaptbars, Mahasoodars & Kyledars. They are employed in settling Boundary disputes of Water Courses &c. In Poobacondah in particular there is a Village called Coneyah given for the support of 100 Peons whose duties are as above, and who in addition to the produce of the Village get 1 Seer of Rice and 1 Dub when employed by the Circar. They pay to Government as Cuttoobaddy Moccasa 150 Rupees. The Committee of Circuit valued the Village at Rupees 709-4 Annas (being one year's average. Mr. Brown's average of 16 years gives Rupees 390-6 Annas only.) But the original purposes for which the Village was given has been completely perverted, and the Peons have been known even to conceal a Company's Deserter, refusing to my knowledge to act under Captain Evans as Tasilbars. Report is not backward in charging them with being the first to plunder the Purgannah on any appearance of disturbances from the Zemindaries. They are armed with Matchlocks, swords &c. These people might also be converted to Police purposes under proper regulations.

21st. In the other Purgannahs the Dundasses and Naikwaddy Peons are supported as follows, viz. Coorlah and Moherry by Dorobust Enams.

In Itchapore.....	}	Village Maniums.
Montreddy.....		
Barwah.....		
Terristanum.....		
Aska.....		
Monsurcotah.....		

In addition to these Enams, the Naikwaddy Peons receive, by long custom, Fees from the Villages, from a small one 5 Rupees, and a large, 10 Rupees, per annum.

22nd. Cutwals and their establishments are stationed at

Ganjam.....
 Itchapore.....
 Berhampore and
 Aska.....

In addition to these, there ought to be a small establishment at Monsurcotah, Poobacondah Montreddy and Barwa as being thoroughfares, Troops frequently passing through each. The Cutwal at Ganjam and his establishment are paid in ready money, and are as follows, monthly.

	As.
1. Cutwal..... Rupees...	20
1- Curnum.....	10
1. Naigue.....	8
20. Peons at 3.....	60
7. Dundasses.....	14
1. Trumpeter.....	1 8
2. Tum Toms.....	1
Oil.....	1
Total.....	116-8

exclusive of the Military Bazar establishment. Itchapore is now under the Superintendant of the Stud, and I am unacquainted with the Cutwal's establishment. *

Berhampore.

1. Cutwal..... Rupees	10
9. Peons at 3..... Do.	27

Total..... 37

This is exclusive of the Military Bazar establishment when Troops are stationed there.

ASKA.

1. Cutwal. { "This man from his Office enjoys a Threebaughy } Rupees. 10	
5. Peons at 3 { Enam of 190 Rupees per Annum"..... Do. 15	

Total..... 25

exclusive of the Military Bazar establishments.

23rd. There may not be any necessity for increase in the establishment of Cutwals, if the Police System is introduced on the principle laid down in Regulation XXXV, 1802.

24th. But should that be delayed it will necessarily be for the protection of the subject, and the comfort and convenience of Travellers, that some arrangement be made for the erection of Offices of Police at Poobacondah, Monsurcotah, Montreddy and Barwa, and some addition of Peons at each other place, placing the Naigue and Dundasses of each Purgannah under the Cutwal or Sirdar; abolishing the principle of restitution when goods are stolen; and establishing a more vigilant and prompt execution of Police duty through the Cutwal.

* Information since obtained from Captain Evans.

	Itchapore.
1. Cutwal.	
1. Naikwaddy.	
10. Peons	
	Monsurcotah.
1. Cutwal.	
4. Peons.	
3. Dundasses.	
	Poobacondah.
1. Cutwal.	
4. Peons.	
1. Dundasses.	

25th. The present power possessed by the Cutwal is not adequate to the duties to be performed; he should know every transaction that passes in the Town and its vicinity; and if his authority was enlarged, he might be able, by having the Dundasses of the Zemindaries placed under him, vide Mr. Collector Snodgrass' letter and enclosure of the 1st October 1799, to trace, detect, and bring to punishment, delinquents of every description that now secret themselves in the Zemindaries. I beg to refer the Board to the 31st paragraph of this address for the proposed distribution of the Police Battalion, shewing the Zemindaries and Havelly Estates over which the jurisdiction of each Sirdar will extend, reducing the whole to the smallest possible compass, both as regards the expense and number, consistent with the important duty to be performed. The Cutwals at the principal Stations still to remain, but their Establishments to be reduced, as I suppose they can hereafter only be considered as Officers of Custody, Jailors, and for the provision of Boyces &c. for Travellers, also as Superintendants of Bazars.

26th. It may appear improper here to introduce a description of people called Dalacurnums as not being connected with the Police, nor should I presume to do it, but to shew how the word has been misapplied, and by its misapplication how the office it is intended to denote has been misconstrued at the same time, that as the person who now holds the Office, and with it the Enams &c. resides at Ganjam and by no means fills the office respectably, not attending to the duties thereof, which by the tenor of the Sunnud implies protection to the Country, I recommend the Office being done away and the emolument being carried to the credit of Government. A Dalacurnum literally means a person employed by the Zemindar to keep an account of all expenditure to persons such as Wet or Dry Batta, and by no means implies the sense the sunnuds convey. The copies of the sunnuds held by Bengala Cundapah are a number in the packet.

27th. Previous to entering on the plan of the Police Battalion it is necessary to say a few words on the want of Police in the 3rd Division of Vizagapatam of the Chicacole District; and the following is the result of my enquiry on that head. There are no Dundasses. Each Village has one or two Baurkees, who are paid by the Village and may be styled Watchmen. They also take care in wet weather of the Tanks and water courses, opening the former when the pressure of water is supposed to be too great for the bank, and repairing the latter when necessary, damming up the Stream to give each Village its proportion. They are likewise occasionally employed to measure one of the heaps of grain in the fields, and when a Traveller arrives in a Village it is the duty of a Baurkee to provide him supplies and to shew him the road to the next Village.

28th. The Baurkees cannot therefore properly be called Police Officers and are under no more controul of the Circar than other Ryots.

29th. In the Carakavulsa Estate there are 3 small Villages one a Moccasa called Bootadysynghie and the Villages of Nundacondah Streeramvulsah, paying a revenue of 5 Rupees each, and have been given to a person called Narasoo Dorah, a Sourahloc of the Hills in that Estate, since Sectaram Rauze had the management of the Chicacole Havelly, in consideration of his keeping the Estate in peace; and it has been customary for the different Gentlemen who have subsequently had the management of that District to give Narasoo Dorah an annual present of a few Rupees to purchase gunpowder. He is a Sirdar of 40 or 45 Peons, variously armed.

30th. At the Cusbah village of Chicacole there is a Cutwal's Establishment as follows.

1. Cutwal..... Rupees	10
1. Curnum.....	8
10. Peons at 2.....	20
1. Tum Tum Man.....	1
Total.....	39

this is exclusive of the Military Bazar Establishment at Coopilly, Letchimpooram, Nowpaudah and Poondy, the Renters of those Estates where these villages respectively lie, keep a Cutwal and one or two Peons to supply Palankeen Boyces &c. to Travellers, those villages lying on

High Road; but the regularity that ought to pervade every department under the Company cannot be expected when the Servants are not paid with regularity, the complaints from Travellers; Officers Commanding Detachments &c. are very numerous in consequence, and I would therefore beg to recommend that a servant on the part of Government be appointed at each of these villages in the same manner as at Barwa &c.

31st. I would propose dividing the Police Peons into 11 Divisions to be denominated 1st, 2nd, 3rd, &c. each to have a Sirdar with controul over Jemidars, Darogahs, as follows. 1 Sirdar at Ganjam to have controul over the 4 Terristann Villages north of the Ganjam River, the Zemindaries of Hoomah, Paleor, Beredi and Calicote. 1 Sirdar at Hautghur to have controul over Poobacondah and Hautghur. 1 Sirdar at Goomsur. 1 Sirdar at Daracote, to have Boddagudda, Surada and Seerghur. 1 Sirdar at Asa to have that Estate and Courlah, Ingilli, Bavanapore, & Bramunachoye. 1 Sirdar at Berahampore, for Moherry Monsurcotteh and that part of the Terristann Purgannah south of the River of Ganjam. 1 Sirdar at Chegatty, for that Zemindary, Itchapore, Sozapore and Montreddy, Vizianagram and Pretaubgherry also. 1 Sirdar at Boorgatm, for Jelantrah, Barwah, Jarada, Soorungghy, Mundasah, Turlah and Boodarasinghy. 1 Sirdar for the Kenedy Zemindary and Tekkally. 1 Sirdar for those Estates lying north of the Calingapatam River in the Chicacole Havelly; and 1 Sirdar at Chicacole for those Estates lying between the rivers of Chicacole and Calingapatam, with such a distribution of inferior Officers and Peons as the exigency of the Service and local circumstances may demand.

32nd. During the present unsettled state of the Ganjam Province and until the Permanent Jumma is finally fixed in the Province, I beg that the Police Peons may be at least 800 or 1000 strong, to combine at once the Police duties with the collection of the Revenues on the establishment of internal tranquillity.

33rd. I beg to observe that on the final arrangement of the Ganjam Province being approved of, so great a number of Peons may not be requisite, and I therefore would recommend that a Corps of 5 Companies to consist of

1. Sirdar.
2. Jemidars.
3. Duffadars of the 1st and 2nd Class.
1. Trumpeter.
100. Peons and
1. Puckally each

be formed at present with 60 Supernumeraries each Company, to be struck off hereafter when opportunity presents itself.—The Corps to be paid as follows.

	P.	F.	C.
Sirdar.....	15	"	"
Jemidars.....	6	21	"
Duffadar No. 1st.....	3	"	"
Do. No. 2nd.....	2	24	"
Trumpeter.....	1	24	"
Peon.....	1	24	"
Native Doctor.....	1	24	"
Vakeel.....	6	"	"
Puckally.....	3	8	72

34th. This recommendation differs but little from the pay ordered by Government, and which under the latitude given me in the 4th paragraph of the letter from Government of the 12th March 1803 and local circumstances, such as the present pay of the Cutcherry Peons &c, I am induced to recommend in preference to the pay directed by Government, also noticed in paragraph 4th, which is too small in some respects to enable me to get good servants, and the nature of the various and important duties to be performed by them, require men of character and capability; I would beg to consider the pay before detailed as in lieu of every expense except the sum of 2

Star Pagodas per month to each Sirdar for the repair of Arms, instead of 6 Pagodas a quarter now allowed the Sibbendy Corps, independant of a set of Artificers at the monthly expense of Star Pagodas 21-18 fanams, which may be struck off.

35th. Government are pleased to direct that the Arms and ammunition shall be found the Peons at the Company's expense for that part of the Police Corps sent on duty to Chicacole &c. and the Ganjam Havellics; the Peons &c. shall be armed with Pikes and matchlocks; but for the present I entreat your permission to my keeping the Musquets now in use with the Sibbendy. I am induced to this entreaty from the knowledge I have attained since my residence in this Province of the opinion the Zemindars entertain of Matchlock and Musquet Peons. Hereafter when the new system is introduced, and the Zemindars brought into better order and more sensible of the advantages they will derive from the security their property will be in, and the benefit of punctuality in the discharge of their Tribute, I would propose their being armed in the mode now directed by the Board.

36th. The estimated expense of arming a Peon cannot be less than 10 Rupees per man, or Star Pagodas 2-36 fanams.

37th. I would propose to clothe the Corps as follows.

2. Blue Turbands plain like a Peon.
2. Cummerbands Blue
2. White Jackets
2. Pairs of White Drawers and 1 Comly for a Warm Coat.

The Sirdars, Jemidars, Duffadars and Trumpeters to be distinguished by Red Turbands, the two former, wearing Silver Badges, the latter, Brass.

38th. The Regulations issued by his Lordship in Council to give efficacy to this Civil Force and to attach the Peons to our Service are admirably calculated to ensure the object in view, as when promulgated will draw forth good men from whom every service may be expected and will be received.

39th. The Muster Roll and every other part of the orders respecting this body of Police Peons shall be duly attended to. My object in placing a Sirdar and a certain number of inferior Officers and Peons in the Zemindaries, is, at present, to enable me to assemble for the purposes of Revenue 1 or 200 men in any one Zemindary at a short notice to crush any rising inclination to disturbances, to attach any part of a Zemindary to answer the failure of a Kist, or to prevent either a combination of them against the Company; thus establishing our authority in the interior, will, in the course of a short time, enable me most effectually to assume management of the Sayer, Abkarry &c. preparatory to the introduction of the Permanent Settlement; and by giving support to the Servants of the Company employed as Vakeels in taking the accounts, ascertaining the value of the Country &c., will shew the Zemindars the necessity of more obedience to our orders, and I hope, in due course of time, make them good and regular subjects.

Relying on the indulgence of the Board for the length of this letter.

I have the honor to be &c. &c.

GANJAM }
14th June 1803. }

(Signed) PETER CHERRY,
Collector.

