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Sawyer ~~twice~~ Disturbances
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Correspondence
on the
Sawyer's Disturbances
In the
Province of Canada.



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SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE
COLLECTOR OF SOUTH CANARA

Published by Authority.

CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE

SAWUNTWAREE DISTURBANCES

IN THE

PROVINCE OF CANARA

In 1845.

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*(These papers are printed for convenience of reference
and do not acquire any authority from their
being printed in this form.)*

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MANGALORE.

PRINTED AT THE SOUTH CANARA COLLECTORATE PRESS.

1912.

No. 31.

Magistrate's Cutcherry,

Mangalore, 30th December 1844.

From,

E. P. Thompson Esquire,

Acting Magistrate.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

1. The protracted disturbances in the Southern Mahratta Country and the uncertainty when they will be brought to a conclusion makes it necessary that I should bring to the notice of Government the unprotected state of our frontier which borders the disturbed districts, with the view of such measures being adopted as the Government may consider fit and the present condition of the adjoining provinces renders desirable.

2. The Northern part of Canara has the Portuguese Territory of Goa on the North, and the Southern Mahratta Country on the North and North-east; and although there has yet been no appearance of discontent or disaffection within our limits, yet it is impossible to say how long this may continue, and whether the disaffected portion of the community in the Southern Mahratta and Sawunt Warree Countries will not do all in their power to encourage the same spirit of hostility and rebellion amongst the people of the neighbouring districts.

3. Canara, and particularly the Northern part, has been the scene of many outbreaks originating from very trivial causes, and from the character of the people it is impossible to place much dependence on their loyalty and attachment.

4. There are three *Companies of Infantry in the Northern Division, at a distance varying from 40 to 70 miles from each other—Honore and Sedashigur are on the coast; and Sircy, the chief town in the Sonda Taluk, is inland—Soopah

* Honore.
Sedashigur.
Sircy.

is the frontier Taluk having the Goa, Belgam and Dharwar provinces for its boundaries, and although there are three Treasuries in it, there are no troops nearer than at Sircy. If therefore occasion required the employment of troops elsewhere than at the three posts above named, they must be drawn from a distance and the delay attending such an arrangement would be inconvenient and hazardous.

5. I would further notice that two years ago there were two Regiments at Mangalore, one of which has since been withdrawn, and within the last week the force has been still further reduced by the 28th Regiment having been relieved by a wing only of the 34th making a difference of 3 Companies or nearly 300 men in the strength of the garrison.

6. I have considered it my duty to place the Government in possession of these facts and although, as I said before, every thing is perfectly quiet in the district, yet, considering the long continued and obstinate rebellion in the adjoining provinces, I would submit to their consideration whether it would not be a prudential and precautionary measure to have more troops in the Northern part of the district to suppress at once any demonstration that may shew itself against the public peace.

In a subsequent letter to the Government I explained that more troops might be necessary if the rebellion increased and that without sea transport was provided troops could not be moved from Cananore without great delay and difficulty, but by the aid of a steamer their transport would be effected in 24 hours.

I have etc. etc.,
(Signed) E. P. THOMPSON,
Magistrate.

No. 2.

Mangalore, 21st January 1845.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

SIR,

1. Since my letter of the 10th inst., I have the honor to report for the information of the Most Noble the Governor in Council that the rebels although on our borders have not as yet entered our limits, but I cannot hope that this will long be the case, for, the troops are pressing them hard on the north and they will necessarily come southward. As soon as I received the Government resolution on my suggestion for more troops at Sircy, I addressed General Hill and explained that it was most important they should arrive at Sircy with as little delay as possible and that therefore I should be glad to hear that the reinforcement was to be furnished from Hurryhur and not from Seringapatam, as the former was 90 miles and the latter 180 from Sircy.

2. General Hill was then in the western part of the Mysore Country, and I regret to say very ill and therefore I have not heard from him in reply. My apprehension is that if any delay takes place in the arrival of the troops, the insurgents will enter our limits and endeavour to excite our people to rebellion which on the onset might be suppressed with a limited number of troops, but if once allowed to commence would require a large force to put down.

3. In my letter of the 10th inst., I stated that the insurgents were retiring into the Goa Territory and today I have heard that several subjects of that country have joined their cause and amongst them some influential people.

4. Looking at the present position of affairs and the peculiarities of the warfare that is now being carried on, I cannot but anticipate that the Government will sooner or later have to send an additional force into the Northern parts of Canara and I therefore again take the liberty of representing that the natural obstructions, such as rivers and Ghats, and the want of carriage, make a march through Canara extremely difficult.

5. In addition to the 80 peons which I informed the Government were entertained to assist our regular establishment in protecting our frontier, I have ordered for further security the enlistment into the Government service of a large body of a class of people called Shet Sundies. These people are a kind of Militia or Shikars who are armed and receive contributions from the ryots for protecting their crops etc. To secure the services of these people which has the two fold advantage of strengthening our frontier and discouraging their going over to the rebels, I have arranged to give them batta at one Rupee for every ten days subject to the approval of Government.

6. The rebels are drawing ammunition from the Goa Territory and orders have been issued to prevent the importation of gun powder and arms into our limits as well as the manufacture of the same within our country.

21st January 1845.

I have etc. etc.,
(Signed) E. P. THOMPSON,
Magistrate.

No. 3.

Magistrate's Cutcherry, Mangalore.
26th January 1845.

From

E. P. Thompson Esquire,
Acting Magistrate.

To

J. F. Thomas Esquire,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

1. My former letter will have put the Government in possession of the position of affairs in the disturbed districts up to about the 17th or 18th instant. Nothing of a decisive nature has occurred since that time, but the rebels are still collecting in large numbers in the Goa territory, and the Political Agent in Warree states, that when the enemy is attacked by the large force now concentrated on his position, which will, he trusts, be in the course of a few days, parties of insurgents will endeavour to escape by any of the Passes which may be open.

2. The Government are aware that one additional company of the 28th Regiment has already arrived at Sircy and to guard as much as possible against the incursion of the rebels into the district as expected by the Political Agent, a company has been sent from Sircy to Yellapoor, the chief Town in the Soopah Taluk. This is the best precaution that can be made with the small available force in Sonda and I trust the presence of the Sepoys will give confidence to the well disposed portion of the community and keep the other in check. Had the two additional companies arrived, they might have proceeded in the same direction and this force consisting of about 300 men would have been of the utmost advantage in preserving the peace and repelling the first outbreak. I have not yet heard from what station the expected re-inforcement is to be furnished, but I hope its arrival will not be delayed, and in that case it can be pushed forward to aid the Company already gone to Yellapoor.

3. The affairs of the Goa country are in an extremely disorganized state, and the insurgents will find ready and numerous adherents to their cause. The apprehension, therefore, is that the disaffected from both countries will reorganize their places and increase their numbers in that province, where the Government is too feeble to oppose them, and then enter our limits. Our large force in the north of the Portuguese frontier will effectually bar the re-turn of the rebels in that direction and they will then endeavour to enter Canara where we have at present little or no means of opposing them.

4. The character of the frontier country being mountainous and covered with jungle, is not favourable for troops, but it would be desirable to have a strong

force at the most eligible places along the line, which might act collectively or separately as occasion required. The arrangement for the post at Yellapoor I have already explained, and the next important position is Shedashigur which is a frontier station and is on the great road on the coast leading from the Goa province into Canara. Here, at present there is one company of Sepoys under an European Officer and at this place I should strongly recommend that a re-inforcement of two or three Companies should be immediately sent. The nearest station to Shedashigur is Honore at a distance of 58 miles, where there is another Company. Both these companies are furnished from the Regiment at Mangalore, but as one wing only of the 34th has yet arrived, a re-inforcement from that corps is at present impossible.

5. I ought to notice that there is a body of 240 Mysore Horse at Annawutty which is only a few miles from the eastern boundary of the district, whose services could be made available on a pressing emergency.

I have etc.,

No: 4.

Magistrate's Outcherry, Mangalore,
31st January 1845.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

1. After the despatch of my letter of the 26th Instant, I received notice that the 35th Regiment was under orders for service in the Northern part of Canara and today it has been reported to me that it will arrive at Sircy on the 3rd Proximo. The timely arrival of this regiment will I expect keep the people in awe and enable us to preserve tranquillity within our borders.

The second wing of the 34th Regiment having been relieved by a wing of the 14th Regiment, is now on its march to Mangalore, and I have therefore sent in a requisition to Col: Williams to despatch the reliefs to Honore and Shedashigur without loss of time. Both Companies I have requested may for the present be sent to Shedashigur and after tranquillity has been restored in the neighbouring provinces, the one intended for Honore can return and take up its station at that place. This arrangement which, I trust, the Most Noble the Governor in Council will approve of, will remove the apprehension that I expressed regarding this post in my letter of the 26th Instant.

The detachments of the 28th Regiment now at Honore and Shedashigur will be requested to remain until their presence is no longer considered necessary.

I have etc.,
(Signed) E. P. THOMPSON,
Acting Magistrate.

5th February 1845.

To

THE OFFICER COMMANDING,

Bombay, Goa Territory.

SIR,

Having received information that arms and ammunition are being collected at a place named Moolsah in the Goa territory, I have the honour to request you will have the goodness to inform me whether such is the case, and if so, if the preparations alluded to are made on the part of the Goa Government or by disaffected people for purposes of plunder etc.

I have also the honour to request that you will kindly favour me with any authentic information which may reach you respecting bodies of men assembling in the neighbourhood of the Company's frontier where it joins that of Goa. A report has been made me of villages or houses having been plundered in the neighbourhood of a place called Saverday, and if such persons having assembled at a place called Koombyarchy Vennay. I have the honor to request you will be good enough as to inform me whether the information is correct.

Camp: On route to Soopa,

5th February 1845.

I have etc.,
(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Hd. Asstt. Magistrate.

P. S.—

Any letters to my address will be forwarded by the Customs Choukidar at Coeassy, Deggi or Tinnay.

Sircy, 7th February 1845.

From

R. D. PARKER ESQUIRE,
Joint Magistrate.

To

LIEUTENANT FLEMING,
Commanding Detachment 35th Regiment
at Jugglebett.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd and 3rd Instant.

2. Agreeably to your request the sum of 108 Rupees has been paid to Lieutt. Ogilvy from the Treasury of the Sondah Taluk and intimation given to the Tahsildar that it is to be recovered from the pay of your Detachment.

3. I have received official information of the eventual success of Lieutt: Col: Outram against the Fort of Manahud which I believe to be the same as Manarghur and the Stockade of Munsuntosh. The report communicated to you by Lieutt: Walpole probably related to the operations of a previous day. I need not request

you to be careful not to repeat any disadvantageous reports that you may hear to the natives around you, as any alarm in the native mind in North Canara might be prejudicial to the British interests. I myself see no cause whatever for alarm while due precautions are taken.

4. With regard to your suggestion of a change of the position of your Detachment to the Tenni or Cowessi Ghauts or somewhere nearer the Frontier, I beg to state, that the Soopah Taluk being out of the limits of my jurisdiction and within that of the Head Assistant Collector and Magistrate Mr. Forbes, it will rest with him or with Mr. Thompson, the Acting Magistrate, who is his superior and mine, to make any requisition on you to that effect. I will forward your letters to Mr. Thompson immediately, and beg that you will discuss the point with Mr. Forbes who is now at Jugglebett, and address all future communications to Mr. Forbes whom I will request to send me copies of such as concern me.

5. I beg, however, to throw out a few remarks in regard to a change of position for your consideration. There are several Ghauts leading into the Northern part of the Goa country and as I am informed by Mr. Forbes several bye-paths also. Supposing therefore that your Company were posted in the Tenni Ghauts, is it not possible for an enemy to ascend by other Ghauts or Paths and operate on the country to your rear? It was this consideration combined with that of the difficulty of procuring subsistence for the Company at the Tenni Ghaut, and the unhealthiness of the jungles in which it is situated, which led me to request Lieutt. Ogilvy to detach your Company to Jugglebett, a place in some measure commanding several of the Northern Ghauts and well situated for the protection of the more populous part of North Soopah, besides having advantages in point of supplies, healthiness and good water. When you are joined by the Company of the 35th Regiment which is enroute to Jugglebett, the case may be altered. You may then be able to detach to the Ghauts without losing the advantages of the Station at Jugglebett; but I would still request you to consider whether the Peons and Sheksendas whom I understand Mr. Forbes has posted near the several Ghauts may not suffice for the purpose of advanced guards. On this point, however, it belongs to Mr. Forbes and not myself to consult with you.

6. I am very glad to hear that your Detachment accomplished the march to Jugglebett without sickness and found there a good encamping ground.

7. I presume that you are aware that besides an Additional Company to Jugglebett the Major in Command of the 35th has detached 2 Companies to Yellapore and 2 to Hullial besides a few Silladar Horse to keep up a communication.

Joint Magistrate's Cutcherry,

Sircy,

7th February 1845.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) R. D. PARKER,

Joint Magistrate.

(True Copy)

R. D. PARKER,
Joint Magistrate.