No. 83. Read the following letter from the Government Pleader, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 10th September 1872, No. 114 :—

G. O., 10th July 1872, No. 771.
G. O., 23rd July 1872, No. 831.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government in the Public Department noted in the margin, I have the honour to report that I appeared before the Nellore Sessions Court and conducted the prosecution in the banghy mail robbery case therein referred to.

2. The case was heard on the 3rd instant, and occupied that and the following day. There were five prisoners, of whom the three first were charged as principals in the robbery, and the fourth and fifth as receivers of part of the stolen property.

3. The facts of the case as they came out in evidence were these :—

On the night of the 27th January last, as the banghy mail between Cavali and Ongole was being carried by one of the runners named Ali Saib, he was stopped near a village called Singaraya Conda by four men, beaten, and the mail bags taken from him. The bags were subsequently discovered in an adjoining field, having been opened and the contents scattered about. The only parcel of any importance which was found to be missing was one addressed to one Bapunair, at Venkatapoliem, in the Kistna District. This parcel, it was ascertained, had been despatched from Madras, and contained rolls of silver lace valued at about Rupees 160. The banghy runner could not exactly identify either of the prisoners. His head cloth and sandals were also taken from him. The discovery of a roll of lace, answering to the description of those lost, in the possession of the fifth prisoner, gave a clue which led to the arrest of all the prisoners in the Cuddapah District. The first prisoner made a confession when first arrested before the Village Magistrate, which he subsequently repeated before the Sub-Magistrate who committed the case. In this he implicated the second and third. He was also proved to have pledged one of the rolls of lace with fourth prisoner. Two more of the rolls of lace were found in the house of the second prisoner's concubine, wrapped up in a piece of his cloth, and the sandals taken from the runner were found on this prisoner when arrested. The third prisoner was found in possession of the runner's head cloth.

4. The fourth and fifth prisoners appeared to have given value for the rolls of lace found in their possession, and there was nothing to show guilty knowledge on their part. The Court, concurring with the Assessors, acquitted them, and convicted the first three prisoners and sentenced them each to seven years' rigorous imprisonment. The second prisoner was said by the Police to have been previously convicted of dacoity, but the Committing Magistrate having erroneously supposed that this conviction, having been before the Penal Code came into operation, could not form part of the present charge, the record of the conviction had not been obtained from the Cuddapah Civil Court, and it was, therefore, impossible to prove it.

5. The fourth person supposed to have been concerned in this robbery has not as yet been apprehended, but I understand the Police have a clue to his discovery. Great credit is, I think, due to the Police for the manner in which they brought three of the principal offenders to light, surrounded as the case was at

first with obscurity. The robbers were all Cuddapah men, and appear to have come straight from that district to the scene of the crime and returned immediately afterwards, thus baffling for a time all the efforts of the Police, and it was not until after some months' patient investigation that the clue was discovered which led to their apprehension. Inspector Subba Row, of the Kondrikur Taluq, where the robbery took place, and his subordinates appear to have been particularly active in the matter.

6. Another robbery of the banghy mail was alleged to have taken place in October last on the same road, but on that occasion the offenders were not detected, and, from the fact that no parcels were stolen, it was then thought that there had, in fact, been no robbery, but that the runner (not the same man as in the present case) had invented the story. The present case seems to make it probable that this was not so, and that the reason why the robbers on that occasion took away no parcels was that they found none of any value. Nothing came out in the present case to connect the prisoners with that occurrence, but I believe the Police think it probable that the former robbery was the work of the same gang.

7. I shall obtain a copy of the Session Judge's calendar and submit the same for the information of Government. In the meantime I thought the foregoing statement of the facts of the case might be useful.

No. 84. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1872, No. 1218.

Communicated to the Postmaster-General, the Inspector-General of Police, and the Magistrates of Cuddapah and Nellore Districts.

2. The Government note with satisfaction the testimony borne to the efficiency of the Police action in the case.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Government Pleader.
,, Postmaster-General.
,, Inspector-General of Police.
,, Magistrate of Cuddapah.
,, ,, of Nellore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 17th.

Recd. [*Encl.*

G. O., 17th September 1872, *No.* 1218.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 83-84.

Communicating the Government Pleader's report of his prosecution of the banghy mail robbery case before the Session Court of Nellore, and expressing satisfaction at the testimony borne to the efficiency of the Police action in the case.

1218

41 240

Financl 1872 Departmt

From
The Govt Pleader
Madras

To
The Secy to Govt

Dated 10th Septr
Rec'd 14th —
No 114

R. 1763

Bangalore mail robbery
case before the Sessions
Sessions Court.

States that he Con-
-ducted the prose-
-cution in the above
result of —

With an order

Govt Pleader
Advocate General
Inspector General of Police
Magistrate of Cuddapah
Collector of Nellore —

Certain Property seized from Accused
Amount of Rs 2718 Recovered
Sessions Case No 1 of 1872
Judgment of Sessions Court
Appeal to High Court
Petition of Appellants for
Restoration of Property
Petitioners Right to Property
Petitioners Claim rejected
Appeal dismissed

V. D.

c. 14-9

1

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

Financial

To
The Govt. Reader.

Dated Sept.r 17
Read.

G. O. 17 Sept.r, 1872, No. 218.

Nos. 83. 84.

Comms. the Govt. Pleader's report of his prosecution of the Bangley Mail Robbery Case before the Session Court of Nellore, and expressing satisfaction at the testimony borne to the Efficiency of the Police in the conduct of the Case

M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 3-6-40

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1218 Press / Mis.

8384

Dated 17-9-1872.

5/6

83-84

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