M.R.—O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1629 60-61	Press Mis.
Dated 15-12-~~19~~ 1837	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 60. Extract Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department, dated 24th November 1857, No. 1190.

Forwarding an Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, submitting with their remarks 2 letters from the Collector of North Arcot, reporting as to the truth of the rumoured prevalence of crime at North Arcot, and suggesting certain arrangements to render the Police of that District more efficient. } Vide Revenue Consultation, 24th November 1857, Nos. 28 and 29

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, No. 1629 ; dated 15th December 1857.

With their proceedings of 5th May 1857, the Board of Revenue submitted a communication from the Collector of North Arcot, wherein he proposed, in consequence of the state of crime in the Poloor Talook to retain the additional Police force of 2 Duffadars and 20 Peons sanctioned under date 12th December 1856 and 3rd January 1857, as a permanent measure. The Board considered that the statement forwarded by the Joint Magistrate warranted their recommending the adoption of this proposal, but as the Government would wish to know the aggregate number of Peons employed in that Talook, and how they were apportioned to the Revenue and other Departments, they called upon the Collector for information on these points ; and meanwhile recommending that this extra establishment be continued for a further period of 12 months, which the Government sanctioned.

2. The Board now submit this information, and in so doing review the proceedings of the Magistrate in regard to the robberies committed, some time ago, on the bandies of Her Majesty's 43rd Regiment and 39th Regiment N. I., and offer suggestions for the more speedy apprehension of robbers and the better distribution of the Peons' establishment between the Police and other Departments.

3. The remarks of the Board are judicious and the Government desire that the Magistrate will give them due attention. They are not however prepared to recommend to the Government of India the permanent entertainment of the 33 extra Peons temporarily sanctioned for the Triputty and Poloor Talooks. It is observed that the last sanction or that of 26th June 1857 will hold good for six months, and it is hoped that before the expiration of that time, measures for the re-organization of the Police of this Presidency will have been commenced in earnest.

4. Adverting to the latter part of para. 14 of the Board's proceedings it is observed that in Extract Minutes of Consultation 9th June 1857, No. 664, the Government condemned as highly irregular the practice of employing Police Peons in conveying the local posts, and that in order that the question may be considered as a whole, heads of Districts have been directed in the Public Department (Extract Minutes of Consultation 9th July 1857, No. 909) to submit a return of the Peons so employed ; replies have been received from all Districts except Canara, to which a reminder was sent under date the 5th Instant, and the question will be taken into early consideration.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 1190.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 21st November 1857.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue ; dated 29th October 1857, No. 3704.

In Consultation 23d May 1857.

Read again letter from the Collector of North Arcot dated 7th May 1857.

In Consultation 29th October 1857.

Read also letters from the same officer dated 1st and 25th August 1857.

(Here enter Nos. 192 and 213.)

1. In the first of the letters recorded above, the Collector reports in reply to the Board's enquiry as to the truth of the rumoured prevalence of crime at that period in North Arcot, that 14 Bandies containing property belonging to Her Majesty 43d Regiment and some Commissariat stores, under the charge of 4 unarmed Europeans, were attacked and plundered by a large gang of robbers on the morning of the 26th January 1857 when at a distance of 2 or 3 miles from Raneepet ; that on the 26th March the bandies of the 39th Regiment N. I. were attacked by robbers within the limits of the Bungaree Polliem ; and that on the night of the 29th of the same month one of the carts of this Regiment was also plundered of property to the amount of Rupees 65-14-0.

2. In the first case of robbery of the 39th Regiment bandies, the Collector states that the escort of sepoys could not have been sufficiently alert ; for before they came up the women in one of the advanced carts had been robbed of jewels and cloths of the value of Rupees 22-14, and that the other was a case of petty theft.

3. These cases have already come under the notice of Government, and it is only necessary for the Board to remark that although only 3 in number their gravity consists in the fact of 2 of them having been committed on bandies under Military escort.

4. In his communication of the 1st August, the Collector reports the measures adopted to discover and apprehend the persons concerned in the robberies mentioned. With regard to the robbery of the bandies of the 43d Regiment, Mr. Whittingham explains that he directed a Mooctasur with two Mgistrate peons to proceed to the spot and use his best endeavours to detect and apprehend the offenders, but that through the negligence of this officer, who has been degraded to the situation of a talook Duffadar, the robbers have not been discovered. A reward was offered for their apprehension, and Mr. Pochin, the Head Assistant, in whose division the robbery was committed, exerted himself to discover the offenders, but without effect.

5. The Collector believes that if the Head of Police of Cauverypauk, in which talook the robbery occurred, had been an active energetic officer he might have been successful in apprehending the offenders, seeing that a detailed list of the property stolen was furnished to him soon after the robbery, the greater part of which was particularly easy of recognition.

6. The Board remark that it is the duty of the Collector, if satisfied of the general inefficiency of the Head of Police, or of his neglect in particular instances to propose his transfer to a situation of less difficulty and responsibility.

7. With regard to the robbery of the bandies of the 39th Regiment, the Collector states that 4 suspicious characters, who were believed to have formed part of the gang who attacked the bandy in which some of the families of that Regiment were, have been apprehended, but that no satisfactory evidence could be obtained of their guilt. They have however been imprisoned as vagrants. From the deposition of a Deloyet, who was deputed to detect the offenders in this case, it appeared that the Monigars of two villages of the Bungaree Polliem in the immediate vicinity of the place where the robbery was committed had been guilty of great neglect of duty in not having taken steps to apprehend some suspicious characters known to be prowling about. At the request of the Collector the Poligar has dismissed these officers, and appointed others in their stead.

8. The Board concur with the Collector that the most effectual way of preventing highway and gang robberies is to make the village Police officers efficient and sensible of the necessity of an active performance of their duties. This subject will be fully considered on the receipt of the Collector's promised report on the revision of the emoluments of the village police of the whole district.

9. With regard to the steps adopted for detecting offenders in these and similar cases, the Board would call the Magistrate's attention to the importance of requiring the village and regular police immediately cognizant of the occurrence of an offence to spread the information as rapidly as possible. The deputation of a Duffadar and a few peons is of advantage but not in itself sufficient, for some time must elapse before they can reach the locality, and when a duty is thus specially imposed on particular persons, the rest of the establishment are apt to think their individual responsibility removed and to relax in their exertions. The Board conclude that advantage is fully taken of the press to circulate information regarding crimes.

Enclosure of letter dated 1st August in Cons. 29th October 1857.

10. It will be seen from one of the statements furnished by the Collector, that the total number of peons employed at the Huzzoor and in each talook and police division is 1579, exclusive of the temporary police force 33 in number sanctioned for the Triputty and Poloor talooks. Of this number 981 peons are employed in the revenue and 598 in the Police Department. The number of villages in the whole District is 5,112, and the population 14,93,666 souls. The Police force in each talook consists of only 1 Duffadar and 11 Peons.

In Consultation 29th October 1857.

Revenue Department 2 Duffadars 54 Peons.

Police Department 1 Duffadar 10 Peons.

11. With his letter dated 25th August, the Collector submits one from the Joint Magistrate reporting the number of Revenue and Police Peons attached to the Poloor talook, and the manner in which they are employed. From this it will be observed that the Revenue and Police force of Poloor, exclusive of the extra establishment, consists of 3 Duffadars and 64 Peons; and that some of the Revenue Peons are employed as Police Peons.

12. Mr. Whittingham states that if the Government sanction the employment of Runners instead of talook Peons for tappal duties, 59 Peons of the principal and 33 in the sub-ivision will be available for Police duties, and that the distribution of these in some of the talooks where heinous offences are very prevalent would greatly diminish the present insufficiency of the Police of the District.

13. The fact that the entire establishment of Peons, Revenue and Police, is less than 1 to 900 of the population and is scattered over so large an area, seems to the Board quite sufficient to warrant the permanent employment of the 33 extra Peons temporarily sanctioned in Extract Minutes Consultation 26th June 1857, No. 649, Revenue Department.

14. The Board however are not satisfied with the arrangement of the existing permanent establishment. The proportion allotted to the Revenue Department (viz. 981 out of 1,579) seems much too large. It is true that these are also available for Police duty on occasion arising, but if nominally assigned to Revenue purposes they are apt to think such duties of primary importance and at any rate are not promptly available for Police work. The Board quite concur with the Collector in the opinion expressed in para. 2 of his letter dated 25th August last, that the village officers should be required to perform their own functions without occasional aid from regular Peons. The principle however should be carried out throughout the District, and in particular full advantage should be taken of the talook post instead of Peons being (as is often the case) employed merely as messengers. A much larger number of Peons would thus be available for Police duties, and the Magistrate could strengthen the more important Tanahs instead of having as at present a single Peon as Tanadar for 28 villages.

In Consultation 28th October 1857.

Vide abstract B in letter from Joint Magistrate to Magistrate 22d August 1857, *No.* 195.

In from Collector 25th August in Consultation 29th October 1857.

15. The Police however cannot be strengthened sufficiently to prevent by force such crimes as gang robbery. These can only be repressed (where the people seldom offer resistance) by rendering detection more certain than it unfortunately now is, and the Magistrate should therefore be careful to select active and intelligent men for Police duties.

16. The Board wish Mr. Whittingham to take the above remarks into early consideration and rearrange his peons' establishment accordingly, for in the present state of the finances additional expenditure can only be sanctioned under very urgent circumstances, and when it is shown that the most is made of existing means.

17. The Board remark that in the Bengal Presidency a certain number of the most trustworthy and intelligent peons were selected by the Magistrate, armed and to a certain degree trained and disciplined to enable them to cope with gangs of armed robbers. They wish to know whether Mr. Whittingham would recommend a similar course in North Arcot, and *generally* what is the condition of the arms supplied to his Police.

18. The Board trust that the Accountant General has arranged to carry out the suggestion made by Mr. Banbury some time ago that facilities should be extended to the native merchants for remitting money by bills from one talook to another instead of now sending it in coin and thereby holding out inducement to robbery.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Proceedings be submitted for the information and orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, with reference to the Board's Proceedings of 5th May, and the Extract Minutes Consultation of 26th June 1857, Revenue Department, No. 649.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Acting Secretary.*

Ordered that the above Proceedings and the letters enclosed be forwarded to the Judicial Department, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation in that Department dated 15th June 1857, No. 685.

(A true Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To The Judicial Department.
with 5 Encls.
Rec.d 24th

Dt. Dated Departmental

4

Sud. Departt.

No. 1629

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 15th December 1857.

Read the following Extract
Minutes of Cons: Revenue Deptt.

Fort St. George 21st Nov. 1857 No. 1190

With their Proceedings
of 5th May 1857, the Board
of Revenue submitted a Com-
munication from the Collector
of North Arcot wherein he
proposed, in consequence
of the state of crime in
the Poolloor Talook to retain
the additional Police Force
of 2 Duffadars and 20 Boys
sanctioned under date
12th December 56 and 3 Jany
1857 as a permanent measure
The Board considered that
the statement forwarded
by the Joint Magistrate
warranted their recommending
the

Dt. Dated Departmental

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 15th December 1857.

Read the following Extract
Minutes of Cons: Revenue Deptt.

Fort St. George 21st Nov. 1857 No. 1190

Extract from the Minutes of
Consultation in the
Revenue Deptt. — 1190

Sud. Deptt.
No. 1629

Forwarding an Extract
from the Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue, Sud.
meeting with the Govt.
recorded 2 Letters from
the Collector of North Arcot
reporting as to the Results
of the Measures adopted
to secure the Peace
during certain
arrangements to Cause
the Native Police Retrenched.

Received 18th Dec. 1857.

Sud. No. 1629.

Dispatch
Dept. Rev. 1857.

Sud. Deptt.

No. 1629

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Dated 15th December 1857.

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-posal, but as the Govern-
-ment would wish to know
the aggregate number of
Peons employed in that
Taluk, and how they were
apportioned to the Revenue
and other Departments, they
called upon the Collector
for information on these
points, and meanwhile
recommending that this
extra establishment be
continued for a further pe-
-riod of 12 months which
the Government sanctioned.-

2. The Board now sub-
-mit this information,
and in so doing review
the proceedings of the
Magistrate in regard
to the robberies committed
some time ago, on the
bungalows of Her Majesty's
46th Regt and 39th Regt
N. I. and offer suggestions
for the more speedy
apprehension of robbers and the
better distribution of the Peons
Establishment between the
Police and other Departments.

3. The remarks of the
Board are judicious and
the Government desire that
the Magistrate will give
them due attention- They
are not however prepared
to recommend to the Govt.
of India the permanent
entertainment of the 55 Extra
Peons temporarily sanctioned
for the Tripunthy and Paloor
Taluks. It is observed that the
last sanction or that of 26
for six months- and it is
hoped that before the expi-
-ration of that time measures
for the reorganization
of the Police of this Presi-
-dency will have been
commenced in earnest.

4. Adverting to the latter
part of para 11 of the
Board's Proceedings it
is observed that in Extract
Minutes of Consultation
9th June 1859 No 864, the
Govt.

Government condemned as highly irregular the practice of employing Police peons in conveying the local posts, and that in order that the question may be considered as a whole Heads of Districts have been directed in the Public Department Extract Mins: of Cons: 9th July 1857 No 909) to submit a return of the peons so employed, replies have been received from all Districts except Canara to which a reminder was sent under date the 5th instant. and the question will be taken into early consideration.

Copy to Rec: Department with 5 Encls: returned 7 Aug/57 D.B.
" Mags: of D. Arcot with Encl: in the Rec: Copy } Disp: 17th

In Cons- 15th Dec.
Judicial 1857 Separate

No 1629

Extract Mins of Cons

D/15 Dec 1857

Passing observations on the papers submitted with the E. M. Govt Revenue Debt suggesting certain arrangements to render the Police of N. Arcot more efficient observe that the remarks of the Revenue Board are judicious and desire that the Magistrate will them due attention - are not prepared to recommend

to the Govt of India the permanent continuance of the 33 extra peons temporarily sanctioned for the Deputy Collectorships

60 & 61

J.A.

C. G. Davis
R.H.