

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 199

Press
~~Mis.~~

32.3.

Dated 17 - 2 - 18 57.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

February

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 17th January 1857.

No. 32. Read the following letter from Major W. J. WILSON, Magistrate of Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated 13th February 1857.

SIR,

With reference to the proposed new arrangements for the Magisterial Courts in this Town, I have the honor to submit the following observations for your consideration with the view of their being laid before Government.

2. It has been decided that the Magistrate of longest standing for the time being, is to be the Senior Magistrate; and he will consequently enjoy all advantages which may, either now, or hereafter, attach to that Office.

3. It has also been arranged that the Senior Magistrate is to have charge of the third District, while the second is to be stationed at the Town Office, assisted by the Magistrate from Vepery, three times a week.

4. With regard to this distribution of the Magistrates, I feel that I have been placed in the situation of most importance and responsibility, while the Senior Magistrate has a less onerous and difficult charge.

5. All cases connected with the Shipping of the Port are dealt with at the Town Office. The number of Ships has sensibly increased during the last few years, while the character of the Seamen has deteriorated. Both of these causes contribute to increase the number of cases in this Department.

6. All offences against the provisions of the Boat and Railway Acts will be disposed of at the Town Office, as well as most of those under the Post Office Act.

7. The Municipal business under the Conservancy Act in Black Town alone, is likely to be much heavier than that in the third District.

8. Almost all the Merchants, and Bankers, and the majority of Tradesmen have their places of business, and Shops in the Town, where the Mint and Custom House are also situated; and the great proportion of Forgeries, Embezzlements, and cases of intricacy occur there.

9. Before the passing of the Police Act all offences against the Provisions of Act XIX of 1852, were disposed of by the Superintendent of Police, and his Deputies as such; but the word "Magistrate" of Police has now been substituted for that of "Superintendent;" and the number of Taverns, Punch Houses, Arrack and Toddy Shops in Black Town and Royapoorum being considerably more numerous than those in the third District, it follows that the Police Cases connected therewith are likely to be more numerous also.

10. The number of Cases prosecuted and defended by professional men is considerably greater in the 1st than in the 3rd District.

11. During the old arrangements the Cases disposed of at the General Police Office perhaps exceeded those at the Town Police Office in number, but the change in the limits of the 3rd District will undoubtedly prevent this from being the case in future, as two out of the four Police Divisions which were formerly attached to the General Police Court are now to be transferred to Vepery, while the Divisions attached to the Town Police Court remain as heretofore, moreover, the comparative importance and responsibility of the two Courts is not to be estimated by the number of Cases alone, but by their nature; and although I have been as short and concise in my remarks as the subject will admit, yet I trust I have said sufficient to shew that the Town will be the most onerous and responsible post; and I submit that its character as such, will not be affected by any assistance afforded by another Magistrate. I therefore venture to solicit, that in event of Government being of this opinion, the Senior Magistrate may be posted to the first District, and the second Magistrate to the third.

(Signed) W. J. WILSON, Major,
Magistrate of Police.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 17th February 1857.

No. 33.

ORDER THEREOF, No. 199; dated 17th February 1857.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is not prepared to alter the arrangement laid down in Extract Minutes Consultation 19th Ultimo, No. 80, para 5, Clause 7, regarding the Magistrate of the Police Court for the third or Royapettah District.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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I should wish this
application from
Major Watson to
be brought to Council
As he represents the
case then seen
at least some
grounds for what
is asked -
Wm

No. 199

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prepared to alter the arrangement.
- must stand down in 2nd
19 ult. no so. Para 5 Clause
7 regarding the Master of
of the Police Court for the
or Rongapitah
Kia District -

W. G. L.
For St George,
17th February 1867
W. G. L. & W. L. & W. L. 17th
Magistrate of Police

J.P.