

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 247	Press Mis.
26-27	
Dated 3 - 3	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 3rd March 1857.

No. 26. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Military Department, dated 20th February 1857.

From Lieutenant Colonel W. G. WOODS, Adjutant General of the Army; to Colonel C. A. BROWNE, Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated 20th February 1857, No. 171.

SIR,

I have the honor by order of the Commander in Chief, to forward for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying letter† from the Officer Commanding Trichinopoly, giving cover to the Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry held to investigate the circumstance of six Horses of the 1st Light Cavalry having been hamstrung on the night of the 31st Ultimo, and I am instructed to express His Excellency's hope that the Civil Authorities may be urged to exert themselves to procure the apprehension and punishment of the miscreants who committed this atrocious outrage, and who appear to be a species of licensed thief and criminal.

(Signed) W. G. WOODS, Lieut. Colonel,

Adjutant General of the Army.

From Brigadier CHARLES WAHAB, Commanding Trichinopoly; to Lieut. Colonel W. G. WOODS, Adjutant General of the Army, dated 6th February 1857, No. 19.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of his Excellency, the Commander in Chief that during the night of the 31st January last, six Horses of the 1st Regiment Light Cavalry, were hamstrung each on the near hind leg.

Immediately on the circumstance being reported (copy of Colonel Cherry's letter is attached) I ordered a Court of Inquiry to make full enquiries into the matter and ascertain if possible who the perpetrators were.

The Proceedings of the Court are herewith transmitted.

I am sorry to add that every enquiry I have instituted has ended in entire failure, no clue whatever having been obtained as to who committed this unheard of act.

Suspicion attaches to a tribe or caste of persons extensively inhabiting these Southern Districts well known as *Caval Carrahs* or *thieves* by birth, but it is mere suspicion and nothing more.

Four Horses, it is hoped may recover, but the other two, it is feared, are *irrevocably injured*.

(Signed) CHARLES WAHAB, Brigadier,

Commanding Trichinopoly.

No. 81.

Head Quarters, Southern Division,

Camp Paulghaut, 10th February 1857.

(Signed) J. W. CLEVELAND, Major General,

Commanding Southern Division.

From Lieutenant Colonel P. T. CHERRY, Commanding 1st Regiment L. C.; to the Fort Adjutant, Trichinopoly, dated 1st February 1857, No. 28.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Brigadier Commanding, that, on the men being paraded to take the Horses of the Regiment to water this morning, it was discovered that six of the Horses were hamstrung, being all of them cut with some sharp instrument on the "near hind," just above the hock, and I fear there is little hope of ever rendering any of these Horses again serviceable.

I am quite at a loss to account for this malicious act, none such having ever before come under my notice.

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I feel confident that those in, and about the Regiment are in no way concerned, but I attribute it to that class of men known in this Cantonment as "Cawal Carrahs," known villains of the very worst description, and entertained, of necessity, by all, having property of the smallest value, that they wish to preserve, as security against their being robbed of all they have.

It is a well known fact, that throughout the whole Garrison there is not an Officer without one of these worthless wretches in his service, and among the men and followers of Regiments of Cavalry formerly occupying the Lines, the 1st Cavalry now do, a certain number were maintained to preserve them from being plundered by this race of people.

So repugnant to the feelings of Soldiers claiming the protection of the Government they serve, is this system, that the men of the Regiment under my Command wished to discountenance any such evil and as a body they have hitherto disclaimed their intention of following this example, but rather trust, and endeavour to protect themselves.

The consequence of abiding by this resolution (which I am of opinion, deserves the support of the highest Military and Civil power,) is, that they are disturbed, molested, and robbed, night after night, and they are even threatened that unless they eventually entertain the proportion of these "Cawal Carrahs," according to former custom, the houses in which they live, will be burnt by them.

I firmly believe the tragedy of last night, to be an act of revenge of these people, and I would suggest that the Government be applied to, for authority to expel the class from the Cantonment of Trichinopoly, many of whom reside in close approximation to the Followers' Lines of the 1st Regiment L. C., and one man in particular being the proverbial receiver of the stolen goods, those under his orders may bring to him.

I am aware that the charges I herein impute, are serious, but at the same time I believe that were Government or other (competent) authority to institute an enquiry into the matter, every word I have made use of would be substantiated, as fully, as the case of former existence of torture, and I am inclined to class that of which I now complain as coming within the meaning of torture, the interpretation being "entertain the proportion of Cawal Carrahs on payment, or suffer molestation."

(Signed) P. T. CHERRY, Lieut Colonel,
Commanding 1st Regt. L. C.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) T. W. STANSFELD, Lieut.
Acting Fort Adjutant.

Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry held at Trichinopoly on the 2nd of February 1857, by order of Brigadier CHARLES WAHAB, Commanding the Station, for the purpose of enquiring into the fact of six Horses, belonging to the 1st Regiment Light Cavalry, having been hamstrung during the night of the 31st Ultimo.

President.

Captain J. CAMERON, 1st Regiment Light Cavalry.

Members.

Captain F. T. STEWARD, 1st Regiment Light Cavalry.

Lieutenant J. B. SWETE, of the Horse Artillery.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceeds with the investigation.

First Witness.

Farrier Major J. Raddick, of the 1st Regiment Light Cavalry states as follows:

"Between 5 or six o'clock yesterday morning, just as I had got ready to go to Church, a Horse from the 4th Troop was brought to me at the sick Lines with a bad wound above the near hock. On examination I found that the tenders was cut nearly three parts through—immediately afterwards five other Horses were brought to me similarly injured more or less, in the near hocks, the wounds appeared to be all inflicted by some sharp instrument. I consider that four of the Horses may possibly recover, but two are bad cases and their recovery I think very doubtful.

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I immediately reported the circumstance to Lieutenant Hooper at present in Veterinary charge of the Regiment.

Second Witness.

Shaik Madar, Subadar Major of the 1st Regiment Light Cavalry states as follows:

I was on duty as Subadar of the day on Saturday last, the 31st Ultimo; I went rounds myself at 7 p. m. and at 5 o'clock the following morning when all appeared to be correct. Rounds were also gone by the Jemadar and Havildar at 9 and 11 p. m., and at 1 and 3 a. m. The Jemadar reported that at 1 a. m., he found the two Horsekeepers who were sentries over the 4th Troop Lines asleep. On taking the Horses out to water between 5 and 6 o'clock yesterday morning, a Horsekeeper of the 4th Troop reported to me that a Horse of his Troop had been badly injured and could not walk. I observed that such was the case, and finding that he was bleeding profusely from a wound in the hock, I ordered him to the sick Lines—immediately after this I found that 5 other Horses had been similarly injured and had them likewise taken to the sick Lines. Four of the Horses belong to the 4th Troop, the other two, to the 5th and 6th.

I made every possible enquiry regarding the accidents in question, but could elicit nothing, and am quite at a loss to account for the same.

There are two Sentries over the Horse Lines, one of whom has charge of the right and the other of the left Wing; their beat is along a road which passes between the Barracks and the rear of the Horse Lines, overlooking both; but I consider that an occurrence such as has now happened might have taken place without the knowledge of the Sentry, especially in a dark night. There is likewise a night Guard of one Duffadar and 6 Horsekeepers detailed to each Troop, two of the latter being posted as Sentries, and relieved every two hours at the usual relief.

Third Witness.

Shaik Munodeen, Jemadar of the 1st Regiment Light Cavalry states as follows:

I was on duty as Jemadar of the Standard Guard of my Regiment on Saturday last, the 31st Ultimo, and went night rounds at 9 p. m. and afterwards at 1 o'clock the following morning—whilst going the latter rounds, I found that the two Horsekeepers who were Sentries over the 4th Troop Lines, were asleep. I awoke the Duffadar who relieved them, and I cautioned them to be more careful. I went myself into the 4th Troop Lines but did not observe that any thing was wrong with the Horses, the night was very dark.

Privates Heerojee Row, of the 6th Troop, Mahomed Hyat of the 5th and Mahomed Ally of the 4th Troop, the Sentries posted over the left Wing Horse Lines during the night of the 31st Ultimo, and morning of the 1st Instant, state, that nothing unusual occurred during their tours of duty.

There being no further evidence, to record, the Proceedings are here closed.

A small Plan of the Cavalry Lines is herewith attached.

(Signed) J. CAMERON, Captain,
1st Regt. Light Cavalry. } *President.*

(") F. T. STEWARD, Captain,
1st Light Cavalry, } *Members.*
(") J. B. SWETE, Lieutenant,
Horse Artillery.

Trichinopoly, 2nd February 1857.

The Court adjourns till further orders.

Trichinopoly, 3rd February 1857.

The Court having re-assembled at noon agreeably to Garrison Morning Orders, President and Members present.

A letter from the Fort Adjutant directing that any evidence that Lieutenant and Adjutant Dyneley of the First Light Cavalry, or others may be able to give, tending to shew on whom sus-

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picion rests and the reasons of such suspicion, may be taken down. Lieut. and Adj. Dyncley, 1st Light Cavalry, states as follows :

Fourth Witness.

The parties on whom my suspicion rests regarding the malicious treatment of the Horses two evenings ago are the race of people called Cawal Carrahs, being professional thieves, and universally employed by all parties in the Cantonment having property to preserve of the smallest value, and my reasons are as follows :

Since the arrival of the 1st Cavalry at Trichinopoly, scarcely a night has passed but that some one or other belonging to the Regiment, has laid a complaint before me of the molestation they have endured at the hands of these Cawal Carrahs. It is a well known fact that when the 2nd Cavalry occupied our present Lines some few years ago, that the Regiment brought to these people a revenue little short of 100 Rupees a month, being employed by the men and followers of the Regiment generally for the protection of their houses and property, this system however in no way protected them from occasional losses, and these Cawal Carrahs being called upon to make this property good, would willingly allow a portion of their pay to be stopped with a view eventually to make up the value of the loss sustained. The men of the Regiment laid this case before me shewing what little security even the entertaining of these people afforded, for robberies would occur to a very much greater extent than it was possible for these men ever to make good. The men shewed their unwillingness to adopt the same system as the 2nd Light Cavalry, and myself considering it to be a most undue tax tacitly to submit to, in these days, it being little less than "Black Mail." I have done all in my power to encourage the men to resist such an imposition.

I am of opinion that the injury sustained by the Horses may be thus accounted for. The result has necessarily obliged the increase of six Sentries, being the withdrawal of 6 Naigues and 18 Privates every night from the Followers' Lines (I mean the Sepoys' Lines) for the protection of the Horse Lines leaving the Men's Lines and their property almost unprotected, at any rate, giving a larger field for the work of this race of thieves. I would refer to my Native Adjutant and Bazar Cutwal to instance the cases to which I have above alluded.

Fifth Witness.

Syed Abdoolah, Jemadar, Adjutant in the 1st Light Cavalry states, that since the arrival of our Regiment, the Cawal Carrahs have been molesting us on all sides, and we have secured some four or five and forwarded them to the Police, through the usual channel. It occurred to me on this to consult with the head man of this caste who resides not ten yards from the limits of the Regimental Bazar. I told him by way of making an excuse for not keeping Cawal Carrahs that the men not having completed their houses to enable them to reside in the Lines could not employ those under his orders; but if in the meantime they left us unmolested, I would request the Adjutant's permission to employ him and his people eventually; upon this for some time the theiving and molestation ceased which previously was of nightly occurrence, but now seeing that the Lines are nearly wholly occupied and none of their people are entertained they have recommenced their work. I could instance nine or ten petty thefts within the same number of days, I am of opinion that the malicious act now perpetrated has been instigated by this head thief, I may add that the feeling of the Regiment to give encouragement to these Cawal Carrahs by entertaining them is most repugnant to the men; for this simple reason that being Soldiers they feel it unbecoming in them to place themselves under the protection of thieves while they themselves are under the protection of Government.

Sixth Witness.

Gholam Hyder, Bazar Cutwal of the First Regiment Light Cavalry, states, that he is of opinion no one but the Cawal Carrah caste people can have injured the Regimental Horses, because when other Regiments of Cavalry were stationed here, they raised a large sum of money monthly; being entertained by those former Regiments to secure them against the ravages of their own class, and the 1st Cavalry have set their faces against submitting to any such extortion, but these Cawal Carrahs imagine that by adopting their present course of molestation they will eventually succeed in obliging us, i. e. the Regiment, to keep them. This has, I am persuaded, led to the ruin of the six Horses on Saturday night last; it is the act of these people and no others. There have been two somewhat extensive robberies in the Regimental Bazar at this station. The

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Baker was robbed of every thing he had to the amount of some Rupees three hundred, he seized one of the robbers, upon which he was beaten with a stick, and was obliged to let go his hold; a widow of a Shroff was also plundered of all she had, and daily attacks are made on some houses in the Bazaar, but the Lines are so thoroughly unprotected by boundary walls and the like, that before one is able to rise from the sleeping place, they are into the thick of their own residences which adjoin the Regimental Lines.

The proceedings are here closed.

(Signed) J. CAMERON, Captain, 1st Regt. Light Cavalry.	} President.
(„) F. T. SEWATRD, Captain, 1st Light Cavalry.	
(„) J. B. SWETE, Lieutenant, Horse Artillery.	

Trichinopoly, 3rd February 1857.

The Court adjourns until further orders.

Referred to the Judicial Department.

By order.

(Signed) C. A BROWNE, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 27.

ORDER THEREON, No. 247; dated 2nd March 1857.

Resolved that copy of the papers referred with the above Extract be furnished to the Magistrate of Trichinopoly and that he be directed to use his utmost exertions to discover the perpetrators of the barbarous act reported. Mr. Bird will be at liberty to offer any reward that he may deem expedient for the detection of the parties concerned, or for procuring information.

The Magistrate will also report whether as would seem from these papers the practice of feeing Cavilgars to ensure security of property is still prevalent at Trichinopoly, and if so, to state to what extent the system obtains, who are the payers and receivers of the Cavil fees, whether the Cavil people reside in or about the Town, and what measures can be taken for suppressing the system.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 247

Judicial Department

Extract of Cons. of Cons. Dated 2nd March 1857
E. M. C. Mil^l - Sept. 20, Feb

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to use his utmost
effort to discover
the perpetrators of
the barbarous
act reported - the
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- to offer any
reward that he
may deem appropriate
- desired for the

detection of the practice
concerned - or for
procuring informa-
tion -

The Magistrate
will also report when
- then as would seem
from these papers
the Council have
the practice of seeing
Councilmen to see how
security of property
is still preserved
at Trichinopoly -
and if so to state
to what extent the
system operates - who
are the payers &
recipients of the
Council fees - whether

5
the Council people
reside in or about
the Town - & what
measures can be
taken for suppres-
sing the system.

J.P.

Magistrate of
Trichinopoly
with copy of Contract & its enclosure
sent to Dept -

Drop 6th

In 246 Cono. 3 March
1837. 1837. 1837.

No. 247.

Extract from the
Minutes of 1837.

Dated 2nd March 1837.
From the Minutes
of the Society 10 March 1837. 1837.

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