

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Indian DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	338	Press ~~Mis.~~
	32.33	
Dated	24 - 3 - 1857.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 24th March 1857.

No. 32. Read the following letter from J. BIRD, Esq., Magistrate of Trichinopoly ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 10th March 1857, No. 31.

SIR,

Para. 1. I do myself the honor to acknowledge receipt of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, No. 247, dated the 2nd March 1857, Judicial Department, transmitting certain papers relative to a cruel act lately perpetrated at Trichinopoly, within the Cavalry Lines upon certain Troop Horses.

2. I beg to assure the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that, on this outrage being made known to me on the morning of the 1st Ultimo, I at once proceeded to the Cavalry Lines, in company with several Officers of the 1st Light Cavalry, Brigadier Wahab and Captain Nicholas the Superintendent of Military Police.

3. My own Police and the Military Police were immediately set in motion, and every exertion made to discover the perpetrators of this cruel act. But as yet without success. I will this day offer a reward of three hundred Rupees to any person who will give information which may lead to the detection of the parties concerned.

4. I am not however sanguine of the result. This is one of those mysterious acts which baffle detection. It is to my mind as probable to have been done by persons connected with the Regiment, as by individuals from without.

5. The conclusion arrived at from the Court of Inquiry proceedings is based upon mere conjecture, and suspicion attached to the Cavilgars or watchmen on no very clear ground. One point however is certain, the night Sentry duty within the Horse Lines was lax.

6. Adverting to the system or practice of keeping these Cavilgars or watchmen, I would observe there appears no reason why it should continue. The 4th and 51st Regiments of Infantry broke through the rule and kept no Cavilgars for their Lines. They established their own night guards. And there is no reason why the men of the 1st Light Cavalry should not do the same.

7. The practice of keeping a Cavilgar is of long standing, and is almost entirely confined to the European Residents of Trichinopoly. Each Gentleman has a Cavilgar in pay on a salary of 3½ Rupees per mensem, whose duty is to watch his Master's house and property, and if possible ensure security.

8. These Cavil men are of the Cullur caste, and chiefly inhabitants of the neighbouring Villages bordering on the Rajah Tondiman's Territory. Very few reside in or about the Town of Trichinopoly. No doubt the system might be suppressed, if there was unison of opinion amongst the gentry of the station. But the Cavilgar is a useful man. He conveys messages and carries notes about the station. He pulls the punkah, and does odd jobs for his employer.

I conceive it rests with the community of Trichinopoly to uphold or put down the system as they deem proper.

9. I must however observe that, the keeping a watchman is not confined to Trichinopoly alone. The practice obtains at many Cantonments. For instance at Palamcottah, at Jaulnah and Sholapore ; also in the Bombay Presidency ; and of consequence ought not to have been new to the men of the 1st Light Cavalry.

(Signed) J. BIRD,
Magistrate.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, No. 338; dated 21st March 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Department with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, 2nd March 1857, No. 247.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 338

Ordered to be communicated to the
Military Department with reference
to G. M. G. 2^d March 1857 no 247.

W. Fort St George,
31st March, 1857
W. H. L.

J. P.

Copied Military Dept. Disptd. 25th

J. C. No. 26-27
3-3-57