

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 486

Press
~~Mis.~~

57-58

Dated 28 - 4 - 18 87.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th April 1857.

No. 57. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Calicut, 15th April 1857, No. 60.

SIR,

1 Letter from Mr. Kroon of Cochin, dated 12th March 1857.
1 do to Resident Travancore and Cochin, dated 18th March 1857, No. 752.
1 do. to Joint Magistrate, Cochin, dated 18th March 1857, No. 753.
1 From do. dated 24th do.
No. 58, with 2 enclosures.
1 From Resident, dated 6th April 1857, No. 652, with 1 enclosure.

1. In forwarding further correspondence on the subject of the reckless use of fire-arms by the Cochin Preventive Establishment, I cannot but term the explanation of the attack on Mr. Kroon's boat as not convincing, the evidence of Mr. Kroon and others in the boat is conclusive.

2. I have issued orders to have enquiry made relative to the alleged boldness of smugglers manifested to General Cullen in January last. The circumstance is so peculiar and so improbable as to suggest to my mind the idea that it may have been a mere trick of those whose interest it has been to impress on the Resident's mind the extent of the smuggling and the alleged boldness of the smugglers.

3. There can be no doubt that smuggling of pepper in Cochin and Travancore is extensive to the British territories. The temptation is very great but the smugglers are all peaceable ryots of Cochin Circar, of whose suffering we only hear when mortal and severe wounds bring them to Cochin for Medical aid, when the Dewan is under the impression that any enquiry as to the cause is gratuitous interference.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

From Mr. P. KROON; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of Malabar, Calicut, dated Cochin, 12th March 1857.

SIR,

I most respectfully beg leave to bring to your notice that on my return from Alwye on the evening of the 20th of January last, while in the river of Cheramalloor in the Cochin Rajah's territory, a party of the Rajah's people employed as a preventive force, called out to my boatmen peremptorily to stop. My boatmen replied that they were conveying me from Alwye, and that they were not smugglers. As they did not appear satisfied with my boatmen's statement, I came out of the cabin myself and assured them I was simply returning from a professional visit to a lady at Alwye. The cabin was open at the time with a light burning within and it would have been apparent from even a casual observation that my pursuits were not of the unlawful nature suspected.

I regret however to state that the preventive force recklessly thrice discharged a musket at my boat to the imminent peril of my life and serious injury to three of my boatmen, who were conveyed to the Civil Surgeon for examination.

I have since the above occurrence repeatedly sought redress from the Dewan of Cochin for this wanton and unjustifiable outrage, but without success.

I beg to add that my professional avocations constantly require my presence at Alwye, and if the present proceeding should be suffered to escape with impunity, there can be no security for my life in the pursuit of my medical duties, and I have the more cause for apprehension from the many instances in which death has actually ensued from the unwarrantable temerity of the Circar Officers.

As a British subject and an old resident in the town of Cochin, I take the liberty to solicit your protection under the circumstances above recited, and I humbly and earnestly trust you will be pleased to adopt such measures as you may deem proper effectually to check the aforesaid unlawful practice and ensure my personal safety in the course of my professional pursuits.

(Signed) P. KROON.

utragen - *[Handwritten signature]* *[Handwritten notes]*

Fort St. George Judicial Consultation, 28th April 1857.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate; to E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate, Cochin, dated Pyengaddy, 18th March 1857, No. 753.

SIR,

†From Mr. Kroon dated 12th Instant. In giving cover to the accompanying copy of an address,† I have the honor to request that the circumstances may be enquired into, likewise the nature of the wounds sustained by the boatmen ascertained.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar; to Lieutenant General W. CULLEN, Resident Travancore and Cochin, dated Pyengaddy, 18th March 1857, No. 752.

SIR,

From Mr. Kroon, dated 12th Instant. With reference to the accompanying copy of a communication to my address, I request you will have the goodness to cause such enquiry and steps to take place as you will no doubt see the matter so urgently claims.

I had a few days ago to bring to the immediate notice of Government the consequences of this use of fire-arms. Within 2 months no less than eight cases of gun-shot wounds inflicted by the Cochin Preventive Establishment have been brought into the Civil Dispensary. One proved fatal, and others are reported which have not sought European Medical aid.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

From E. CULLIN, Esq., Joint Magistrate; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar, dated Cochin, 24th March 1857, No. 58.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 18th Instant, No. 753, and its enclosure, I have the honor to transmit copy of a Deposition, taken on oath from Mr. P. Kroon.

2. I forwarded with my letter of the 21st Instant, No. 57, copies of Depositions taken from Pylo Barrido and Lonen Lonen, two of the wounded men alluded to in Mr. Kroon's Deposition. The other man Chakoo Barrido is not now at Cochin.

3. I enclose copy of a Certificate granted by the Civil Surgeon under date the 22nd of January 1857, describing the nature of the wounds received by the three men.

4. I beg to remark that the wounds were inflicted by the Cochin Rajah's Police at a place not within my jurisdiction, and that consequently I cannot take up the case Magisterially.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

The Deposition of Mr. PETER KROON, of Cochin.

I am a retired Apothecary formerly in the service of the Honorable Company, and now in private practice at Cochin. In January last, I went to Alwey on a professional visit to some of my patients and while returning to Cochin on the night of the 20th of that month, the Circar's Police in two boats came up to my boat, opposite Veropoly, and called out to my boatmen to stop. My boatmen explained that they were conveying me to Cochin. I came out of the cabin myself and told the Circar's people that I was not a smuggler and that I was returning from Alwey. Without paying any attention to what I said, the Circar's people fired at my boat, apparently with shot and wounded three of my boatmen. Their names are Pylo Barrido, Lonen Lonen, and Chakoo Barrido.

There was a light burning in my cabin at the time, and it was quite evident that I was not conveying contraband goods.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th April 1857.

Pylo Barrido and Lonen Lonen, mentioned above gave Depositions before the Joint Magistrate on the 21st March 1857, Chakoo Barrido is not now in Cochin.

(Signed) P. KROON.

Sworn to before me at Cochin, this 23rd day of March 1857.

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. CULLIN,
Joint Magistrate.

No. 117.

I Certify that I have examined the following individuals.

Pylo Bared who has received 3 gun-shot wounds, one on the right side of the neck and one on both wrists.

Lonen Lonen, has eleven gun-shot wounds on the chest, right leg and right side of the body. Chakoo Barid has received one gun-shot wound on the right side.

All of the wounds have the appearance of having been inflicted with small shots. One wound on the right side of the neck (Pylo Barid's) may be productive of serious consequences, none of the other wounds are dangerous.

Cochin, }
22nd January 1857. }

(Signed) JOHN PRINGLE, M. D.,
Civil Surgeon.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) JOHN PRINGLE M. D.,
Civil Surgeon.

From Lieutenant General W. CULLEN, Resident Travancore and Cochin; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Malabar, dated Trevandrum, 6th April 1857, No. 652.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose to you a copy of the report of the Dewan on the case of Mr. Kroon, of Cochin, from which it would not appear that any proof has been established that the persons who fired at Mr. Kroon's boat were of the Cochin Preventive Establishment, neither does it appear whether they were robbers or smugglers, but the latter appear to go constantly armed and a boat heavily laden with smuggled pepper and manned with from 16 to 20 men, having a man at the stern armed with a musquet passed rapidly across the bow of my boat at 8 o'clock in the morning in the beginning of January last, and close to the Residency, the man with the fire arm loudly threatening my people who were collected on the strand, if they attempted to obstruct them. They landed openly within the Company's limits at Cochin.

(Signed) W. CULLEN,
Resident.

From VENCATA ROW, Dewan; to Lieutenant General W. CULLEN, British Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated 31st March 1857, No. 212.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 571 under date the 23rd Instant, forwarding an original communication to your address from the Acting Magistrate of Malabar No. 752 of the 18th Instant.

The circumstances therein alluded to, in connection with Mr. Kroon, were brought to my notice by the latter at the time they occurred, and I instituted an immediate inquiry into the matter, which, I regret, has not been attended with a successful result.

outrages -

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 28th April 1857.

The outrage of which Mr. Kroon complains took place, it appears, at about 10. P. M. The night was dark and the persons who fired at his boat were not therefore distinguishable. That they belonged however to the Circar Preventive service is a mere surmise on the part of Mr. Kroon, and I am inclined to think that he is wrong in his surmise, for it is very unlikely that the Circar Police Peons would mistake a cabin boat, in which there was a light, for that of a tobacco or pepper smuggler.

It is far more probable that the persons who fired at Mr. Kroon's boat were river thieves, who, as soon as they discovered that the boat did not contain Natives only, made off fearing resistance.

Mr. Robinson, in his letter, herewith returned, states that he has had to bring to the notice of the Madras Government the consequence of the use of fire arms, alluding to the number of cases of gun shot wounds said to have been recently inflicted by the Cochin Preventive Establishment.

I beg here to observe that it was proved by examinations held by the Fiscal of Cochin that all the persons above alluded to, were subjects of this Circar. Mr. Robinson's interference therefore in their behalf would seem to have been gratuitous.

Moreover the said persons were smugglers. They chose to risk their liberty and lives for the sake of illicit gain, and they must of course stand the consequences.

You will observe from my letter No. 200 under date the 27th Instant, that the injuries received by the smugglers and attributed to the Circar Preventive Establishment, are frequently received in encounters between the smugglers themselves. No one deprecates more than I do the reckless sacrifice of human life, and the Ameenadar and Peons of the Preventive Establishment have the strictest orders from me never to use fire arms against the smugglers except in self-defence.

(Signed) VENCATA ROW,
Dewan.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. CULLEN,
Resident.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 58.

ORDER THEREON, No. 486; dated 28th April 1857.

Resolved that the Resident of Travancore and Cochin be informed that such proceedings as those now under report cannot be tolerated, and the Government must insist on their being put down, whether the acts of smugglers, thieves or of the Preventive Force. The Government must require the immediate active interposition of the Resident to prevent the recurrence of such outrages.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

N^o 486

Ordered to be brought to the notice
of His ~~Ex~~ Govt of India in connection
with the previous papers on the
same subject -

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Resolved ~~that~~ that the Resi.
- dent of Travancore & Cochin be
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Fort St. George,
28th April 1857

In com: 28th April
Fiscal 1857

From the Acting Magt
of Malabar
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fiscal Deptt
Fort St. George
Dated 15th April 1857
No 20 -

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229147

Forward further
correspondence regarding
the Govt order
at Cochin.

Copy to the Magt of Malabar
Copy to the Magt of Cochin

smugglers
whether it acts of thieves or of the
preventive force. The Govt must re-
- quire the immediate active inter-
- position of the Resident to pre-
- vent the recurrence of such
outrages -

With my order

22nd