

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

That the Natives allege two causes as preventing a decrease of crime, viz., the Torture Commission and the inadequate punishment awarded to those few offenders convicted, the Torture Commission having to a certain extent cowed the Police and given a temporary advantage to evil-doers, and the punishments for gang robbery not being sufficient, and he suggests that sentences of transportation be inflicted in all cases of gang robbery. He adds that the paucity of the Police, the timidity of the people and their reluctance to appear as Prosecutors and Witnesses are much serious impediments to the prevention of crime.

With reference to the order of Government of the 25th February last, the Magistrate attributes the frequency of highway robberies to the practice of sending about large sums of money by the hands of unarmed persons through unfrequented tracts, and he is of opinion that as long as this practice continues, no practicable improvement in the Police can afford adequate protection to travellers. He also states that a scheme for remodelling and increasing the present defective Village Police is under preparation and will soon be completed.

The Additional Joint Magistrate attributes the frequency of offences against property to the enormous extent of country under his charge, the paucity of the Police, the utter impossibility of patrolling successfully so large a tract, the jungly and hilly character of the greater portion of the country, the difficulty of procuring conviction, the distance of the European authority from the scenes of the robberies, and the timid character of the people. He thinks that if the Police could be made more Military in its nature and more like the Irish Constabulary, a better state of things might be hoped for, but if the European Magistracy could be numerically slightly increased, powers given them after a certain term of probation to punish up to 5 years in irons for Gang and Highway robberies unattended with severe injury, and housebreakings, as is at present the case in Mysore and Kurnool, and Act II of 1848 extended to them, a very great improvement in the Police, and decrease in crime would take place, even with the present insufficient materials.

The Heads of Police and District Moonsiffs of the Talooks where robberies are most prevalent also attribute it to the numerous jungles affording shelter to the robbers, the want of a detective Police and the inefficiency of the Village Police.

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIS,
Register.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Foujdaree Udalut, under date the 9th May, 1857.

Read letter dated 4th February 1857, from the Subordinate Judge in charge of the Session Court of Chittoor, submitting the Criminal Statements for 1856

Read also letter dated 26th February 1857, from the Magistrate of North Arcot, furnishing the explanation required in the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of 15th December 1856, regarding the prevalence of Gang and Highway robberies in North Arcot, and forwarding copies of two reports from the Joint Magistrate on the subject.

Read also Return dated 23rd March 1857, from the Session Judge of Chittoor, to the Precept of the Foujdaree Udalut under date the 10th March 1857, directing him to procure from the Magistrate and submit for their consideration a Statement of Highway and Gang robberies committed in certain Talooks of his District in 1855, and 1856.

Read also letter dated 9th April 1857, from the Session Judge of Chittoor, and Supplemental Return to the Precept of the Foujdaree Udalut dated 10th March 1857, directing him to procure from the Magistrate and submit for their consideration a Statement of Highway and Gang robberies committed in some Talooks of his District in the years 1855 and 1856, and also a special report from the Acting Additional Joint Magistrate and the Heads of Police and District Moonsiffs of his Talooks.

I. The Court of Foujdaree Udalut have very attentively considered the explanatory communications which have been forwarded to them through the Session Judge, and regret to find that so little has been done by the Magistracy to put a stop, or at least to check those offences which have more particularly been brought under the notice of Government.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

2. Although the annual report for the last year shows a slight decrease in the aggregate amount of crime, yet the Court of Foujdaree Udalut have good reason to know that the offence of highway robbery has been practised with greater boldness and greater frequency during the beginning of this year than ever; as an instance of the audacity of these highway robbers it is sufficient to remark that they had the boldness to attack the baggage Guard of a Native Regiment marching through the District, and that the Sepoys were obliged, to protect the baggage, to fire upon the gang.

3. The Judges observe that the Magistrate in forwarding his Annual Criminal Report has attributed the prevalence of undetected crime to the inefficiency of the Police and the only remedial measures he reports having adopted are the issuing of proclamations encouraging the people † 27th March. to defend themselves when attacked! In another communication† he reports that "a scheme for remodelling and increasing the present defective Police is under preparation and will soon be completed," but the Court of Foujdaree Udalut are constrained to observe that while the Magistrate is elaborating this scheme, no immediate steps have been taken for the repression of those offences which are becoming day by day more frequent and more audacious.

4. The reports now under notice contain many complaints and suggestions, but furnish no details tending to shew that the Magistracy have made energetic use of all the means at present in their power to repress this great and crying evil.

5. No mention is made of the Magistrate or any of his Subordinates having proceeded to those places where crime was most prevalent, and by their presence and exertions stimulated the Native Police to the more energetic discharge of their duties or of the delegation to these particular localities, of superior Native Officers accompanied by as many Daloyets and Peons as could have been sent.

6. It is quite evident that the Police of North Arcot is inefficient to cope with such an organization of crime as is referred to by the Acting Joint Magistrate or with such daring robbers as alluded to in para 2 of these Proceedings, and therefore it was the more incumbent upon the Magistrate to be most earnest in his applications for increased aid; it is well known that Government would have sanctioned the employment of the requisite number of additional Peons to repress the sudden increase of crime but no Peons appear to have been applied for, although complaints are now made of the insufficiency of the Peons, and comparisons instituted to shew that North Arcot is worse off in this respect than its neighbouring Districts; these comparisons however are incorrect, for they are made with reference to the number of the Talooks and not as they should have been, according to area and population.

7. The Court of Foujdaree Udalut view with satisfaction the endeavours made by the Acting Joint Magistrate towards ascertaining the causes, and checking the prevalence, of gang and highway robbery in the divisions under his charge; it is therefore to be regretted that a mistaken sympathy for long and perhaps in some cases meritorious service should have prevented his carrying out his intentions as set forth in para 12 of his letter of the 12th March. Such hesitation in cases like the present is often most mischievous in its consequences, as it tends to encourage the continuance in the public service of the old and unfit for no other apparent reason than that though too old and unfit for the ordinary active operations of daily life, they are good enough for Police.

8. The Court of Foujdaree Udalut desire that the Magistrate and his European Subordinates will by personal observation ascertain those who by reason of their age or infirmities are unfit for the active discharge of Police duties and those so pronounced unfit, the Court suggest should without delay be removed from their situations as Police Peons.

9. The Magistracy have alluded to the existence of professional robbers who act under Sirdars who are apparently respectable and well-to-do men, but there does not appear that any systematic and well directed efforts have been made to obtain information respecting these suspicious characters.

10. An active Magistrate or Police Officer whilst tracing out particular crimes will meet with much information respecting many bad characters against whom no tangible proof can be obtained; this information from not generally being reduced to writing or arranged in order, becomes soon forgotten. In order to supply this detective element and facilitate the efforts of

the Police, every Talook should possess a list of every bad character residing in or frequenting that Talook, this register should give the name, habits, employment, past history, and in fact all information that might be of service in the detection of crime already committed, by tracing the manner in which stolen property had been disposed of &c., or in its prevention, by keeping the individual under Police observation.

11. The possession of good information respecting professional robbers would enable the Heads of Police to communicate with each other and combine for their suppression. At present each acts for his own Talook, without much regard to the aid he can give or receive from other Tahsildars.

12. This registered specific information would be most useful to the Magistrate in enabling him to ascertain whether general charges against bad characters were well founded and capable of being supported by such evidence as would warrant a demand for security.

13. It will be incumbent upon the Magistrate to supervise most carefully and vigilantly this Register, in order to guard against its being abused and made an instrument of oppression; and such a register if properly kept, constantly scrutinized by an active Magistrate, though it will not furnish evidence per se, will place in the hands of the Magistrate such an amount of information as will enable him to procure evidence that he otherwise would fail in securing from ignorance of the sources whence it might be sought.

Ordered, that Extract from these Proceedings be sent to the Session Judge of Chittoor for his information, and for communication to the Magistrate of North Arcot.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIS,

Register.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, No. 664; dated 9th June 1857.

1. The state of crime in the District of North Arcot has, for some months past, attracted the attention of Government.

2. It was remarked, on a review of the returns of gang and highway robbery for the quarter ending 30th September last, that these serious crimes, which for nearly a year past had prevailed to a greater extent in North Arcot and three other Districts* than in the others under this Presidency, were still very numerous in North Arcot, and the Foudaree Udalut were requested to obtain from the Magistrate some information as to the causes of the continued large amount of crime in his District. Government at the same time desired the Court to explain why crime should be so much more rife in that and the three other Zillahs, marginally noted above, than in the remaining Districts.

3. On the returns of the following quarter, the last of 1856, being laid before them, the Government again called the attention of the Foudaree to the continuance of crime in the four Districts above specified, and to the great increase in Coimbatore. The number of highway robberies had risen, in North Arcot, by no less than eight, and there had been no convictions by the Sessions Court during either the current or past quarter.

4. The report of the Foudaree Udalut reached Government on the 9th Instant only, or nearly five months after it had been called for, in December last. In the interval, the robberies committed in North Arcot, had so increased in number, and been perpetrated under such daring circumstances that the Government, under date the 27th April, called upon the Magistrate to submit to them direct, a full and early statement, explanatory of a state of things so gravely impeaching his efficiency as a public Officer. Attacks, they observed, had been made on Detachments of European and Native Soldiers escorting stores along a high road, the most frequented in the Presidency. So much of this road as lies in the North Arcot District, or from the Railway Station at Amoor to the Mysore Frontier was now notoriously unsafe for travellers.

Extract Minutes Consultation, 15th December 1856.

* Viz.
Bellary.
Salem.
Nellore.

Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 14th March and 4th April 1857.

For last quarter of 1856.	
Gang Robberies.....	39
Highway do.	28
Total.....	67

5. The most prominent instance of this insecurity, and of the ill-directed efforts of the Police, for the detection of the marauders, is that brought to the notice of Government on the 4th of February last. In that case a small party, or the advanced guard, of a Detachment of H. M. 43rd Regiment, was attacked within three miles of the town of Raneepet, by a gang of ninety men. Money, stores and other property, both public and belonging to individuals, were carried off in large quantities, the bandies were overturned, and a female Camp-follower killed in the mêlée. A great portion of the property plundered is admitted by the Magistrate to Letter of 21st March. be susceptible of identification, but the guilty parties are still at large, while for the future protection of travellers, the hands of the Talook authorities are considered by Mr. Whittingham to have been sufficiently strengthened by the temporary loan of one Duffadar and two Peons of Police!

6. From his report now under review, the Government learn that Mr. Whittingham has very little explanation to offer on the subject referred to him. He sates that for a twelve-month past, he has been engaged in the work of revising the Assessment of the District. Unequal at the same time to the discharge of any other duties, he found himself compelled to hand over the whole of his Magisterial work to the Acting Additional Joint Magistrate, who has thus been the only Magistrate in those portions of the District which are not included in the respective charge of the Sub-Collector and Head Assistant. So far indeed is the head of the District from having an acquaintance with the measures taken for the administration of the Police therein, that he has been necessitated to apply, now that Government have called for a full report on the matter, to his Subordinate, Mr. Banbury, and has furnished a copy of a Memo: drawn up by the latter, and to a perusal of which he invites the Government to refer, for the information they require. He appears to have adopted a similar course, when requested to furnish the explanation the Foudaree Udalut were directed to procure. The Judges of that Court seem to have had before them not so much a letter from the Magistrate, as one from Mr. Banbury, the same indeed, copy of which was furnished by the Magistrate to Government, when desired to report on a Petition, (No. 194 of 1857,) addressed to Government by some merchants at Palmanair, complaining of the inefficient state of the Police in that Talook.

7. The Government agree with the Foudaree Udalut, that the measures adopted by Mr. Banbury, as far as they go, are highly praiseworthy, and they appear, from recent reports, to have been attended with a great deal of success. Much however, as justly observed by the Court, remains to be done, and Government expect that the Magistrate and his Assistants will visit the two Western Zemindaries and other notorious localities, and inspire activity into the Police by their presence and direct counsel. For a Magistrate to confine himself to Proclamations and Circular Orders is useless, as observed by the Foudaree Udalut, and Government disapprove of Mr. Whittingham, having given so little attention himself to Magisterial duties. Notwithstanding the revision of the Assessment, he should have devoted a portion of his time to the state of the Police, and the security of travellers and the general community, but confessedly inadequate as the Police numerically are to the recent exigencies of the District, no application has been made for additional assistance, except a small force for the Baulpully ghaut; that for Poloor was submitted by the Joint Magistrate in charge. The Magistrate, it appears, has a scheme, which he will one day submit, for the remodelling of his establishment. No doubt it would be highly desirable to place at his disposal a body of men "organized like the Irish Constabulary." The Government are aware of the want of efficiency in the present Provincial Police, and trust ere long that a remedy may be provided. Meanwhile, it will be the duty of the Magistrate to work with diligence existing establishments, applying for additional aid, when all disposable means have proved insufficient. To attribute the gradual increase of crime in North Arcot to such causes as the jungly features of portions of the country, to the timid character of the population, to the difficulty of procuring an amount of evidence to ensure the conviction of criminals before the Courts, is to make use of arguments clearly inadmissible. Similar causes exist elsewhere, and are by no means peculiar to the District over which Mr. Whittingham presides.

8. In regard to the remaining Zillahs, the increase observable has been set down by the several Magistrates to a succession of bad seasons, and the inability of the Police force to cope

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

with the consequent increase of crime. In Nellore, the Magistrate points out that a number of his Peons are employed in conveying the local posts.

9. This practice is highly irregular and should be immediately put a stop to; all old and inefficient men should also be removed from the Police force as pointed out by the Foujdaree Udalut. For the rest, the Foujdaree Udalut will instruct the Magistrates, as above declared, that in every instance where, from a bad harvest or other causes it is apprehended that the ordinary establishments of their Zillahs will not be competent to deal with the criminal population, it will be their duty to make the same at once known to Government, and to apply for such an increase in the force as may be calculated to render the same thoroughly efficient. These orders will be promulgated to all heads of Districts, who will understand that the Government hold them directly responsible for the prevalence of crime within their respective circles; and that want of zeal and energy will incur their serious displeasure.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Read taken from the } here entered 6th May/57.
Magistrate of North Arcot

Read also taken from the } here entered 9th May/57.
Register of the Fouj. Udalut

St. J. C.
15/12/56

Trans.
Bellary.
Salem.
Nellore.

1. The state of crime in the district of N. Arcot has, for some months past, attracted the attention of Govt.
2. It was remarked, on a review of the Returns of Gang & Highway Robbery for the quarter ending 30th Sept- last, that these serious crimes, which for nearly a year past had prevailed to a greater extent in N. Arcot & three other districts than in the others under his Presidency, were still very numerous in N. Arcot, and the Fouj. Udalut were requested to obtain from the Magt some information as to the causes of the continued large amount of crime in his District. Govt at the same desired the Comt to explain why crime &c. be so much more rife in that & the three other Zillahs, in comparison with the remaining districts.

82. M. C.
about 14th March
to 4th April/57.

3. on the returns of the following
quarter, the last of 1856, being
last before hand, he got again
called the attention of the Foyd
to the continuance of crime in
the four districts above specified,
& to the great increase in Count-
fore - The number of highway
robberies had risen, in N. Aust,
by no less than eight, and there
had been no convictions by the
Leforis Court during either the
current or past quarter.

4. The report of the Foyd. Adalat
reached Govt. on the 9th instant only,
or nearly five months after it had
been called for, in December last.
In the interval, the robberies com-
mitted in N. Aust, had so increased
in number, and been perpetrated
under such daring circumstances
that the Govt., under date the 27th
April, called upon the Judge to
submit to him direct, a full &
early statement, explanatory of
a state of things so grossly imper-
fecting his efficiency as a public
officer. Attached, they showed, had

For last quarter of 56
Gang Robberies. 39
Highway do. 28
Total 67.

of the Police

Letter of 21st March

been made on detachments of European
& Native soldiers escorting stores along
the high road, the most frequented
in the Presidency. So much of this
road as lies in the N. Aust district,
or from the railway station at
Amoy to the Mysore frontier was
now notoriously unsafe for travellers.

5. The most prominent instance of this
insecurity, and of the ill directed ef-
forts for the detection of the marau-
ders, is that brought to the notice
of Govt. on the 4th of February last.
In that case a small party, on the
advanced guard, of a detachment of R.M.
& 3rd Regt. was attacked within three
miles of the town of Rancepat, by
a gang of ninety men. Money,
stores & other property, both public
and belonging to individuals, were
carried off in large quantities, the
families were overturned & a female
camp follower killed in the melee.
A great portion of the property plun-
dered is admitted by the Magt.
to be susceptible of identification,
but the guilty parties are still at
large, while for the future protec-
tion of travellers, the hands of

Talook authorities are considered
by Mr. Whittingham to have been suffi-
ciently strengthened by the trans-
ferring to them of one Subfadar &
two Peons of Police!

6. From his report now under review
the Govt learn that Mr. Whittingham
has very little explanation to offer
on the subject referred to him. He states
that for a twelve months past he has been
engaged in the work of revising the maps
of the District. Unequal at the same
time to the discharge of any other duties,
he found himself compelled to hand
over the whole of his magisterial work
to the Asst. Joint Magt, who
has thus been the only magistrate in
those portions of the District which
are not included in the respective
charges of the Subcollector and Head
Assistants. So far indeed is the Head
of the District from having an ac-
quaintance with the measures taken
for the administration of the Police
herein, that he has been necessitated
to apply, now that Govt have called
for a full report on the matter, to
his subordinate Mr. Bantury, & has
furnished a copy of a Memo: drawn
up by the latter to a perusal of which
he invites the Govt for the information they
to refer,

is much

Letter of Magt -
27th March

require. He appears to have
adopted a similar course, when
requested to furnish the explana-
tion he thought it would be de-
cided to procure. The Judges of the
Court seem to have had before
them not a letter from the Ma-
gistrate, but one from Mr.
Bantury; he came indeed, copy
of which was furnished by the
Magt to Govt, when desired to
report on a petition (No 196
of 1857) addressed to Govt by some
merchants at Palmanis, com-
plaining of the inefficient state
of the Police in that Talook.

7. The Govt agree with the F. G.,
that the measures adopted by Mr.
Bantury, as far as they go, are
highly praiseworthy, and they
appear, from recent reports,
to have been attended with a great
deal of success. Much however,
as justly observed by the Court,
remains to be done. It does not
seem that the Magt & his Asst. will visit
often that the Magt on his Asst.
the two Western Zemindaries & other
notorious localities & in some instances
into the police by their presence &
of the two western Zemindaries
direct counsel. For a Magistrate to
of Calcutta & Coochbehar, to the

to confine himself to Procla-
mations & Circular Orders, is
useless, as observed by the Hon-
dary Kdawalat, and Govt dis-
approve of Mr. Whittingham having
given so little attention himself to
Magisterial duties - notwithstanding
the vision of the Aft he
should have devoted a portion
of his time to the state of the police
& the security of travellers & the ge-
neral community but

x except a small fine for
the Baulpully ghaut;
~~see also Baulpully ghaut~~
~~see also Baulpully ghaut~~
~~see also Baulpully ghaut~~

That for Polson was
submitted by the Joint Magt
in charge.

-dropping, Tripartite or even
Pulmanian. Such activity as has
been inspired into the Police force
has been so inspired not by the
presence & the direct counsel of
the European officers, but by means
of circular orders & proclamations
only & consequently inadequate as
the police numerically are to the
recent exigencies of the District,
no application has been made
for additional assistance. The
Majr, it appears, has a scheme,
which he will one day submit,
for the remodeling of his Estab-
lishment. No doubt it wd
be highly desirable to place at his
disposal a body of men "organised
like the Irish Constabulary".
The Govt are aware of the want
of efficiency in the present Provin-
cial Police, and trust ere long
that a remedy may be provided.
Meanwhile, it will be the duty
of the Magistrate to work with
diligence existing establishments,

applying for additional aid,
where all disposable means have
proved insufficient - To attribute
the gradual increase of crime in
the district to such causes as the
favourable features of portions of
the country, to the trivial charac-
ter of the population, to the
difficulty of procuring an am-
ount of evidence to ensure the
conviction of criminals before the
Courts, is to make use of argu-
ments clearly inadmissible.
Similar causes exist elsewhere,
and are by no means peculiar
to the district over which Mr.
Whittingham presides.

8. In regard to the remaining details
the increase observable has been set
down by the several Magistrates
to a succession of bad seasons, &
the inability of the Police force
to cope with the consequent increase
of crime. In Ballen, the Majr
points out that a number of
his persons are employed in em-
ploying the local posts.

* all old & inefficient men
should also be removed from
the police force as pointed out
by the Hon. Kdawalat. This practice is highly irregular
& should be immediately put a stop to.

For the rest, the F. U. will instruct
the Magistrates, as above declared,
but in every instance where, from
a bad harvest or other causes,
it is apprehended that the ordinary
Estates of the Gillies will not be
competent to deal with the
criminal population, it will
be their duty to make the same
known to Govt, & to apply
for such an increase in the force
as may be calculated to render
the same thoroughly efficient -

These orders will be transmitted
to the Heads of Districts, who will
understand that the Govt. ~~will~~
hold them directly responsible for the
prevalence of crime within their
respective circles; & that instances
of great & urgent will incur
their serious displeasure
~~will not be passed~~
~~over lightly in future.~~ 23/5/57.

Wm

To the Judges of the Court of
S. Adalat - with 70 spare
Copies for communication to
the Heads of Districts. } Despd 15 June

63 June
126 "

Su im: 9 June
Judicial 1837 Depart.

Replied in J. 1837 from 1837.
As to 1808 P. 15.

N. 661

Extracts Mins. of Court

8/9 June 1837

See Pub. Court 1837 July

Sept 1831

1109

Paying observations for
the population, etc. etc.
by the Court and Judge
and the Judge of the
Court regarding the
conduct of the Court
number of Highway
and gang collection
in the North American
District.

1616 Dec 2/56 - 1515
 1617 Feb 3/57 - 1518
 17 March - 33734
 17 April - 42443-3922
 21 April - 35436-438

Replied in Judg from Regt
 No 5 of 1858 P. 15.

664

In m: 9 June
 Judicial 1857 Depart.

No.

From
 The Registrar to the
 Court of Sij Udalut

S. C. 12. 1861

To
 The Acting Chief Secy
 to Government

Dated 9th
 Recd 9th May 1857.
 No 46. No 443.

Submitting the
 information called for
 by Government as to
 the causes of the con-
 -tinued large amount
 of Gang and Highway
 robberies in North Arcot
 Ballary, Salem, Madras
 and Coimbatore.

126 June
 126 "

Abstract

9/9/56

Dec 12 1851

1109

Passing a
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 District.

Replied in Judg from Regt
 No 5 of 1858 P. 15.

In m: 9 June
 Judicial 1857 Depart.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 664

Press
~~Mis.~~

80.32

Dated 9-6-1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

Read the following Papers.

No. 30. From C. WHITTINGHAM, Esq., Magistrate of North Arcot; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Chittoor, 6th May 1857, No. 25.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 27th April 1857, observing that the serious attention of the Government, has been given to the state of crime in this District as regards the graver offences against property, and calling upon me to state, what exertions have been made to terminate a state of things so gravely impeaching the efficiency as Magistrates of myself and my Covenanted Assistants.

2. As during the period in question, I was occupied in the revision of the Assessment and found it impossible to devote adequate attention to Police duties, I made over the whole of my Division to the Acting Additional Joint Magistrate, Mr. Banbury. I soon discovered that it could not be in more efficient hands, and therefore left the entire management of its details to him, and by giving to him the nomination to appointments under the situation of Head of Police, I placed in his hands the means which he has employed of rewarding good service.

3. I have requested Mr. Banbury, to furnish a detailed statement of his proceedings with reference to the points adverted to by Government, which has been this day received, and of which a copy is now forwarded. I have not called for any report from the Joint Magistrate, Mr. Sullivan, because as appears from the accompanying detailed statement, the crimes adverted to, were not so prevalent in the Sub-Division in the quarter in question. There occurred 3 highway robberies and 8 gang robberies, but some part of the Division was quite free from these crimes. Mr. Banbury has referred to the causes which make these outrages of less frequent occurrence in such Talooks as that of Wandavash, than in some parts of the Magistrate's Division.

4. In addition to the rewards granted as stated by Mr. Banbury, I have in two or three instances offered large rewards for the detection and apprehension of offenders. As a further measure calculated to repress these serious crimes, I issued orders to the Palamanair Head of Police, directing him to inform the Heads of Villages, that I would hold them responsible for these outrages; as there is every reason to believe, that great neglect if not connivance on their part enables the robbers to meet, to perpetrate the robbery, and to meet again to share the spoil without the Police receiving any information. This order was issued on the 18th February last, and from that date up to the 30th Ultimo, a period of nearly two and a half months, there has not been a single gang or highway robbery in the Palamanair Talook. The two highway robberies, and three gang robberies entered in the quarterly statement ending the 30th April were all committed in January.

I do not attribute the cessation of these crimes entirely to the order adverted to; that is doubtless principally owing to Mr. Banbury's judicious and zealous exertions, but I am satisfied that the order has had a good effect, and I have extended it to other Talooks.

5. I am aware that my having, in addition to performing the general duties of a Collector, been engaged in a work which the Board and Government have declared sufficient to occupy the whole time of one Officer, does not relieve me from my responsibility as Head of the District. I have adverted to it to account for the entire Police supervision of the part of the District, which is under my charge, having been vested in Mr. Banbury. I feel assured, that as far as he is concerned, the Government will feel satisfied with the explanation he has submitted.

6. The detailed statement exhibits the great number of Police Divisions in this District, and shows that a comparatively small number of such crimes occurring in each, will make a large total in each quarter.

(Signed) C. WHITTINGHAM, Magistrate.

MEMORANDUM.

As requested by the Magistrate, I have the honor to offer the following remarks concerning the state of the Police as animadverted upon by Government in their Proceedings, dated 17th Ultimo.

1. The prevalence of crime in the Talooks formerly under my charge appears to me to have arisen from these causes: 1st, the jungly nature of the country, 2nd, the fact of its being greatly peopled by Boyas, and Koraners, who are thieves professionally and noted for their skill and daring, 3rd, the formation of five or six large gangs headed by persons of position and apparent respect-

above have in the remaining districts

ability, 4th, the impunity with which they saw they could carry on their depredations and finally escape punishment, although detected, and lastly, it having become generally known that the merchants were in the habit of sending large sums of money along the lonely roads through Palmanair and Poonganoor by means of unarmed and often powerless servants, (for further causes see my letter to Sudder.) In confirmation of the two first items, I may add, that in the Sholunghur Talook, which also formed a portion of my charge, and which is more civilized, less jungly, and not peopled by the castes above mentioned, there was not a single gang or highway robbery during the period in question.

2. When these robberies became thus prevalent at the close of last year, I immediately took the best measures I could conceive for checking them, and as my days were fully engaged with other duties, I spent the mornings from 7 until Cutcherry hours in obtaining information from those persons whom I had reason to believe could afford the same, and in issuing Warrants in those cases where the traces and information afforded, appeared to me trustworthy. These enquiries I carried on quietly in my own bungalow, and obtained, as I shall hereafter show, some very useful and beneficial knowledge concerning the perpetrators of the outrages. I divided the Talook of Palmanair where the robberies had been most rife, into 3 divisions to be patrolled by those officers of my own and the Talook establishment, whom I considered most active and intelligent. I kept Shaik Beeram, the Mooktasur whom I lately nominated entirely under my immediate direction and orders; appointed the Chittoor Talook as his beat, and compared the information he obtained with that which I had succeeded in acquiring, when the Prisoners were detected, I enquired into the cases and committed them to Court from my own Office, so that however wealthy the offenders, they were prevented from tampering with their accusers, witnesses or any one else; by this means I succeeded in bringing many of the worst offenders to justice, and they have received at the hands of the Sessions Judge the punishment they so richly merited, as I shall hereafter shew. I also demanded security from those characters whom I knew to be dangerous and skilful thieves but against whom specific charges could not be brought home.

3. These robberies were, I have reason to believe, chiefly committed by the castes above mentioned; the Boyas are well known thieves, and they were in many cases headed, as I before said, by persons from whose position the Government might naturally look for assistance, there is no doubt that the Village Officers, both Kurnums and Managars aided the thieves, and most probably received the lion's share of the plunder. In support of this assertion, I may add that a Kurnum has lately been sentenced to 14 years in irons for gang robbery in Palmanair and the son-in-law of a Managar, a wealthy Ryot in the same Talook, was apprehended upon my warrant, committed, and sentenced by the Foujdaree to 14 years in irons, the Moofty in his futwah acquitted him, but the Judge fortunately for the Magistracy was of a different opinion, and referred the case. In another case, I found two Kurnums so palpably endeavouring to shield criminals and baffle the pursuit which I had set on foot, that I fined them each 100 Rupees agreeably to C. O. F. U. 9th October 1841, they appealed to the Sessions Court, but my sentence was upheld.

4. There is no doubt from the information I received that the Poligars of Kolamasanapully and Kulloor, the Monigars of many villages as well as the Kurnums harbour and secretly aid the thieves, but except in the cases above mentioned, it was not susceptible of proof.

5. As before stated, I divided the Palmanair Talook into Perikas, I also had an efficient party patrolling in the Chittoor Talook; the guards on the Moogly ghaut have been strengthened and placed under the supervision of an active and intelligent head Peon. At Tripatty a party have been patrolling under a Mooktasur, as the jungly nature of the country demanded it, I had two of my own Deloyets for some time in the Chendragherry Talook where house-breakings were frequent, and two more Deloyets were stationed at Narayanavanum and Tirtany. In Chendragherry there were also two patrolling parties constantly on the move, and under a clever Tahsildar, like Kistniah they appear to have done good service; there were also Daloyets placed along the road between Raneepett and Chittoor, besides the usual establishment on the ghauts of Balpully, Nakkany, &c.

6. Orders were issued to the Poligars to use their best endeavours on pain of their being reported to Government. The people were informed agreeably to C. O. F. U. 22nd September 1843, that they would be rewarded for defending their own property, I also represented to the Collector the evils which resulted from sums of money being carried about in lonely parts of the District in specie, thus affording great temptations to evilly

disposed persons, and suggested that a system of granting bills on the several Talook Treasuries for payments made at the Huzzoor or vice versa should be introduced.

7. I obtained a gratuity for Arymootoo, a Mooktasur, passed active work, and nominated as acting Shaik Beram, a Police Duffadar whose attendance were good; owing to his efficient services he has been since confirmed; one of my Police Peons named Moonosawmy did good service, executing with skill and judgment the warrants with which I entrusted him, and as the Prisoners caught by him were punished with 14 years, I gave him a Deloyet's belt, and subsequently promoted him to be Cutwall Duffadar of Chittoor, another Peon named Hurry Sing who did what was required of him satisfactorily, was also promoted. I have recommended Mooktasur Hoossain for degradation or removal for inefficiency and his place to be given to one of my emissaries who has apprehended without any pakarah, but with tact and skill, a notorious gang infesting Satghur and who are now before the Sessions Court. I have also recommended that some provision be made for late Duffadar Soobah Naick through whose secret information I was enabled to convict Mabboo Vencatappen's son-in-law, Vencatramoodoo who was to all appearance a most respectable member of society but in reality a skilful leader, he was committed by me and has as I before stated, been sentenced to 14 years for highway robbery; the punishment of a man in his position must, I feel certain, have had most salutary effects. I have also sent orders with a view that all the old Peons in Palmanair, of whom there are many, should be removed and their places filled by young and active men, able to use arms, and unconnected with the Talook, the relatives of the old Peons might be provided with belts elsewhere should they be found fit for employ, this measure should be carried out quickly, although the head of Police has not hitherto sent the heirs of the old servants as he was directed.

8. With regard to rewards, I lately recommended and obtained sanction for a reward to be given to the parties through whose information a notorious house-breaker named Soorigan, was apprehended. Soorigan has been sentenced to 14 years, the reward has been disbursed and he is a good riddance to the Chittoor Talook. I apprehended 3 escaped Convicts on my own warrants, and the captors were rewarded, also the Ryots of a village in Chittoor Talook who manfully resisted a night attack made upon their dwelling by robbers.

9. I think I may honestly say that my efforts have been attended with some benefit to Government. I have committed from my own Office 11 cases connected with heinous offences of the nature in question, comprising 37 Prisoners, 20 (twenty) of whom have been sentenced to periods of lengthened imprisonment, four are now before the Court, and the others released. I may add that with regard to the latter item two of my cases comprising 4 Prisoners were released by the lower Court on grounds which I deemed inadequate. I therefore appealed to the Sessions Judge, who has declared that the acquittal of 3 of the Prisoners was improper. Besides the above cases one of my emissaries Shaik Beeram, whom I kept as I before stated under my own immediate control, apprehended 7 of a daring crew, four of whom have been transported for life, also 3 Prisoners in a gang robbery at Hierally who have been sentenced to 14 years and 100 lashes each, and another of my agents has lately detected a gang charged with no less than 9 specific offences of a grave nature, these marauders are now on their trial before the Sessions Court, and will not, I think, escape heavy punishment. I am happy to say that crime has lately greatly decreased in my Division, the gangs have, I trust been broken up, and a feeling of security obtains in place of fear and apprehension, the past quarter will shew, I think, a considerable decrease, and for the last 6 weeks my Talooks have been comparatively free, and if things continue as they now are, the year 1857 will be marked by a decrease in crime in those Talooks which have hitherto borne an unenviable notoriety for deeds of violence. As the apprehension of the offenders, and the adoption of the means above narrated appear to be satisfactory and to have the desired effect, I did not deem it necessary to ask for an additional establishment unless the arrangements made should hereafter appear insufficient to meet the emergency. Only one grave case has lately come to my knowledge, I personally examined it, and from many circumstances connected therewith, I am led to believe that the whole is a got up business to gratify private pique and excite compassion. Had I remained in charge I would have done my best to continue and improve upon the measures hitherto adopted, and trust that the Government will after considering the above circumstances, remove from me the censure of inefficiency.

(Signed) GEO. BANBURY, *Acting Additional Joint Magistrate.*

(True Copy.

(Signed) C. WHITTINGHAM, *Magistrate*

Name of the Talooks, &c.	Highway robbery.						Gang robbery.					
	Committed.			Attempted.			Committed.			Attempted.		
	No. of cases.	No. of persons supposed to have been concerned.	Value of the property stolen.	No. of cases.	No. of persons.	No. of cases in columns 2 & 5.	No. of cases.	No. of persons supposed to have been concerned.	Value of the property stolen.	No. of cases.	No. of persons.	No. of cases in columns 9 & 12.
1 Chittoor.....	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2 Chendragherry.....	2	19	48 10 0	...	...	3	19	3	62	960 5 0	1	37
3 Tirvullum.....	5	28	70 10 2	...	...	5	28	2	20	1 13 0	...	2
4 Sholinghur.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	141 0 0	...	1
5 Cauverypauk.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Suttivaid.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Sautgur.....	1	10	...	...	...	1	10	3	90	1011 1 0	...	3
8 Palmanair.....	2	28	1655 14 0	...	...	2	28	7	146	3336 13 9	...	7
9 Tirputty Town.....	2	32	147 12 0	...	...	2	32	1	80	8357 12 0	...	1
10 Damulcharooroo.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	34	268 13 7	1	20
11 Vencataghery Cottah.....	1	4	4 0 0	...	...	1	4	2	40	3305 0 0	...	1
12 Raneepett.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	3475 4 0	...	1
13 Zemindaries. {Tirany Division.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Carvety Naghur {Narraivanum do.	3	24	42 0 0	...	...	3	24	1	30	559 11 0	...	1
15 do. {Calastry do.	2	17	100 0 0	...	...	2	17	...	...	...	...	...
16 do. {Manderpauk do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Congundy Zemindary.....	3	11	123 8 0	...	...	3	11	2	16	264 15 6	...	2
18 Punganore do.	3	20	451 13 0	...	...	3	20	2	36	276 9 4	1	10
19 Arcot.....	1	5	50 0 0	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...
20 Thivuttoo.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21 Poloor.....	2	12	66 0 0	...	...	2	12	4	48	63 11 0	1	3
22 Wundawash.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	60	339 12 0	...	...
23 Vellore.....	1	5	10 15 0	...	...	1	5	1	40	2055 7 6	...	40
24 Vellore Town.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 Pettamboor do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Arcot do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Arnee Joghire.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	28	215	2772 1 2	...	...	28	215	34	762	26416 14 8	5	110

North Arcot, Collector's Cutcherry, Chittoor, 6th May 1857.

(Signed) C. WHITTINGHAM, Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th June 1857.

No. 31. From GEORGE ELLIS, Esq., Register to the Court of Foujdaree Udalut; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 9th May 1857, No. 46.

SIR,

15th Decr. 1856, No. 1326.
24th Feb. 1857, " 386.
14th March, " 310.
4th April, " 398.
17th " " 438.

* Gang and Highway robbery.

1. I have the honor, by direction of the Judges of the Court of Foujdaree Udalut, to acknowledge the receipt of the Extracts from the Minutes of Consultation, (noted marginally) calling for information as to the causes of the continued large amount of crime* in North Arcot, Bellary, Salem, Nellore and Coimbatore.

2. Appended is an abstract of the reasons assigned by the different local Officers of the Districts above named, for this increase in these two particular crimes.

3. One of the chief reasons given is the great scarcity that has generally prevailed throughout the Presidency during the last two or three years, the other, the inefficiency of the Police.

4. Both these reasons the Court of Foujdaree Udalut consider to be valid, but the latter more particularly so; a return to more favorable seasons will not however, it is to be feared, be followed by a very perceptible diminution in the commission of the two classes of offences which have attracted the notice of Government, unless the Police be strengthened, and the Judges are decidedly of opinion, that the inherent defect in the Police not only in the Districts that have been referred to but in all, is its numerical weakness. In Nellore for instance many of the Peons who might be employed in the Police Force are doing the duties of Tappal-runners to the manifest detriment of the public security.

5. The Court of Foujdaree Udalut are not in possession of any information regarding the scheme which the Magistrate of North Arcot is preparing for the remodelling of the Police of his District; he reports having, as a remedial measure against the increase of crime, issued proclamations to the people at the time of the annual settlement, calling upon and encouraging them to resist attacks upon their persons and property. In their proceedings* upon the reports made by the Magistrate of North Arcot, the Judges have commented on the futility of such measures unaccompanied by others of a more vigorous nature, and have pointed out the course which should in their opinion, be adopted for the more effectual repression of these offences.

6. In conclusion, the Judges would call the attention of Government to paras: 4 and 5 of their report to Government of the 22nd November 1854, on the operation of the existing system of control over the local administration in the Police Department. In this letter they suggested certain arrangements which would tend to increase the efficiency of the Police, and the Judges are now, as then, of opinion, that if these measures were fully carried out, the most beneficial results would follow.

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIS,

Register.

Nellore.—The Magistrate of Nellore reports that many of the gang robberies consist of cases in which the object was to plunder grain heaps outside of the village. Poverty and the prevalence of the high prices of the necessaries of life being the exciting causes. That the more serious cases of real dacoity are rare, there being no noted gangs of robbers in the District, but such crimes are generally committed by robbers who occasionally make inroads into Nellore from the westward, and are either beaten off or retreat, and cannot easily be apprehended. That highway robberies although numerous, are not often of a serious description, the property stolen being, except in a few isolated instances, of no great value.

He suggests an increase of the Police force for the purpose of forming Tannahs on the range of hills and jungles between Nellore and Cuddapah to prevent the inroads of robbers from the westward, and to follow them up promptly when they do come, for which purpose the Magistrate is of opinion that a larger Police force would be available, if the number of Peons at present engaged in District Tappal were relieved from those duties by the employment of runners to a greater extent, and he reports that some correspondence on this subject with the Post Master

General has taken place, but no increase of runners has as yet been sanctioned. The Magistrate attributes the general inefficiency of the Police force to their low salaries and to their having revenue duties to perform, to which Tahsildars are apt to give undue importance to the neglect of their Police duties.

Bellary.—The Magistrate of Bellary attributes the lamentable increase of gang and highway robberies during the 2 preceding years to the failure of rain, and the consequent scarcity approaching to famine at one time, and expects that the return of a favorable season would cause a decrease of crime as has been the case to some extent, during the last year. The prevalence of crime during the more favorable season in Bellary, is accounted for by the Magistrate, by the high prices which were kept up at that station, in consequence of the great failure of rain in other parts of the Madras Presidency, and the difficulty those once habituated by necessity to the practice of these crimes felt in suddenly relinquishing it. The Magistrate states that in robbery by open violence and highway robbery, the decrease has been very great, 472 cases of the former having occurred in 1855, while in 1856 there were only 139, and of the latter 217 in 1855 and 188 in 1856. He also remarks that the decrease in highway robberies has been progressing during the last year, the number of cases for each of the 4 quarters of the year being 73, 55, 29, 31, showing a considerable decrease in the 2 last quarters.

The Magistrate states that to prevent the commission of highway robberies, he has posted village guards at several places where robberies have been most prevalent, and that he has employed parties of the Kurnool Horse in patrolling the roads near the town of Bellary, on market and other days, and he has also drawn the attention of the Police to the necessity of using every exertion to prevent crime, and to apprehend the culprits.

Salem.—The Magistrate attributes the increase of gang robberies to the high price of food, many who can earn honest livelihood having engaged in this crime; the leaders in many instances being persons who from their position and property were supposed to be of good character. He states that an enquiry is now in progress throughout the District, with the view of thoroughly sifting the characters of all to whom general suspicion has pointed, but that to pursue this sort of enquiry with the desired effect, a much more extended European agency is needed than he for some time past has had at his disposal, and he expects that with the aid of the 2 Assistants appointed since the close of the year, the endeavours to check crime will be attended with greater success than hitherto. The Magistrate adds that printed proclamations have been issued to each village, encouraging resistance to the attacks of robbers and in three cases of resistance, the parties were rewarded, and the fact publicly notified throughout the country.

The Magistrate states that great difficulty exists in discovering the perpetrators of highway robberies, owing to the rapidity with which an attack can be made on persons on the highway, to the shelter which the nature of the country affords in many parts, and to the class of persons who are chiefly concerned in the crime, viz., persons who have no fixed habitation, the number of these persons having increased since the Railway works were commenced, which has tended in some measure to the increase of crime, though the means of procuring employment have been far more abundant than heretofore.

He states that in the number of cases of highway robbery reported, there is a decrease of 42, as compared with 1855.

Coimbatore.—The Magistrate explains that the increase of 21 cases in gang robbery in the quarter ending 31st December 1856, above the preceding one is probably the result of a succession of bad seasons, and the consequent rise in the price of grain, whereby many who, in a favorable season, would find means of honest livelihood, were impelled by necessity to have recourse to illegal means for obtaining food. He however states that prompt measures were adopted for the suppression of gang robbery and other heinous crimes, and that the number of cases of gang robbery committed during the calendar year 1856, was less than in the preceding one.

North Arcot.—In his Annual Report the Magistrate stated that there was a decrease in the number of gang and highway robberies in 1856 as compared with 1855, the decrease being 25 in the former, and 24 in the latter. That these crimes were most frequent in the Talooks of Chittoor, Palamanair, Chendragberry, and Sautghur, and the Zemindaries of Calastry and

Cauvetnugger. The wooded and jungly tracts in which these Talooks abound affording peculiar facilities for the commission of these crimes. That every thing that an active and efficient Officer can perform had been done by the Acting Additional Joint Magistrate, Mr. Banbury, who is in charge of that part of the District, but that as long as the present inefficiency of the Police continues, nothing effectual can be accomplished towards repressing those outrages. That proclamations had been read at the annual settlement to excite a spirit of resistance on the part of the people, which, if aroused, would greatly strengthen the hands of Police.

In his explanation to the observations of Government of the 15th December last, the Magistrate states that as the District is the great thoroughfare from east to west of the Presidency, crimes and outrages on travellers must naturally be of more frequent occurrence than in other Districts, the nature of the country in the direction of Cuddapah, at Kuraunbaudy, at Tripatty, in the neighbourhood of the Calastry Zemindary towards Poonganoor, Congoondy, and in the Talooks of Sautghur and Poloor, affording every protection to the robbers. He attributes the frequency of crimes to the insufficiency of the Police, the average number of Peons to each Talook being 74½ and to the incompetency of the Heads of Village Police who are unpaid and are not appointed according to their fitness, but succeed hereditarily; and lastly, to the very common failure of criminal prosecutions in the Courts.

The Joint Magistrate also attributes the frequency of crime to the insufficiency of the Police force, there being only 1 Duffadar and 10 Peons to each Head of Police, the revenue Peons who are more than fully occupied in their revenue duties not being available to any extent for Police duties, and the Village Police from their very inadequate and uncertain remuneration being worse than useless. He also states that the effect of the Torture Commission has been to paralyze the Native Police and to embolden the ill-disposed portion of the community in the commission of crime. That the practical working of the Criminal Courts are tedious, which often prevent the ends of justice and leads to a tendency of compromising felony, and he suggests that the powers of the Magistrate should be more extended and summary for the punishment of crime, that a larger extent of European agency should be introduced in all branches of the Police, the Police better remunerated, and secret service may be allowed for the detective force.

The Acting Additional Joint Magistrate states that gang robberies in his District are carried out under 3 different systems: 1st, by professional robbers who generally inhabit the most jungly parts of the District, have no other means of livelihood, are unwilling to work, and embark on their enterprizes either on their own account, or as mercenaries to other leaders; secondly, those in which merchants through enmity and competition arising in their business transactions get together a gang and plunder each other's houses; in these nightly attacks, the bonds and deeds are always abstracted, so that malice and hope of freedom from pecuniary liabilities incurred in trade, as well as plunder, are the objects of the robbers, as these bonds could be of no use to common thieves; and thirdly, those perpetrated by persons of some position in the District, who are to all appearance respectable inhabitants, well to do in the world, and not unfrequently heads of Villages, who with a view of adding to their estate, plan an attack upon some wealthy individual perhaps residing 60 or 70 miles distant, collect the gang, receive the lion's share of the plunder, and protect their poorer fellow culprits from being brought to justice, which their position, and means enable them to do effectually, and should suspicion attach itself very strongly to any one of these apparently respectable marauders, he soon diverts it by betraying two or three of his gang who may perhaps have offended him, and delivers them up with some small articles of stolen property. That gang robberies are not therefore influenced, so much by seasons as one would expect, and the evil has now taken such deep root that until the Police and procedure in the Courts are greatly improved, it cannot be expected to check them, although a vigilant supervision over the means now at hand, insufficient though it be may tend to keep them down to a considerable extent.

That the highway robberies are chiefly perpetrated by Koravers, Wodders and the Boya caste, whose profession is thieving of this kind, and as their haunts are generally in the most secluded jungles, and feverish localities, their apprehension is a difficult matter, and their conviction much more so, as they bury their ill-gotten gains in the jungles in some spot only known to themselves.