MR. O. 1—32,000—15-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 881 Press ~~Mis~~

25-26

Dated 25—7—~~19~~1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 25. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated 14th July 1857, No. 263.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter received from Mr. T. J. Knox, Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam, mentioning the murder of Golla Ramoodoo, one of the peons to whom Government sanctioned a reward of 100 Rupees for effecting the apprehension of Vamoola Nauchariguadoo, whose second escape from Jail, I notified to Government in my letter of the 15th Ultimo.

2. Mr. Knox expresses the belief, common throughout the district, that the murder was committed by the escaped convict, for whose re-apprehension he now requires permission to offer a reward of 1,000 Rupees.

3. Mr. Knox adds that, should there be strong suspicion that G. Ramoodoo was murdered by the convict Nauchariguadoo, he should have no hesitation in offering the reward for his head, the easiest way of ridding the country of such a savage.

4. It appears to me that the error, which Mr. Knox's expression seems to imply, should be corrected, and as I have found considerable hesitation on the part of another Magistrate in risking the lives of armed plunderers from fear of the consequences, I think it would be well that the principle on which a reward is set on the *head* of any man should be clearly and generally explained.

5. It is lawful for any man to apprehend a proclaimed perpetrator of a heinous offence, and if such heinous offender, after conviction, escapes, it is lawful for any person to apprehend him, and if he cannot effect his apprehension without imminent danger to his own life, it is, I imagine, at that person's discretion to take the life of the proclaimed offender fleeing from justice rather than that he should be allowed to escape. The reward is issued for the *apprehension* and if the Magistrate is satisfied this could not safely have been made without the killing of the offender, he would pay the reward whether such proclaimed offender were brought in dead or alive, and the slayer would be justified in his act.

6. I do not think Mr. Knox would be justified in proclaiming a reward for the *head* of the escaped convict so as to induce the captors to kill him without immediate cause.

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

From T. J. KNOX, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam; to J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector of Prisons, dated 8th July 1857, No. 252.

SIR,

I have the honor to beg that you will obtain the sanction of Government, that I may pay a reward of any sum up to 1,000 Rupees to any person who captures the escaped convict, Vamoola Nauchariguadoo, about whom I have written to you under date 4th June 1857.

2. My reason for attaching very great importance to this man's apprehension is that since his escape, one of the persons, a peon named Golla Ramoodoo, to whom Government, only a few days ago, sanctioned a reward for apprehending this villain before, has, I believe, been murdered by this very man. I am not yet able to say positively that it is so, but I believe it, and every body in the country does, and it is well known he vowed vengeance, and apparently the corpse was sent to the Joint Magistrate to prove how he kept his word. This man's notoriously bad character and the very great fear there is of him among all classes, a part from his concern in the peon's death, justifies me, I think, in asking for a handsome reward, and one which would attract notice in the Nizam's territories, where I would endeavour to circulate invitations for his arrest.

3. Should there be strong suspicions that he murdered the peon, I shall have no hesitation in offering the reward for his head, the easiest way of ridding the country of such a savage.

(Signed) T. J. KNOX,
Acting Magistrate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. ROHDE,
Inspector of Prisons.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 881; dated 25th July 1857.

The Inspector of Prisons and the Acting Magistrate of Masulipatam are informed that rewards should be issued for the apprehension only of offenders. Government sanction a reward of Rupees 1,000 being published for the apprehension of Vamoola Nauchariga doo, as recommended by Mr. Knox.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Read letter from Inspector of Prisons - d. 14 July 1857

~~Reports the~~ ~~the Govt's~~ ~~Govt~~ ~~that the~~ the Inspector of Prisons & the ~~will~~ immediately upon the acting Magte of Masulipatam that it is never allowable to issue a proclamation for the head of an offender - Rewards are to be issued for the apprehension only of offenders, and no act of violence are to be committed against them except in self defence -

2 - ~~It is~~ observed that the principle ~~Govt~~ was formally laid down by the Hon C. Prinsep ~~India~~ in their despatch to the Supreme Govt dated 9 Feb 1831, & the Govt of India in authorising rewards for the apprehen-

Will Commissioners marked (Ex Post)

Extract Minutes of Consultation
dated 25th July, 1857.

Read the following letter from
the Inspector of Prisons.

Agra under 14th July, 1857. No 1089.

The Inspector of Prisons & the Acting
Magte of Mozuffurnuggur are informed
that Rewards should be given for
the apprehension only of Offenders.
Govt sanction a Reward of Rs 1000
being published for the apprehension
of Veer Sah Nundhareegaloo, as
recommended by Mr. Tucker.

Elle

To Inspector of Prisons — } Dispd 25th
" Acting Magte of Mozuffurnuggur }

Item of Matters, have
just observed in their
Circular instructions, dated
10 Inst. as follows "It has
"come to the knowledge of
"the Govt of India that Rewards
"have ~~been~~ in some cases
"been offered for the capture
"of Mutineers & Rebels which
"is bad - The practice should
"be strictly prohibited"

Elle

Pl. Lt. to Engr. 24th Dr.
No. 31 of 1857 (Dft. 3

Ord. Dep. Surveyor's Office: 28th ~~August~~ July

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28.9.57