M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 972 Press Mis

26.27

Dated 6—8—1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 26. Read the following Circular from the Chief Engineer, to all District Engineers, and Superintendent E. C. Canal, dated Fort St. George, 13th July 1857, No. LXIII of 1857-58.

1. In supplying each District Engineer with 10 copies of the Resolution of Government, in the Judicial Department, No. 808, of the 11th July 1857, and the Circular from the Chief Secretary, No. 798, of the 10th Idem, to all Magistrates throughout the Madras Presidency, the Chief Engineer calls upon those officers to use their own discretion as to the members of the Upper Subordinate establishment they will furnish with these instructions.

2. In making this selection, they will chiefly be guided by the spirit and intelligence of their several subordinates; and the District Engineers will take care, that the orders to arrest all really suspicious characters are carried into effect with equal promptitude and resolution.

3. According to the position of each officer or subordinate entrusted with the execution of the present instructions, District Engineers will be careful to explain to what Police authorities each person or persons arrested shall be made over, and they will also devise measures, whereby suspicious characters who may be in greater strength than a single loyal subject of the Government can cope with, shall be kept under observation, until an opportunity for successfully completing the arrest may present itself.

4. On the other hand, it is not intended either that the ordinary employment of the members of the D. P. W., shall be interrupted, in order that leisure may be obtained for following or examining travellers; or is it meant that peaceable and respectable way-farers shall be obstructed; the wish of the Government is simply to avail itself of the services of a department whose duties give them special facilities for observing the movements of native travellers, in order that when suspicious persons, and particularly religious mendicants, or those with a Military bearing are met with, especially if moving from the north, they shall, by departmental instrumentality, be laid hold of, and made over to the custody of the nearest Police authority, proceedings being reported to the District Engineer forthwith.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, No. 972; dated 6th August 1857.

To be recorded.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Judicial Department

No. 808.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 11th July, 1857.

Resolved that a copy of the Circular to Magistrates, No. 798, dated 10th Instant, be sent to the Chief Engineer, with instructions to direct the Officers of his Department in the Provinces to arrest any Bengal Sepoys whom they may see, and hand them over to the nearest Magistrate. Their proceedings in executing this duty, have the sanction, and will meet with the support of Government.

(True Extract)
(Sd.) E. Malby
Acting Chief Secy.

To
The Chief Engineer.

Judicial Department

Circular No. 798.

To,
The Magistrate of

Sir,

In continuation of my Circular letter No. 453, I am desired to instruct you, under the provisions of Act XVII

of

of 1857, to detain in custody any Sepoys of the Bengal Army who may enter your District, reporting the circumstance to Government in each instance.—

2 You are also authorized to detain in custody, pending the order of Government, any religious Mendicants or suspicious characters whom you may apprehend, instead of taking bail or security from them, when this course appears advisable.—

3 You are cautioned to scrutinize carefully all Jaguers, Syces and Pindarees, as deserters from the Bengal Regiments are likely to assume such characters for disguise.—

I have the honor to be &c.
(Sd) E. Maltby,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

Fort St. George,
10th July, 1857.

(True Copies)

W. E. Baker Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

In Mily Dpmt: 11th August

Judicial 18th Despatch

From
The Chief Engineer

Dated 3rd July 1857
Rec'd 10th 1857

Communicates a Circular issued to the Officers of his Department in the Provinces on the receipt of the Order of Govt relative to the arrest of Bengal Sepoys

No 1972
To be Recorded
11 August 1857

26 & 27