

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1089	Press ~~Mis~~
24-25	
Dated 7-8-1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1089

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 10th August 1858.

No. 24. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Special Commissioner of North Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Jugglebett, 13th July 1858, No. 355.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that matters on the frontier wear no better aspect than when I wrote to you on the 18th Ultimo; several petty skirmishes have occurred since, between the Portuguese and the rebels; but the latter appear to have had rather the best of it, several of the Portuguese having been killed, whereas it is doubtful whether more than one of the rebels has suffered.

2. Captain Way was obliged to return to the Warree country, after the attempted dour mentioned in my letter of the 18th June. It is said that the Portuguese have since withdrawn the posts they had in the tract alluded to in para: 3rd of that letter, as occupied by the rebels. That tract may be described as a rough delta whose base to the eastward is the wall of ghauts, and whose boundaries on the N. W. and S. W., are two rivers which emerge, and meet at its open and westward extremity. The rivers are difficult to cross in the rains and the boats have been mostly destroyed by the Bund; who at present appear to have it all their own way inside. The effect of this must be most injurious, and it is of very great importance that the rebels should not be allowed to organize and increase their force, acquire union and confidence, and spread abroad the idea that they are making an open and successful stand.

3. I can hardly doubt the truth of the report; and yet why the Portuguese Commandant with the force he was said to have at his disposal, should have withdrawn any out-posts I am at a loss to imagine; instead of being withdrawn, posts should be kept as near as possible to the enemy, and undoubtedly one, at least, of 100 or 150 men, should be held *within the delta*. This would have immense effect in overawing the villagers about, and in harassing and cramping the rebels by its very vicinity. It would not require a stronger escort than might easily be furnished to keep open, in the face of such a contemptible enemy, all communication that might be necessary.

4. The Portuguese Commandant is evidently anxious for the co-operation of British troops on his own ground. At the present season, in such a country as the rebels are infesting, and with no troops in reserve in the field, I am not prepared to recommend an advance into the Portuguese country from any of our small out-posts, without some very definite object (as an actual brush with the rebels, or the capture of a Sirdar,) and reasonable prospect of attaining it, but I know Captain Way intended returning to the Portuguese country if he could; and I have written to him now, urging him, as strongly as I am in a position to do, to take up a post or posts, in the Suttree Mahal in the delta if possible, in conjunction with the Portuguese, and have offered assistance in the way of supplies, &c., from Tinay should the communication prove easier thence than from other directions.

5. I would take this opportunity of bringing to your especial notice that though it may be impossible to do very much during the rains beyond keeping the Bund under, as above suggested, or otherwise as may be, a matter as important to us, as to the Portuguese, yet that after the rains a vigorous move *must* be made, and the rebels completely crushed; and that matters should be arranged beforehand to secure the certain and speedy accomplishment of this object.

6. At present the arrangements here are not satisfactory. Mr. Robinson had, and I have now, only the powers of a Joint Magistrate. Co-operation with the Portuguese in the present state of affairs is indispensable, yet I have no recognized political authority, and I can only suggest, not direct, any Military occupation or movement. Captain Walpole commands the troops, but has no political power; nor can he influence the Bombay troops in any way. Captain Way I believe has some political power, but cannot direct the Madras force: and where authority is so divided even were opinions unanimous, communication takes so long, that vigorous action is rendered impossible.

7. I would respectfully suggest therefore that some one should be invested with the power of a Political Agent, directly authorized to direct the movements, or occupation of posts, by our troops; to communicate with the Portuguese; and operate in connection with their forces in the Portuguese country, if advisable. Such Officer should have authority over the whole British

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 10th August 1858.

force in the field, whether belonging to Bombay or Madras. I think the services of the Warree Corps would be valuable; but, supposing a Madras Officer to be Political Agent, if there be any difficulty in bringing Bombay troops, under his authority, it would be better to dispense with their services than to divide authority, and increase the Madras force by some 300 men.

8. Without wishing to be an alarmist, I would respectfully but urgently press this point on the consideration of Government. The matter may appear trifling, and the enemy as contemptible as they are annoying, but it is not what the rebels *are* alone that should be considered, but what they may become; not Deeparana and the Sawanths themselves that need give much cause for anxiety, but the uneasy feeling and bad example that the existence at large, and in rebellion of such parties, despite our known efforts to crush them, excites and sets, and from all precedent it would seem that British power must be exerted, that matters will not be set straight by the Portuguese alone though their country is now the scene of operations.

No. 25. To the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated Fort Saint George, 7th August 1858, No. 1069.

SIR,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to forward, for the consideration of the Government of Bombay, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Special Commissioner and Joint Magistrate of Canara, dated 13th July 1858, No. 355, respecting the state of affairs on the Goa frontier; and to request the favor of the views of that Government on Mr. Ballard's proposition regarding the appointment of a Political Agent specially authorized to direct the movements of our troops there, to communicate with the Portuguese Authorities and to co-operate with their Forces in their own territory.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Judicial Department

N^o 1294.

*From
The Special Commissioner North Canara.
(Dated 13th July 1858.)*

For Orders

I don't see why the Joint Magistrate should not act in concert with the M^y officers on his present footing. At all events such an arrangement as Mr Ballard proposes cannot be made in concert with the M^y Govt. The matter does not press for nothing can be done during the monsoon. Meanwhile the papers should be sent to Mr Harris M^y

W. H.

*I am directed by Lord Harris to state that in his opinion the Papers should be communicated to the Govt of Bombay with a request that they would take the subject into consideration
W. H. Barclay. July 27th*

*our troops there, to communicate
with the Portuguese authorities
and*

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 10th August 1858.

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Dispt. 11th

Judicial Department

no 1069

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in their own territories.

Fort St George
4 August 1858 -

J.P.

with the following

Copy to G. A. Ballard Esqre,
Sp. Com. North Carolina } Dated 1st Sept.

J.P.

Charles G. & Co. 275 B. 005
Aug 1858
Paris 307

W. B. & Co. 10 20 95
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To
The Secretary of the
Board of
Commerce

20/10 August 1858

Feb 1552
" 1654
" 1831-1832

24 1825

CS. July 1858