M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 115 Press Mis

20-21

Dated 22 — 1 — 1921

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 20. Read the following letter from Lieutenant A. C. McNEILL, Agent in the Hill Tracts of Orissa; to CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William, dated Camp Russellcondah, 21st December 1857, No. 280.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following observations for the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council.

2nd. About two months ago, a party consisting of 15 individuals, personating the character of Byraghees, entered the Hill Tracts viâ Sooradah and traversed the greater portion of the Chinna Kimedy Hills, visiting the Principal Ooryah villages. They then passed on to Boad, and reached this place on Tuesday last the 15th, remained that day and the following, and left on the morning of the 17th Instant.

3rd. I only received intimation of them on the 17th Instant, and immediately despatched a Sebundy guard to apprehend them. They were brought in yesterday, having been seized on the borders of the Nyaghur Zemindary about 25 miles distance from this station.

4th. The accounts they give of themselves are very unsatisfactory. They voluntarily informed me that they had traversed the Khond Tracts as above mentioned, stating that their only object in doing so, was to beg, but they acknowledged, that they had never previously visited those Districts for any purpose whatever.

5th. When seen in Russellcondah by various parties, they stated, that they had arrived from Cuttack, again that they had come viâ Berhampore and Aska and were returning to Poore; 3rdly, that they had begged their way from Mirzapore, and lastly, they informed some traders at Coorminghiah in upper Goomsur that they had arrived from Sumbulpore and Sonapoor, and were on their way to Russellcondah.

6th. When questioned by me they denied in toto ever having made any of the above statements, and when brought in resembled ordinary villagers rather than "Byraghees." Many of them talk the Ooryah spoken in Goomsur and which differs considerably from that which obtains in the Cuttack District. They had also a considerable sum of money in their possession (upwards of 90 Rupees.)

7th. As it is not improbable that they are spies from Sumbhulpore, I have detained them until I can ascertain whether they have been intriguing with the Khonds or not, and I shall report fully on this subject hereafter.

8th. While on this subject, I consider it my duty, though holding no authority on Goomsur, to report for the information of Government that within the last few days I have heard from various sources that an uneasy feeling at present pervades the frontier Mootahs of lower Goomsur, the new grain crops are being secured with greater haste than usual, and in some instances, the grain is being removed from the villages, while in some places the inhabitants are in the custom of deserting their villages during the night but return during the day. The reasons assigned for so acting have been stated as three, viz., that Chockro Bissye will take advantage of the Sumbhulpore disturbances and make inroads as formerly. 2ndly, that the Sumbhulpore rebels intend visiting Goomsur. 3rdly, that the Khond intend pillaging the low country. These may be considered merely as rumours, without foundations of any kind, and I sincerely trust they may prove to be so, but (taken in conjunction with the suspicious movements of the Byraghees) and as I have heard them from various independent sources, I have considered it proper to report them for the information of Government.

(Signed) A. C. McNEILL,
Agent in the Hill Tracts of Orissa.

No. 29.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George for information.

Home Department, the 4th January 1858.

(Signed) J. W. DALRYMPLE,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 26th January 1858.

No. 21. ORDER THEREON, No. 115; dated 22nd January 1858.

Resolved that copy of Captain McNeill's letter be furnished to the Agent in Ganjam and that he be requested to ascertain from Captain McNeill and report what has been the result of that Officer's further enquires regarding the alleged Byraghees and what has been done with them.

Mr. Knox will also report whether, as supposed by the Meriah Agent, an uneasy feeling prevails in the frontier Mootahs of lower Goomsoor and what he has himself done for the protection of that part of the country.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Rd. F. Cartledge.

No 115.

Resolved that copy of Capt: McNeill's letter be furnished to the Agent in Ganjam and that he be requested to ascertain from Capt: McNeill & report what has been the result of that Officers further enquiries regarding the alleged Byraghees and what has been done with them.

Mr Knox will also report whether as supposed by the Meriah Agent an uneasy feeling prevails in the Frontier Mootahs of Lower Goomsoor and what he has himself done for the protection of that part of the country.

Fort St. George 22d Jan: 58
Agent in Ganjam
Dispd 22d