

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1215	Press
Back No. - 14-15	~~Mis.~~
Dated 4-8-1965	1965

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Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th September 1858.

No. 14. Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor, in Vizagapatam, ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 24th August 1858, No. 40.

SIR,

Para. 1. I have not as yet made my report to Government respecting recent petty disturbances in the talook of Golgondah. I call them petty because of their source and of the contemptible character of the majority of those concerned in them, at the same time the object or intent of the instigators of the rise having been to set at naught all authority and to create general disaffection throughout the country against the British Government, the crime of the offenders is nothing short of treason, and but for the prompt and timely measures adopted, the result might have proved very serious.

2. In April last, disaffection first showed itself in the assembling of certain persons of influence in the jungles of Golgondah who were shortly after joined by others of less note, until their numbers are supposed to have reached to about 300 men, fully equipped and armed. The natural difficulties of the country presented insuperable ones to any successful encounter with these people and their intelligence department proved so good that for several months any attempts at a surprize entirely failed and the Sibundies under Captain Owen and the Adjutant on more than one occasion reached their encampment in time to make sure that the rebels had left but a short time previously. I will not however enter here into any connected detail of the plans and movements adopted to put a stop to the disturbance, it will be matter of hereafter report, should the Government desire a connected history of the affair, the successful termination of which it now gives me pleasure to report, and all I seek intermediately is the sanction of Government for the payment of certain rewards, the offer of which, after various unsuccessful efforts of the Sibundies, it appeared to me would likely facilitate the result by inciting many to aid in the apprehension of the ring-leaders and thus bring to a speedy issue this petty local rebellion.

3. I submit for Government information that part of the correspondence between Captain Owen and myself relating to the offer of these rewards, by which it will be seen that they were not hastily or unadvisedly proffered. Promptitude was every thing, and in all such cases, and I felt assured of Government support in any measures I might adopt for the speedy repression of a state of things which kept up a species of excitement and uncertainty among the peaceable inhabitants of that part of the country.

4. The principal men have now been captured and the entire faction has been completely broken up. There are in custody 20 men, of whom 6 are about to be indicted as principals, 14 as aiders and abettors, while others will be put on their trial for harbouring and secreting the former. I have felt it in every way desirable for example's sake, that the trial should be formally conducted at Nursipatam, where all in that neighbourhood will have the opportunity of witnessing it, and I have caused a large sort of shed building to be erected there in which to hold my Court.

5. The accused will be indicted under the Act on the several charges to be framed against them, and they will be formally tried by me as Commissioner.

6. I am doubtful whether it is in my power to admit as approver any of the accused. Captain Owen who as Assistant Magistrate is preparing the case for committal before my Court, has addressed me the enclosed letter recommending that to complete the chain of evidence against certain of the principals, one "Goodepoo Benna Bhoopaty," now a prisoner, be made a witness. This man's part in the matter is sufficiently detailed in Captain Owen's letter, and as Captain Owen is well acquainted with nearly all the parties as well as with the relative amount of offence committed by each, I think his suggestion deserves consideration, and it seems to me more desirable that the recommendation should come from him as the Committing Officer, and that this prisoner's evidence should be admitted against the rest before the case comes on for trial, than from me, when sitting on the Bench in my capacity of Judge.

7. I am not of course sufficiently acquainted with the record of evidence which comprizes

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I believe some 60 witnesses, nor do I think it my province at this stage of the case to wade through the record to satisfy my mind on the necessity or otherwise of Captain Owen's recommendation. I have that confidence in Captain Owen's capacity and judgment to believe him quite competent to form a tolerably correct estimate of the evidence and therefore of any deficient links there may be in it as affecting certain of the principal prisoners, and as it is to supply this deficiency he has made the recommendation, I presume it properly devolves on me to support it.

8. I shall have the honor of again addressing you so soon as the case has been formally committed, but which cannot be until after the receipt of your acknowledgment of this letter.

From Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golgondah Sibundies, Nursapatam; to C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, dated 25th May 1858.

SIR,

Having obtained evidence on solemn affirmation from Patha Veedee Guntem Dhora and Kotha Veedee Sunnassee Dhora, and Iyapah Dhora, Sirdars of Goodem, that the undermentioned Sirdars or leaders, have conspired against the State and collected numerous armed men, for the purpose of carrying out their designs, and threats of attacking the Sebundy Guards, and they, or their followers have moreover fired upon the Sebundies, and also demanded and in some instances received portions of money, being revenue due to Government. Ordinary means having failed for their apprehension, I have the honor to request your authority, should you see fit, for a reward of (500) five hundred Rupees being offered for the capture of each leader, viz:—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Golcondah Sunnassee Bhopaty. | 4 Patha Veedee Sunnassee Dhora. |
| 2 do. Krooshna Bhopaty. | 5 Sagina Lutchmun Padal. |
| 3 Sagina Somanah Padal. | 6 Thuggee Rajun Dhora. |

2. On the 22nd Instant, I offered a reward on the part of Government, to the extent of Rupees 100 for the capture of Sagina Somanah Padal, though; do not consider this sufficient, he is the Dewan or manager amongst the rebels.

3. The jungle is so dense that the rebels said to be upwards of 200 in number, escaped us yesterday, notwithstanding every arrangement made to surround them. I will continue my endeavours to follow them up.

4. The undermentioned men are not of so much note, but a reward of Rupees (100) one hundred for each might be advantageously offered for their capture.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Patha Veedee Poojaree Appan Dhora. | 8 Puspoolaty Padal. |
| 2 Vempalara Kamiah. | 9 Sagina Joyee Padal. |
| 3 Duntooloroo Nursim Rauze. | 10 Woukin Padal. |
| 4 do. Sooba Rauze. | 11 Toora Pentardoo. |
| 5 Thugge Sherhun Dhora. | 12 Robba Ramanah. |
| 6 do. Lingum Dhora. | 13 Robba Chinniah. |
| 7 Boningy Kistam Padal. | 14 Bena Bhopaty |

5. I beg to enclose copies of the depositions of the Goodem Sirdars, as also that of the son of Paikrow, which have taken on affirmation, as am inclined to think you may hereafter admit him as a witness. The original depositions shall be forwarded to you hereafter with all other papers of evidence in the matter now under investigation.

A portion of the evidence herewith forwarded implicates Beniah Padal of Markarum, and it appears desirable he should not remain at Nursapatam, and I accordingly send him and his follower Gamoo Sunnassee to you, under a guard, they proceed towards Vizagapatam this day. 26th May 1858.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th September 1858.

C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor; to Captain W. G. OWEN, Commanding Golgondah Sibundies, Nursipatam, dated 31st May 1858, No. 135.

SIR,

I am in receipt of your letter, dated 25th May Instant, requesting my authority in reference to existing disturbances in the Golgondah talook, for the offer of a reward of Rupees 500 for each of the 6 individuals named in the margin,* represented by you to be leaders or principal men in the emeute, and of Rs. 100 for each of certain 14 other persons whom you name.

Primâ facie there are obvious objections to offering large rewards for mere disturbers peace, where the ordinary means available may not have been adequately put forth to enforce the capture of such persons, besides, it is calculated to invest the offenders with an undue tance in the eyes of the people, which can but enhance the difficulties in the way of their capture; and paying a large reward merely for the capture of an individual who may be subsequently released, has little moral effect and becomes a waste of public money; except in very instances, the condition of the payment of a reward should be the conviction of the party, knowing the energetic though unsuccessful efforts made by you to secure the persons of the present rise, I am quite prepared to support your recommendation in the case of each of the 3 families of Bhoopaty, Padal, and Dhora, leaving you to determine which of them respectively should be so signalized, and if you feel tolerably certain that ample proof of guilt will be forthcoming, as your letter under acknowledgment indicates, as well as premonitions, you are at liberty to offer Rs. 500, unconditionally, that is for their capture only.

In the case of the remaining 3 persons as well as the other 14, I think it will be sufficient to offer rewards of Rs. 100 for each, conditioning that such reward shall be payable on condition of their being in any way concerned in the present disturbances.

Notwithstanding these definite instructions in regard to the rewards, I desire to add that I will have my full support in any deviation from them which you may consider necessary, consequent on any sudden emergency, when time may be an object and where the exercise of discretion and assumed authority may appear to you of importance towards the suppression of this rebellion.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor.

Captain W. G. OWEN, Assistant Magistrate; to C. W. READE, Esq., Agent to the Governor and Magistrate, Vizagapatam, dated Waltair, 24th August 1858.

SIR,

Vith reference to the depositions of the witnesses in the case now being prepared for trial by you, as Commissioner, anent the recent disturbances in the Golgondah talook, I have the honor to bring to your notice that the evidence of Goodepoo Bena Bhoopaty, now a prisoner at Vizagapatam, is most important to complete the chain of evidence against three of the principal persons, viz., Boningy Kistna Padal, Kinchary Mulliah and Mottadum Iyapah Dhora, of Veedee, Goodum, and also against Beniah Padal, now a prisoner at Vizagapatam. Goodipoo Bena Bhoopaty was captured and brought in by a party of the Golgondah Sebundies, and a reward of Rupees 100 was offered, if this man should be apprehended and convicted of taking part in the late ruse; by the recorded depositions he did take part in the disturbances by acting as a messenger of Sunnassee Bhoopaty, in collecting armed men, but to ensure the conviction of the principal leaders above mentioned, it appears almost indispensable that Goodipoo Bena Bhoopaty might be admitted as a witness.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Agent to the Governor.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 7th September 1858.

No. 15.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1215; dated 4th September 1858.

Under the circumstances represented, the Governor in Council sanctions the payment of the rewards referred to in para. 2 of the foregoing communication, for the apprehension of the ringleaders in the emeute that occurred in the Golgondah Talook. He also authorizes the offer of pardon to Goodepoo Benna Bhoopatya, on condition of his giving all the information in his power connected with this disturbance.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial Department

No 1215

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
dated 4th September 1858.

Read the following letter
from the Agent at Vizagapatnam.

(Here enter 24th Augt/58 No 40)

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[Signature]

Copy to Agent of Vizagapatnam
Sect General }
And Audit } *[Signature]*

June 29th to Aug 7th 1858
J. L. 29/1858
Paris 9.

In 29th to Aug 7th 1858
Judicial 1858. Departure

Sept 18/58.

Contract. Minis. of Court

29/4. September 1858.

144/5.