

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1375	Press
		~~Mis.~~
63-64		
Dated	5. 10. 1958	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

21/11/58

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 5th October 1858.

No. 63. Read the following letter from GEORGE ELLIS, Esq., Acting Session Judge of Cuddalore and Justice of the Peace; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 24th September 1858, No. 196.

SIR,

Under Extract from the Minutes, No. 4764, of Consultation 27th December 1849, in the Military Department, the Officer Commanding the General Depôt at Cuddalore, was appointed to act as Justice of the Peace, but at the same time was instructed to confine the exercise of his Magisterial authority to the *European Pensioners* at Cuddalore.

2. Two charges, one of assault and one of abusive language, were recently preferred against

one Gunner Brandon, of the Artillery, on sick leave at Cuddalore; the parties preferring the charge* were, one the widow of a Pensioner, the other the wife of a Private Soldier on foreign service. The women having appeared before me, I directed them to make their complaint to Major Leggatt, and wrote to that officer requesting him to take up the cases, but he replied that he was precluded from taking cognizance of the cases, by the orders of Government.

3. It appears to me, that if the jurisdiction of the Officer Commanding the General Depôt as Justice of the Peace were extended to all parties living in the Pensioners' lines by his permission, as also to Soldiers on leave at this Station, resident in Old Town, and to the wives of Soldiers absent on service, very great convenience would be felt by all parties.

4. In the present case, one of the complainants was a resident in the Depôt lines, the other, as was also Gunner Brandon, living in the adjoining street. A Justice of the Peace sits daily almost on the very spot, for the Officer Commanding the Depôt is in the habit of attending his office daily; and had he been empowered to take cognizance of the case, the parties would have been spared their attendance before me, a distance of 3 miles from Old Town.

5. Under these circumstances, I would beg that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council would be pleased to remove the restriction hitherto imposed upon the Officer Commanding the General Depôt as to the exercise of his functions of Justice of the Peace, and to accord to him permission to take cognizance of cases in which parties such as I have referred to in para. 3, are concerned.

6. A matter of minor importance is perhaps not unworthy of consideration by the Government, viz., whether the Civil and Session Judge of the station and Senior Justice of the Peace, when there are others at the station, should be compelled to investigate cases of this petty description.

No. 64.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1375; dated 5th October 1858.

Under the circumstances represented in the above communication, the Governor in Council authorizes Major W. Leggatt, Commanding the General Depôt at Cuddalore, to extend the exercise of his powers as Justice of the Peace to all persons being British subjects, living in the Pensioners' lines at Cuddalore, with his permission, as also to all Soldiers on leave and the wives of Soldiers absent on service residing in the Old Town.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No 1375

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
dated 5th October 1858.

Read the following letter
from the Acting Session Judge of
Cuddalore.

(This letter 24th Sept 1858 is 196.)

Under the circumstances
represented in the above com-
munication, the Governor in
Council authorises ~~Major~~ ^{Major} W.
Leggatt, Commanding the General
Depot at Cuddalore, to extend the
exercise of his powers as Justice
being British subjects
of the Peace to all persons living
in the Prisoners lines at Cud-
=dalore with his permission
as also to all soldiers on leave
and the wives of soldiers absent
on service residing in the
old town.

Copy to AS Session Judge Cuddalore
" Major W. Leggatt, Commanding General Depot Co.
" Lieutenant
" Major: Sept.

Disptd 7th

