M.R.O. 1—33,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1470	Press ~~Mis.~~
64-65	
Dated 1920	~~19~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 64. Read the following letter from H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Magistrate of Tanjore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vellum, 5th October 1858, No. 364.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request I may be favored with the instructions of Government, in regard to the disposal of a Mussalman, named Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, a Native of Cuddalore, whose proceedings were brought to my notice last year, in connection with the trial for sedition and treasonable practices of Sayeed Jallal, Moulavee of the Zillah Court at Chingleput.

2. Mr. Dowdeswell, Commissioner for Chingleput, under Act XIV of 1857, confidentially communicated to me on the 4th August of the past year, that the Zillah Court Moulavee, had been placed in arrest under circumstances with which the Government are of course acquainted, and that my Magisterial assistance was necessary to discover who had held a very extensive correspondence with the Moulavee, at Tanjore, as it appeared that so many as 43 letters had been received by the Moulavee from that place, though only their envelopes had been found in the Moulavee's premises. Mr. Dowdeswell at the same time transmitted to me a copy of a Hindustani letter, addressed to the Moulavee by one Moonshee Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, which it seemed to the Commissioner had reference to some conspiracy then on foot.

3. For three or four days, I was unable to trace Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, who I ascertained had been in the Fort of Tanjore for about a month, lodging in the house of two Cauzees, brothers in needy circumstances, as, indeed, are all the Mahomedans who are in any way connected with the few mosques or Durgahs in and about the Tanjore Fort. These men however, denied that the so-called Moonshee had been residing with them and also asserted that they had not an acquaintance of that name. I was satisfied that they were uttering untruths, but allowed them to depart without any molestation, in the hope that the Moonshee might shortly be tracked to their abode.

4. On the evening of the subsequent day, one of my scouts, who had been located in a Durgah, in a side street, observed a young Mahomedan of about 24 years of age arrive there, evidently much wearied with travelling, who was soon discovered to be Sayeed Moortooza, the Moonshee's younger brother. He admitted having quitted Cuddalore 48 hours previously, so that in that brief period, he had covered 90 miles of road.

5. He had 87 Rupees in his possession which he declared he had been sent with to his elder brother in order to the latter making purchases of sundries, such as ghee, cloths, tamarind and other miscellaneous articles for the Cuddalore market, but it did not seem probable that a necessity of that kind only, would have called for such extraordinary haste, and I therefore disbelieved his explanation. He had with him also, a new pair of slippers, alleged to be intended as a present for an old woman in the Tanjore Fort near the house of the two Cauzees adverted to, for whose daughter some matrimonial negotiation was stated to be then in progress.

6. I neglected, I regret to say, to rip open the slippers to see if any letters were inside their soles. The thought did occur to me, but too late, and my omission, involuntary as it was, has since given me extreme concern. True it is, that I was subsequently informed that the young man was seen wearing the slippers the day after he was before me under examination, from which an inference was drawn, that the soles could not have contained any correspondence and with that belief, I have endeavoured to console myself for my oversight.

7. Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, was shortly afterwards apprehended, 7 miles from Tanjore, at Cusbah Trivady, where he had posted a Tamil and Hindustani letter, addressed to Cuddalore: indeed, it was this circumstance which led to his arrest. Certain papers were taken on Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, tending clearly to show that he had been on terms of confidential intimacy with the Chingleput Moulavee and his sons.

8. I should here mention that prior to this, Mr. Dowdeswell had stopped a letter posted at Chingleput by one of the Moulavee's sons, for Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, enjoining on him to burn all communications from the Moulavee, which might be in his possession, and I did not succeed in discovering any.

9. Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, whose father is a petty shop-keeper, between Old and New Cuddalore, had reached Tanjore, he said, 40 days back. His account of his movements since

then could not be reconciled. He alleged that he had lodged with the Cauzees before mentioned, and had twice visited Valakandapooram, a village in the Trichinopoly Collectorate, whose inhabitants are mostly Mussulman and many of them cotton-cleaners.

30 miles from Tanjore.

10. One of the letters found on him, was from a son of the Chingleput Moulavee, in which he was instructed, if he wrote, to make no mention of Cirkar affairs, not to send any Hurkaras or go to any "village" other than his own. He explained this prohibition by saying it was directed to him because, on a previous occasion, he had written to the Moulavee that it was intended to place the Nawab at Madras on the Musnud.

11. Two other letters taken from him were from the second son of the Moulavee. The one required his immediate return to Chingleput; the other had directed him to keep away from the place. Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, could account for these contradictory requisitions, only by the supposition, that the Moulavee had got into trouble. On this I remarked that he was under arrest and on trial, on hearing which Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, exhibited unmistakable amazement and alarm. In the letter calling him at once to proceed to Chingleput, he is ordered to come there secrectly and by night.

12. Another letter found on him, was an open one addressed from Madras by a brother, to the Cauzee of Valagoondapooram, in which the addressee is requested to supply some hint of what "assistance" may be expected from the cotton-beaters. The word used for assistance may cercertainly mean "fees." Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen denied any knowledge of the writer's address, denied also, having himself perused it, and asserted that the Valagoondapooram Cauzee had given it to him, to deliver to one of his female relatives, an old woman, at Tanjore.

13. Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen had not, he said, been at Chingleput since two years; when last there, he had resided in the Moulavee's house for about six weeks.

14. Adverting to the aspect of political affairs when this man was arrested, I had deemed it necessary to exercise a vigilant supervision of the correspondence passing through the Post Office at Tanjore, and in the course of my examination of the daily receipts, resolved to defer the delivery of some few letters intended for Mahomedans.

15. Two of these were addressed to Mahomedans, who have never yet appeared to claim them. One was to the care of the Cauzee with whom I have stated, Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen had lodged, to be given to the latter for delivery to the addressee.* Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen affirmed that he had never known any such person and that the reference to him was unjustifiable. The Cauzee made similar averments. Under these circumstances I opened this letter. Its general tenor, written in good, formal, legible writing, had reference to the purchase of articles calculated for the supply of a sundry wares-shop, but in it was a small scrap of paper with a few lines of little or no obvious meaning, which are written in an off-hand style of penmanship, quite different from that of the letter itself.

* Cadur Hoosain Sahib.

16. For another letter no owner could be found. On its envelope was an elaborate detail in Hindustani of the bearings of prices of certain sundries required, whilst inside it was a scrap of the same character of that above specified.

17. It is not my desire to impress the Government with a belief that these papers are satisfactory indications of an attempt at conspiracy or that the person in question had been deputed to Tanjore as an agent of others of whom we know nothing. I do, however, consider that Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen was not really and truly at Tanjore occupied in his harmless, ostensible calling of agent for purchases to be made either for his father or for the son of the Cauzee at *Cuddalore*, who, it seemed from communication I had with Mr. Arthur Hall, Magistrate of South Arcot, was in some way his employer.

18. As the Moulavee at Chingleput was sentenced, as I understood, by Mr. Dowdeswell, to imprisonment for a period of seven years, I thought it would be unwise to make any special reference in respect of this subordinate personage, Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen, and therefore, availing myself of my ordinary Magisterial powers, I called on him to produce two sureties which he was then, and has since remained, unable to do. He was, therefore, incarcerated for the period awarded in default, that is, one year, which a few days ago expired.

19. Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen is therefore again at large; but I have retained him under surveillance until I am informed whether with the information which the Government are likely to possess, there may not be circumstances within their knowledge which render it desirable and politic that, for the present at least, Sayed Zeen Oolab Deen's movements should be checked and controlled.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, No. 1470; dated 19th October 1858.

The Government are of opinion that the individual whose case the Magistrate of *Tanjore* here reports on, need no longer be kept under surveillance. They observe that *Syed Hamed Jallal* of *Chingleput*, with whom he is said to be connected, was released by their orders in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 1061, dated 7th August last.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial

1858. Depth
In cons. 19 October.
From H. D. Phillips Esquire
Magistrate of Tavoy

To J. Byeroft Esquire
Actg Secretary to Govt.
Fort Saint George

Dated 5th } October 1858
Rec'd }

Dept Sec to Govt No. 7
15-2-59

No. 1818.

No. 364. Para. 4
Extract order

Requesting instructions relative to the disposal of Sayed Feen Ool ab Deen, a Mahomedan connected with the sedition for which the Molawee of Chungleput was last year sentenced to imprisonment by the Commissioner under Act XIV of 1857

a Sec 14/10.

The Govt are of opinion that the individual whose case the Magte of Tavoy refers on, must no longer be kept under surveillance - They therefore direct that Sayed Hamed Tullah of Chungleput, with whom he is said to be connected, may be released & dismissed to his own country.

To the Magte Tavoy Extract
Fort St George
19 October 1858

Sd H. D. Phillips
Magte