M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 153 Press ~~Mis~~

25-26

Dated 30 - 1 — ~~19 [illegible]~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 25. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st January 1858, No. 288.

Read the following letter from A. HATHAWAY, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George, dated 20th November 1857, No. 260,

SIR,

				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
For the Town.....	2 Pensioned Havildars at 7 Rupees per mensem			14	0	0			
	10 do.	Sepoys	at 4 Rupees do.	40	0	0	54	0	0
For the Meylore Talook.	1 Pensioned Havildar			8	0	0			
	6 do.	Sepoys at 5 Rupees per mensem		30	0	0	55	15	7
Total Rupees..							109	15	7

1. I have the honor to request sanction in retrospect for the disbursement of the pay of the extra Sibbundies employed as per margin by Mr. Cockerell, Acting Joint Magistrate by desire of the late Acting Magistrate Mr. Sullivan, under the authority conferred by Extract Minutes of Consultation of Government dated 9th June 1857, No. 664, for the safety of the District.

2. The amount has been already defrayed from the Fort funds.

3. It is proper for me to state that prices still continue high and that a series of indifferent seasons has rendered grain so scarce in the District that there is little prospect of their falling for the present.

(Signed) A. HATHAWAY,
Acting Collector.

Extract Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th December 1857, No. 4433,

In Cons. 16th November 1857, No. 1103, R. D.

The Board observe that Government have recently sanctioned a sum of Rs. 340 for temporary peons. The Acting Collector will state whether the sum now reported is an addition to the above, and if so, between what dates the extra Sibbundies were engaged.

2. The Extract Minutes Consultation referred to evidently contemplates previous sanction in such cases as this.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

From A. HATHAWAY, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated 21st December 1857, No. 306.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th Instant, No. 4433, I have the honor to inform you that the sum of Rupees 340* therein adverted to was exclusively for the Police force employed for a period of one month, viz., from 16th August to 15th September 1857, to prevent any disturbance during the Mohurrum festival in consequence of an uneasy feeling in the Town amongst the Mussulmauns encouraged by the events occurring in the North West of India. The sum of Rupees 109-15-7 for which sanction was sought in my letter of the 20th Ultimo, No. 260, is on account of a force employed subsequently between the 23rd September and 20th November 1857, as per margin, urgently needed to allay a panic which then prevailed in the Town of Madura, and in the Talook of Meylore, owing to a rise in the price of grain in the District; as was reported in the accompanying copy of a letter from the Acting Sub Collector in charge, to Government under date the 9th November last.

* To Board of Revenue, 19th October 1857. From do. 16th November "

Meylore Talook, from 7th October to 20th November 1857,
Town of Madura, from 23rd September to 22nd October 1857.

2. In reply to para. 2 of the Proceedings under reference, I have the honor to state that it will appear from the Acting Sub Collector's letter that circumstances did not admit of a previous reference to Government for the necessary sanction.

(Signed) A. HATHAWAY,
Acting Collector.

To the Chief Secretay to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madura, 9th November 1857, No. 142.

SIR,

In submitting the enclosed statement of gang and highway robbery committed and attempted during the last quarter, some explanation seems necessary of the great increase that is observable.

2. Previous to August the average of gang robberies had not been much greater than usual, but the rains which ordinarily fell in that month held off, and, towards its close, affairs had assumed so unfavourable an aspect in the Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shevagungah, that the late Acting Magistrate Mr. Sullivan found it necessary to obtain permission to entertain an extra Police force. In September the weather continued hot and clear, and the prospects of the cultivating season became much depressed, grain rose rapidly in price and in consequence of a series of indifferent seasons all other necessaries of life were extremely dear, and the pressure was daily augmenting. A grain riot in the Town became imminent and measures had to be taken in the shape of an addition to the Police Force to repress the obvious tendency in that direction; shortly afterwards reports of gang robberies, chiefly of sheep and grain, began to be rife in the District, and continued until the opening of the monsoons in the middle of October. In the intervening period no less than 14 cases were committed to the Commissioner's Court; and there are still some to be disposed of, while the Police are on the track of parties known to have committed others. In many cases, of course, the perpetrators have remained undetected, but every means has been taken that suggested itself to stimulate the Police; and the people have been encouraged and attempts made to restore confidence amongst them. With this view, by desire of C. R. Baynes, Esq., the Commissioner, under Act XIV of 1857, a proclamation was issued under Section XXI, Regulation IX of 1816, intimating that certain parties had been rewarded for gallantry in repelling attacks made upon them, and calling upon house-holders to combine and defend themselves, offering them immunity, a point on which doubts existed, for any acts done in self defence.

3. The disturbances reached the greatest height in the Ramnad and Shevagungah Zemindaries and in the Meylore Talook, always the most turbulent portion of the District. The Police Officers reported that the roads in these quarters were infested by marauders armed with sticks, and that neither person nor property was safe. The additional Police force for the Zemindaries here came in with good effect, and some of the most disturbed places were speedly tranquillized, armed patrols were sent out in the vicinity of Madura to protect the grain bandies coming in threatened with plunder, and to allay the panic on this account which for two days was so excessive that little grain arrived.

4. In Meylore the state of affairs was nearly as unpromising. In one instance the Villagers beat off a body of twelve Peons sent to apprehend some of their member accused of gang robbery, and the Tahsildar reported that assistance was urgently needed. A small number of pensioned Sepoys, for the payment of whom sanction will be sought hereafter, were accordingly employed, and sent him armed with muskets; and Mr. Macgregor and the Naib Sheristadar proceeded to the Talook with a view of restoring tranquillity by their presence. This measure was effectual, and presently the rains supervened and all immediate cause for apprehension ceased.

5. It is a curious fact that the disturbances were encouraged by the events occurring in the North West of India, and rumours of them reached the lowest classes and the most unmanageable of the population. The Cullers, it is well ascertained, became impressed with the idea that the power of the Government was on the wane, and that they were shortly about to be emancipated from the restraints of Law. So far had these rumours penetrated that, on one occasion at least Peons charged with the execution of a decree were assaulted, prevented, and language used towards them, sufficiently indicative of the prevailing belief. The fact of affairs being thus complicated led to a doubt of the effects of rain as a panacea; and, considering the certainty that prices would not at first be materially modified by it or fall to any very appreciable extent until the coming harvest, there was some grounds for the suspicion. The result, however, has not justified the impression. Order is being restored universally, with this, without doubt, rain has much to do; but I attribute it also, in a very great measure, to the institution of the Commission Court. Shortly after the first cases had been disposed of in this Court it was notified that the punishment awarded was final, the news spread with great rapidity and had an extraordinary effect. The evil disposed learnt, with dismay, that a tribunal, to which they had not been accustomed,

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 2nd February 1858.

had been instituted; and its powers, exaggerated by native report, assumed to them an alarming aspect.

6. It remains for me to state that of the gang robberies now reported 29 were committed in dwelling houses, but that of these the property taken in six instances only was of any magnitude, while only one was accompanied with murder. In some of them the property robbed consisted entirely of grain.

(Signed) J. R. COCKERELL,
Acting Joint Magistrate in charge.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. HATHAWAY,
Acting Magistrate.

Resolved that the above letter and the Acting Collector's previous communication be laid before Government with the Board's recommendation, that under the circumstances stated, the expenditure (Rupees 109-15-7) incurred in retaining an extra Police force between the 23rd September and 20th November last, may be sanctioned.

Dated 20th November in Consultation, 11th December 1857.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 156; dated 30th January 1858.

As recommended in the foregoing communication, Government sanction the expenses incurred by the Acting Collector of Madura, in the entertainment of an extra Police force from 23rd September to 20th November last, amounting to Rupees (109-15-7) one hundred and nine Annas fifteen and Pice seven.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No 156.

As recommended in the foregoing communication, Government sanction the expences incurred, by the Actg Collector of Madura, in the entertainment of an extra Police force from 23d Sept & 20 Nov. last, amounting to Rupees (109-15-7) one hundred and nine annas fifteen and Pie seven.

Fort-Saint-George
30th Jany. 1838.

Copy to Board of Revenue
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