M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 183 Press ~~Nil~~

23-24

Dated 6 — 2 — ~~19~~ 1928

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 23. Read the following letter from M. MURRAY, Esq., Magistrate of Cuddapah; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camalapoor, 25th January 1858, No. 2.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 26th September last, No. 1245, wherein the Right Honorable the Governor in Council authorized the entertainment of 80 Peons by the Magistrate of Cuddapah from the 1st September to the end of the year, I have the honor to state, that from the arrangements made, it was found not absolutely necessary to employ the whole number of Peons sanctioned; only 42 were nominated. This was partly owing to seasonable falls of rain after the sanction was received which gave employment to the people in cultivating and sowing their lands and partly to the speedy arrangements made for the protection of the people, and my being unwilling to impose upon Government a heavier charge for the Police, particularly during the present crisis than could be avoided.

2. The number of Peons employed under the above sanction have been most useful in protecting the frontiers and a fewer number of Dacoities have taken place than in the previous months. The period sanctioned for their employment having now expired, they were struck off from the list from the 31st of December, but from the famine prices, to which every article has arisen, it is to be feared that after the present harvest has been gathered in and no employment for the people be found, and should the present prices be maintained, Dacoities will most probably again be resumed; in fact they have commenced, as four have already taken place on the frontiers since the 1st of January.

Memo.

Quarterly.	Gang Robbery.		Highway Robbery.		Total.	
	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
3rd Quarter.....	14	541	29	444	43	985
4th ditto.....	7	262	26	153	33	415
Increase.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decrease.....	7	279	3	291	10	570

3. Accompanying is a table of a few of the principal articles of daily consumption, shewing the former average prices per Rupee and those for which they are at present procurable, the cause of the present high prices I cannot account for satisfactorily, although I have been making enquiries on the subject and from which I am induced to believe that though there is abundance of grain in the country, the people will not at present dispose of it, and I have learnt that very considerable quantities are exported to Nellore and Mysore, but I do not consider this sufficient to raise the price of grain to the height it now stands.

4. Below the ghauts the harvest, to all appearance, will be a good one, though there will be considerable falling off in the revenue owing to the tanks to the westward not having received their usual supply and those above the ghaut to the south having received little or none, which has prevented the sowing of the Kartikum or first crop and in Sidhout many, from the force of the storm of the 2nd of November, burst, but the dry and garden crops, which is the principal food of the people, promises well. The present harvest being gathered and the quantity already in the District under ground will be more than ample for the consumption of the people, but if the prices continue the same as at present, it will be difficult for the laboring classes to obtain the food required for their families, it may therefore be supposed they will have recourse to robbery, the usual consequence of high prices of grain, I would therefore beg to recommend for the favorable consideration of Government that the present 42 Peons be continued from the date of their re-appointment, until the end of April when rains may be expected.

(Signed) M. MURRAY,
Magistrate.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 9th February 1858.

Statement shewing the average price of grain sold per Rupee in the District of Cuddapah in December 1856, and in the same month in 1857.

	Description of grain.	No. of measures per Rupee sold in December 1856.	No. of measures per Rupee sold in December 1857.	Difference. Increase.	Difference. Decrease.
		Measures.	Measures.	Measures.	Measures.
Rice.	1 1st sort	11	11	,,	,,
	2 2nd ditto	13	12	,,	1
	3 3rd ditto	14	13	,,	1
Paddy.	1 1st sort	25	23	,,	2
	2 2nd ditto	27	25	,,	2
	3 3rd ditto	30	29	,,	1
Dry grain.	1 Jonna or cholum	25	19	,,	6
	2 Raggy	27	21	,,	6
	3 Wheat	11	9	,,	2
	4 Sujjaloo	27	20	,,	7
	5 Arecaloo	35	32	,,	3
	6 Corralloo	29	25	,,	4
Pulse.	1 Gingely	12	10	,,	2
	2 Oil seed	24	16	,,	8
	3 Horse gram	21	20	,,	1
	4 Bengal gram	8	8	,,	,,
	5 Red gram	16	16	,,	,,
	6 Green gram	12	12	,,	,,
	7 Black gram	9	8	,,	1
	8 Alachundalloo	13	13	,,	,,
	9 Buller	14	19	5	,,
	10 Dholl	11	10	..	1
	1 Salt	15	12	,,	3

(Signed) M. MURRAY,
Magistrate.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, No. 183; dated 6th February 1858.

Under the circumstances represented, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council authorizes the entertainment by the Magistrate of Cuddapah of 42 extra Peons until the end of April next.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Encl. F. Cartledge.

No. 183.

Under the circumstances represented the Right Honble the Governor in Council authorizes the entertainment by the Magistrate of Cuddapah of 42 extra Peons until the end of April next.

Fort St George
6 February 1858.

Copy to Magistrate of Cuddapah
" Civil Auditor
" Accountant General
} Despd. 18th