M.R.O. 1—88,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	236	Press ~~Mis.~~
31-32		
Dated	23-2-	N 1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 23rd February 1858.

No. 31. Read the following letter from WILLIAM FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bramawer, 12th February 1858, No. 11.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that an armed party, headed by one Hanamantha Sawant, and accompanied by his family, altogether about eighty in number, entered Tinnay, a village of this district on the Goa frontier, on the 3rd Instant, and set fire to the Custom House, and the houses of the Government servants stationed there. As they sent notice of their approach, ordering the servants to come out to them, the cash and records were secured before the robbers arrived. Hanamantha Sawant is the son of Phondoo Sawant who formerly held the Warree country; and I believe escaped into Goa on that State being taken possession of by the British troops.

2. Mr. Robinson forwards (with his report of this occurrence, dated the 7th Instant) copy of a letter addressed to the Goa Government, in which he states that these marauders made prisoners of five individuals, Colcars and Shetsundies, and after securing a few muskets, went off towards Virgally, taking the men they captured with them.

3. They seem also to have told one Gunnabah dessaye, whom they met on the road, that they intended to destroy all our Custom Houses; but from a report dated 8th Instant, sent express by the Soopah Tahsildar, I find that after releasing the Colcars, Hanamantha Sawant crossed our frontier into the Belgaum district, where he is said to have plundered the Talapaddy Custom House, and to have burned that at Doorwal, killing (at the former place) some of the Government servants.

4. The Tinnay Custom House is the most northerly of those along the Goa frontier, and as the band have gone still further north, I hope the other stations are safe, more particularly as detachments of Goa troops have arrived both in the neighbourhood of Tinnay and Coesshy.

5. The Soopah Tahsildar supposes the object of Hanamantha Sawant to be insurrection, and has been informed that he intends to take up a position on a mountain called Dursana Gooddah on the frontier between this district and Belgaum, and that he is collecting men, and making preparations for establishing his family in this fastness, on which there is a small plain, well supplied with water, and surrounded by dense jungle.

6. From the fact of the Goa troops being so quickly on this man's track, and the Portuguese Government having sent off notice of his proceedings to the Belgaum and Dharwar authorities, I am led to suppose that the Governor of Goa has attempted to apprehend Hanamantha Sawant, and thus obliged him to cross the frontier earlier perhaps than he intended.

7. A church in Goa has lately been plundered of a large amount of money, and furniture of great value, chiefly composed of the precious metals and it is probable that the above named individual was the perpetrator of this sacrilege, and has assembled a rabble with the proceeds of the robbery.

8. The fact of Hanamantha Sawant having his family with him, will I trust make it all the easier to effect his capture, and I doubt whether he will attempt to re-enter this district, as his hopes must centre on the recovery of the country his father lost; and his movements, if he is not speedily captured, will be arranged accordingly.

9. Mr. Robinson has proceeded to Yellapoor, and will if necessary, move on to the scene of the late disturbance; but I trust that we shall be able to prevent the return of Hanamantha Sawant, though he is dreaded by the villagers, in consequence of the resistance offered by his father to the British troops; and has the character among the country people (as appears from the Tahsildar's report) of a man who has caused considerable loss of life, both among European and Native troops during the Sawant Warree campaign.

10. Mr. Robinson is in communication with the authorities of the neighbouring districts, and has taken every measure in his power to facilitate the capture of Hanamantha Sawant and his followers.

11. The Joint Magistrate was evidently unaware when writing on the 7th Instant, of the arrival of the Goa troops on their frontier at Tinnay and Coesshy; and as the Dharwar and Belgaum authorities will be on the alert, I trust that these marauders will speedily be hunted down by the Police without the assistance of the Military authorities.

P. S.—A second express has this moment reached me from Soopah. The Belgaum Police and a Company of Infantry are in pursuit of Hannamunta Sawant and his brothers. The insurgents are said to increase in strength daily, and the Tahsildar asks for Military aid. None of this gang are at present in the district, but they have threatened to loot the village of Assoo to which the Tahsildar has proceeded. I await further information from Mr. Robinson who has proceeded to Yellapoor.

Report greatly exaggerates the strength of these marauders probably, but they are supposed to have collected 200 men.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, No. 236; dated 23rd February 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Jud. Lr. to Engd. 30th June No. 9 of 1858 - Paras 2 & 3

Copy furnished to the Military Department by order of the Chief Secy.
[illegible]
19th [illegible]

C 18 Feb.
R 19 "

31-32

Jud. Lr. Cons. 23d Feby 1858
1858 Dept.
From Magistrate of Canara
To Chief Secy. to Govt.
Fort St. George.

Dated 12th } Feby 1858.
Recd. 18 }

No. 11

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Reports on Certain outrages Committed at Tinnay a Village of this District on the Goa frontier, by an armed party headed by one Hanamantha Sawant & on the measures taken to apprehend the marauders. No. 236
23/2/58. Recorded