M.R.O. 1—33,000—[illegible]0-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	244	Press ~~Mis.~~
144		
Dated	24-2-	№ 1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers.

No. 1. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Kapoly, 14th February 1858, No. 74.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter this day despatched by special messenger to the Magistrate or Officer in Command of the Field Force employed in the disturbed districts which will I believe, sufficiently explain to Government the present position of matters in that locality.

In abandoning my original intention of effecting a meeting in this district with some of the European Officers engaged on this service and deciding to return to Jugglebett to await the arrival of the succour promised from Dharwar, I am making it appears to me, the arrangement most suitable under the circumstances. This place is only 6 or 7 miles distant from the scene of the onslaught alluded to in my demi-official letter, and report has it that the country between this and the main road from Belgaum to Tullawadi swarms with banditti, who have laid its inhabitants under contribution.

The affair under its present aspects is rather one that concerns the Government of Bombay than that of Madras, although in saying this I would not have it understood that I wish to evade my own responsibilities or am backward in contributing to the best of my means and ability to the re-establishment of good order and the vindication of British supremacy.

The result of my correspondence with the Belgaum authorities shall be intimated to Government so soon as ever my several letters have received replies. Until I receive such intelligence, it is plain that I cannot with any propriety or likelihood of success take the initiative in a plan of attack. The Government will likewise note that I shall not have the advantage of an European Officer to confer with, and am thus left to act on my own discretion in a class of duties beyond my own immediate sphere. I may add in conclusion, that my endeavours to raise a temporary Police force have nearly wholly failed, and that the guard available for special service numbers only 25 men who are badly armed and wholly undisciplined, and upon whom I could place no dependence for purposes either offensive or defensive

---

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to the Magistrate, Assistant Magistrate or Officer in charge of the Field Force, Kawnapore Tullawady, dated Kapoly, 14th February 1858, No. 73, 3 P. M.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have this moment arrived at this place, when I found a letter from the Assistant Magistrate of Dharwar, dated the 12th Instant, informing me in answer to an application made for Military assistance, that he would despatch this afternoon 50 Sepoys under a Native Officer. He also informs me that 50 of the Native Police had already started to Hullial, there to await my orders. These latter I am just directing to join me with despatch at Jugglebett, where I presume I must keep them until the arrival of the 50 Sepoys under Native Command. Mr. Forbes mentions that the Superintendent of Police is absent at the moment he writes, but had been re-called by express, and will start with every available man to co-operate with me on the frontier. My object in coming thus far was if possible to effect a meeting with some one of the European Officers engaged on this service, but from what I hear of your movements, I am inclined to think, I shall be doing better service by falling back on my own district and then concerting measures by which to ensure the better co-operation of my force with that under your orders.

Your Police Subadar is here with 12 or 13 men, and informs me that he was attacked early this morning by a party of the insurgents, numbering about a 100, and beaten back after an exchange of shots, 3 of his men are missing but whether killed or taken prisoners he cannot say. The attack took place at Doodwalla, in and about which place he estimates that there are some 400 of the insurgents. He further informs me that a party of them have marched on Goonjee and that the intervening country is no longer safe to traverse. I shall hold on here for the night in the hope of learning from you or at least getting such further intelligence as may give me a better idea of your plan of operations, as I am myself no soldier, and shall only have a Native officer to confer with, I shall esteem it a great favor if you will indicate to me any plan of operations which may suggest itself to you as most likely to conduce to the success of our mutual arrangements. I am writing under a tree without a table, chair, or other convenience, and that must be my excuse for this hurried and informal communication.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Joint Magistrate.

No. 2. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Jugglebett, 16th February 1858, No. 84.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit for the information of Government, some further transcripts of correspondence* relating to the disturbances on this frontier.

2. Government will already be apprised by my telegram of my having placed the Sedasheghur Detachment of the 16th Regiment M. N. I., under requisition for service on the frontier, and the correspondence herewith submitted will explain this departure from my original plan.

* 1 letter from the Assistant Magistrate of Dharwar, dated 13th February 1858.
1 do. from Political Agent, S. M. D. dated 12th February 1858.

3. The Sedasheghur Detachment have had the call in the present instance, owing to the great difficulties presented by the physical conformation of the country intervening between Sircy and this portion of the division.

4. Sedasheghur on the other hand is 5 easy marches from this place.

5. The country here continues tranquil, but considerable consternation appears to prevail on the other side of the border.

6. The numerical strength of the enemy is I feel sure greatly over-stated, but still the movement is unquestionably a grave one, and our antagonists having hazarded their all in the present encounter, and being by habit skilled in guerilla operations, will doubtless offer a desperate and bloody resistance.

7. I trust that Government will not be of opinion that I am over-doing my part in this affair as apart from the impossibility of deciding at the present stage of matters, what numerical force would suffice to quell the disturbance, there are moral considerations which demand at this time the promptest and most complete vindication of our supremacy in the eyes of the people.

8. I have established a direct tappal service between my own Head Quarters and the Camp of the Belgaum Field Force, and am in hopes of being placed thereby in more frequent and regular relations with these latter than has hitherto been the case.

9. Fifty of the Dharwar Police force reached Camp last night, and I propose to make up their complement to 75 men and place them to-morrow in person in closer observation of the enemy at Komsheat, some 14 miles from the enemy's stronghold.

10. Reports from Tinay state that the insurgents are constructing by forced labour levied on the surrounding villages, a line of timber fortifications and defences on Dursengunda and its approaches.

11. I had written thus far when a letter* from the Secretary to the Portuguese Government reached my hand. I have no one in Camp to make a translation, but from some little knowledge of Spanish which I have, I gather its purport to be that Hanmuntha Saventha and his party have been living since 1844 under the Portuguese Government, that latterly they have been put on parole and under the surveillance of the Intendent of the Division in which land had been assigned them.

* Dated New Goa, 13th February 1858.

12. On the 2nd of this month they broke their parole and made their escape across the frontier. The circumstance was at once notified to the Magistrates of Dharwar and Belgaum. His Excellency concludes by saying that he is prepared to permit the entrance into the Portuguese territory of any British Force employed in their pursuit, and that having broken through all their promises and oaths, the insurgents merit the condign punishment which he hopes is sooner or later to overtake them.

From G. B. S. KARR, Esq., Political Agent, S. M. D., and Magistrate of Belgaum; to J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara, dated 12th February 1858, No. 22.

SIR,

I have had the honor of receiving your letter No. 59, dated the 7th Instant, and to inform you that the disturbances on the frontier of my district of Beeree, which adjoins yours in the direction of Tinnay, are consequent on the escape from Goa of Phond Saventha's three sons who headed the rebellion of 1845. As they are persons of influence, it is probable that the disturbance will be serious. Your presence on the spot to co-operate with me would be of great use. I trust therefore that you will be able to come to the frontier without delay, and that you will bring with you as strong a Police Force as you may be able to spare from other duties.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Joint Magistrate.

From G. F. FORBES, Esq., Assistant Magistrate in charge; to J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara, Sircy, dated Dharwar, 13th February 1858.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, I beg to send you an extract from a Telegraphic Message from the General Commanding the Division to the Officer Commanding at Dharwar.

"Do not send any troops to Jugglebett. Explain to Mr. Robinson that every man of your Regiment is required to supply the wants of the Division."

I think it necessary to make this known to you with as little delay as possible, that you may not rely upon assistance which it appears cannot be supplied.

P. S.—The Bombay Government might be telegraphed to send troops to Goa if absolutely necessary; before doing so, however, I should like to hear from you how matters are progressing.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON,
Joint Magistrate.

No. 3. From W. FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bramawer, 16th February 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that during the night, I have received an express from Mr. Robinson, dated 12th Instant, from which it appears that he has found it necessary to call on the Dharwar

authorities for Military aid, and that the proceedings of Hanamuntha Sawant have lately been characterized by a ferocity which did not mark them whilst he was in this district.

2. Mr. Robinson has reported the step he has taken, and his letter will reach you long before mine can do so. The more I can learn of Hanamuntha Sawant's plans and operations, the more clearly it appears that the movement is directed against the Government, and only likely to be put down by Military force.

3. Mr. Robinson is placed in a position of great difficulty, and has, as I trust, the Government will concur with me in thinking, acted with forethought and energy.

4. There is no Military station in this Presidency from which he could hope for assistance nearer than Hurryhur, and this place is too far from the scene of action to make its resources available at this moment.

5. Whether Mr. Robinson will be able to obtain the assistance he has applied for from Dharwar, I cannot at this distance tell; and as a precautionary measure I have written to the Officer Commanding Mangalore, requesting him to make immediate arrangements for the relief of the Detachment stationed at Sedashigur by part of that now at Honore: so that the former may be pushed on at once to Tinnay, viâ the Unshi Ghaut, should the movement prove advisable.

6. The Additional Joint Magistrate has been directed to proceed to Unshi and place himself in communication with Mr. Robinson and the Officer Commanding at Sedashigur; and further, to take steps to collect information as to the movements of the insurgents, should they re-enter this district.

7. Mr. Robinson will be the best judge of whether the assistance I am preparing will be required, and he will at once be able to give the Officers Commanding at Sedashigur and Honore due notice, should the movement of these troops be dispensed with.

8. The line of country along the Goa frontier would for the moment be defenceless, should Hanamuntha Sawant be driven out of his stronghold, and re-trace his steps through our jungles. The difficult nature of the country makes the armed resistance of a small but determined band of men a matter of much greater importance than it would be elsewhere; and in adopting the course I have taken, I have had in view the security of the Soopah talook, and the giving of that countenance to the people, which will induce them probably to resist demands for supplies, should Hanamuntha Sawant attempt to re-enter this district, on the advance of the troops from Belgaum.

9. It is certainly probable in this case, that any Detachment sent from Dharwar would intercept him, but the arrangements proposed, will, if assented to by the Military authorities, support Mr. Robinson, should he be unable to obtain sufficient aid from Dharwar; and no inconvenience can arise from having these Detachments ready to move, as Mr. Robinson will be able to inform them, if their assistance is not required, before they can possibly march.

10. Mr. Robinson's reports in continuation of his letter of the 7th Instant, have only now reached me, having been sent to Mangalore, but they contain nothing of which the Government have not been already informed, as I have received copies of the reports made to the Joint Magistrate from the Tahsildar of Soopah, by express.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 244; dated 24th February 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Memo

These papers have just been received - Perhaps some orders is required and Mr Robinson's proceedings might be approved - It is difficult to judge from a distance and on incomplete information - but he seems active and to be doing all he can.

JP

22-2-58.

Entered in List 2/3/58

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

In Dy. to Cons. 2d March Judicial. 1858. Depth

4

5

From the Joint Magistrate of Canara. Belgaum frontier. Kopoly 74.

D/14
R/22d Feby/58.

No. 341.
1 Encl.

Forwards copy of a letter dispatched by Special Messenger to the Magistrate or Officer in Command of the Field Force employed in the disturbed Districts which will explain to Govt. the present position of matters in that locality. Reports his proceedings.

Dep. 10

...ultation ...58.

...llowing Paper

...Feby/58 No. 74

" " " 84

" "

...that the ...s be

2

1

Entered in List 2/5/58

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

In Dy to Cons: 2d March
Judicial 1858 Dept

No. 244

Extract Mins: of Cons

D/24 February/58

1 to 4

5

Judl Dept

No. 344

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 24th February 1858.

Read the following Papers

From the Joint Magistrate of Canara Belgaum frontier	Here Enter 14th Feby /58 No 74
From the Joint Magistrate of Canara Juggle bell	— " — 16th — " — " " 84
From the Magistrate of Canara	— " — 16th — " — "

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

J.P.

G. Hamm