M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 288 Press ~~Mis~~

14-17

Dated 4-3-~~17~~1918

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Read the following papers.

No. 14. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Chandawady, 20th February 1858, No. 97.

SIR,

In continuation of former correspondence, I have the honor to enclose for the information of Government, transcript of a letter addressed by me this morning to the Brigadier Commanding Malabar and Canara, which will explain recent movements and the present position of matters in this neighbourhood.

2. The Telegram received by me through the Brigade Office at Cannanore is to the following effect: "that the Sub Collector should summon Military aid if he continues to require any from Hurryhur, which seems to be the nearest point to the scene of disturbance next to Dharwar."

"From Bangalore assistance connot be sent to a sufficient extent."

3. The Government will have gathered from my former Telegram as well as from the tenor of the subsequent correspondence that I have anticipated upon these instructions and that the Sedasheghur Detachment now forms part of the force under my direction for employment on the frontier.

Mr. Seton Karr, Political Agent S. M. D., in writing to me yesterday has proposed the 25th Instant, as the date for commencing active operations, but unforeseen circumstances may arise to render a little further delay expedient. In the mean time, no exertion shall be wanting on my part to expedite preliminary arrangements and to bring the matter promptly to an issue. The enemy has been hanging on our skirts for the last 2 or 3 days, and last night took advantage of some moon-light to fire several shots at the shed in which Lieutenant Nutt, of the Belgaum Field Force and myself were then sitting. On their fire being promptly responded to by the Dharwar Police guards, they seem to have decamped, for the rest of the night passed without further alarm and the moon setting, precluded our taking any further measures of attack.

4. The close nature of the country and the enemy's acquaintance with the jungle path-ways and other means of escape combined with the small force at my disposal would have rendered any attempt at pursuit futile and endangered the safety of my own men. The consternation in this neighbourhood is general, but I am in hopes that with the additional regular force received last night, I may be able to overawe the enemy and hold him at check until more decisive measures can be adopted.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to Brigadier FITZGERALD, Commanding Malabar and Canara, dated Chandawady, 20th February 1858, No. 95.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt last night, of a Telegram communicated through you from the Commander-in-Chief, conveying His Excellency's instructions as to the sources from which I should draw the Military aid required for employment on this frontier. You will be aware from correspondence already in your possession that the Sedasheghur Detachment under the Command of Ensign Reid, was on failure of the aid expected from Dharwar, placed under requisition by me for this service. Ensign Reid has most promptly responded to my call and joined my Camp here, half-way between Jugglebett and Tinay, about 11 last night. We propose marching on to Savercape, 2 miles east of Tinay this afternoon, where the Camp will probably have to remain stationary for 3 or 4 days until the plan of attack is matured. The Belgaum Field Force, 450 strong, with fifty Europeans is now at Hemergee, some 9 or 10 miles from Savercape, and I am in hopes of being able to find my way across the country to Hemergee in the course of to-morrow forenoon, with a view to taking counsel with Mr. Seton Karr, the Political Agent and the Officers there assembled, as to the best mode of commencing active operations against the enemy.

The number of the enemy is variously stated at from 400 to 1,500, but this estimate, I am inclined to think, is over the mark.

The insurgents have taken up a very strong position on a high hill in the Tinay neighbourhood, and from all their antecedents and from what has since transpired respecting their plans and intentions, may be expected to offer a most determined and desperate resistance.

1 Ensign.	1 Lascar.
1 Subadar.	1 Assistant Apothecary.
3 Havildars.	1 Hospital Serjeant.
3 Naigues.	—
34 Privates.	46
1 Puckally.	

With the Sedasheghur Detachment,* my own and a small party of the Dharwar Police force, I have in Camp, some 120 men available for service.

(True Copy.)

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

No. 15. From W. FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Camp Oodipy, 21st February 1858, No. 17.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of yesterday, I have the honor to inform you that through the Brigadier Commanding Malabar and Canara, arrangements have been made by which a full Company left Mangalore (by sea) for Honore on the night of the 19th Instant, to relieve Captain Walpole, Commanding Honore. This Officer will proceed to Sedashegur with the men he now commands on being relieved, place that post on the usual footing as regards numerical strength; and push on with the rest of his men to reinforce, and take command of the Detachment already in Soopah, under Lieutenant Reid.

This will eventually place two European Officers and 100 men at Mr. Robinson's disposal.

No. 16. From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Savercape, 23rd February 1858, No. 101.

SIR,

I have already had occasion to apprise you of my intention of having a personal interview with Mr. Seton Karr and the other officers, Civil and Military, now assembled on the Belgaum frontier. From this expedition I have now the honor to inform you, I returned yesterday afternoon, having met and concerted with the Officers directing that part of the force, the plan of attack best suited to the nature of the ground and usual tactics of our antagonists.

Into the particulars of this I shall not now, for obvious reasons enter, but so far as I can judge, the mode of attack seems judicious and consistent in its detail, and if carried out as planned, should result in the destruction and capture of the greater part of the insurgent band. In the course of a few days I hope to be able to inform Government that a decisive blow has been struck and that the 3 brothers of the Saventha family are our prisoners or have perished in the struggle.

The force now employed against these insurgents is very formidable, but in so close and difficult a country it is very possible that notwithstanding every precaution and provision, many of the band may in the first instance escape capture or death among the mountain fastnesses and defiles so familiar to them.

The 3 ringleaders in our hands are otherwise disposed of, the grand object of the undertaking will be accomplished, but still the state of the country is such that it will be absolutely necessary to detain this Detachment in the vicinity of the Goa frontier until good order and confidence have been re-established.

I would now beg to correct several inaccuracies in the hearsay version I gave in a former letter of the origin and growth of this demonstration. It would appear that the Saventha brothers and their adherents did when hotly pursued by General Outram in 1845, take refuge in the Portuguese territory. When their extradition as murderers and assassins was claimed by General Outram, the Portuguese Government quoting some old precedent, declined taking the same view of the case and denominating them mere political refugees promised that in giving

them protection as such, they would take measures which would effectually prevent their re-appearing in arms on British soil. This promise the Portuguese Government would seem to have kept, as the Saventha family were detained prisoners for 5 or 6 years in different forts in and around Goa. Latterly a less rigorous restraint was kept over them and they were allowed to be at large and reside under the immediate eye of the State at Goa. On the outbreak of Depoo Ranee's revolt, the Saventha brothers volunteered their services to the Goa Government against that rebel, and did I presume render good service, as on the termination of the struggle, they were allowed to settle themselves in Sonally, at a distance from the seat of Government, where they appear to have behaved themselves peaceably for some years, industriously clearing and improving the land assigned to them.

On the outbreak of the Bengal mutiny and the disturbances therewith connected at Kalapoor, they would appear to have resumed their former restless and predatory habits, and several extensive robberies, especially the plunder of the richly beneficed church of St. Bartholomew, having followed in quick succession, they fell under the suspicion of the Portuguese authorities as being therein implicated. With a view to secure in the least troublesome fashion, the persons of the principal members of the family, the Goa Government, it is said, invited them to come to Goa on some pretext quite foreign to the real purpose of the requisition. But these wily free-booters saw through the ruse, and without exactly declining to obey the summons, gave for answer that being tired of jungle life, they would so soon as they had disposed of their farm stock and land, hasten to present themselves at Goa. Losing no time, they at once converted all their immoveable property into money, and secretly absconded in a body across the frontier. Such is a brief sketch of the origin and development of this revolt. Hereafter Government will doubtless be supplied with a more substantial history of the whole transaction. From first to last this family seems to have been distinguished by more than the usual turbulent and treacherous characteristics of the race to which it belongs, and it therefore seems of the highest importance to the cause of peace and loyalty that its principal members should, if possible, be wholly annihilated in the present struggle.

When I next have the honor to address Government on this subject, I hope to have it in my power to record the complete success of our combined movement from both sides.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, No. 288; dated 4th March 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Jud.l Depart.t

No 288

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Dated 4th March 1838

Read the following papers

From the Asst. Magr of Canaro. (Their letter 28 Feby 38 No 77)

From the Magr of Canaro (—"— 21st "—"— 17)

From the Asst. Magr. Hanaro (—"— 23d "—"— 101)

Ordered that

the forging letters

be recorded.