M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 291	Press ~~Mis.~~
22-23	
Dated 5-9-~~19~~ 1950	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 22. Read the following letter from WILLIAM FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Oodipy, 25th February 1858, No. 20.

SIR,

I have the honor to report progress of events in Soopah up to 19th Instant, although Mr. Robinson will no doubt have forestalled me.

2. From a demi-official of the above date from the Joint Magistrate, I learn that the Belgaum authorities were understood to have collected a regular force of 500 Native Troops, and fifty Europeans. Mr. Robinson's force will ere this, amount to 100 men and two officers of the 16th Regiment, 50 men of the Dharwar Police Corps, and about 50 men composed of Sebundies and other Police of the northern talooks of Canara, altogether about 200 men. There is no reason to believe that Hunamantha Sawant's followers number more than 200 men, and there is no appearance of sympathy with his cause on the part of the population of this district. I trust therefore that the disturbers of the public peace will speedily be put down, the force at the disposal of the Officers belonging to this and the neighbouring district being apparently ample for that purpose. The only act on the part of the insurgents calling for remark as regards this district, is the destruction of the Coeshy Custom House, situated a few miles south of Tinnay. This could hardly be prevented in such a country as that at the back of the Ghauts; and with such a worthless set as our Police evidently are, the strengthening of the guard at these out-posts in the jungle, only assists the rebels in procuring arms, as Mr. Robinson observes.

3. As the disturbances have turned the trade into channels further Southward, and more out of the reach of the insurgents, the loss to Government is probably confined to the destruction of a small thatched building with mud walls, or rather to that of the roof only, though no report on the subject has yet reached me.

4. I have this morning learned from my Assistant in Mangalore, that a man has been taken up for uttering seditious cries on the parade ground there, but he appears to be deranged, and will be dealt with in the regular way. Beyond this, I have heard nothing to make me suppose that there is the slightest sympathy on the part of the people with the insurgents.

5. I have however taken precaution to watch the movements of the Sondah Rajah, who has come from Goa on a visit to his relative, Kantappah Gowdah of Indoor, although he passed through Mr. Robinson's camp, and proceeded with that officer's permission, to visit his relative and a temple at Bunnawassy of some repute, to which he proceeds to offer vows for the recovery of his health.

6. There is probably nothing in this visit, but at this moment it appeared to me proper to take precautions, and the duty has been entrusted to Mr. Pochin.

7. Kantappah Gowdah is related to the Bilghy and Sondah Rajahs, and their families have intermarried with the Coorg Rajah's family. The ancestor of the Sondah Rajah failed to come in when called on to do so, on this province becoming part of the British dominions, and the family have since that time resided in Goa. The present representative of these Rajahs is, I believe, an adopted son, and a brother of Kantappah Gowdah of Indoor, who is a person of some local influence.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, No. 291; dated 5th March 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

