M.R.O. 1—88,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 31 Press ~~Mis.~~

55-56

Dated 8-3-~~19~~ 1929

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 55. Read the following letter from WILLIAM KNOX, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor in Ganjam; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 19th February 1858, No. 64.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes Consultation, under date 22nd Ultimo, No. 115. When I first heard of the capture of the Byragees alluded to by Mr. McNeill, I directed that they should be kept under a guard of Sebundies till I reached Goomsur, as I was going up, and on my arrival, I examined them one by one, they all stated that they lived in the Benehar Talook in Cuttack and were in the habit of coming round yearly to beg though they admitted that they had not before gone into the hills, but hearing how quiet these parts now are, they were tempted to go in, the truth of their statements was as far as possible verified; the Magistrate of Cuttack writes "the account given of themselves by the Jogees whom you have arrested, appears to be quite correct. Men of that description are in the habit of travelling southward every year from the villages you have mentioned, to beg and doubtless to steal, and have as I am informed set out on their journey as usual this year also."

2nd. Several witnesses were examined, who all stated that they knew the men, and that they were in the habit of coming round begging, one of these witnesses was a Tappal Overseer whose house was near their's. Mr. McNeill had no definite charge against them, and I therefore sent them on to the Magistrate of Cuttack to be passed to their homes. The amount of money may seem large, but there were 13 to beg, and all the money was kept by one man.

3rd. With respect to the uneasy feeling alluded to, there was for a very few days an uneasy feeling which arose as far as I could discover in and about Berhampore, the residents of that town were very averse to the removal of the Regiment and I heard several unlikely stories some said mutineers were coming down through Cuttack, and that Government were destroying the wells and fodder to prevent their advance, others said it was the Mahratties coming through the hills; and these were I believe, the origin of the reports in Goomsur. I saw all the Sirdars and they all reported their parts quiet; no fears of any kind were expressed by the villagers who came in to the Jummabundy. I saw the Tahsildar of Boad whose information is generally very good and his report was satisfactory in all respects but one, he told me two residents of Gootingiah marginally* noted had been intriguing in Boad and would not come in when sent for, I at once sent a Sebundy guard to look after them and to keep the peace, the usual guards are kept up in various other parts, and Captain Smith has instructions to send out from time to time men from Head Quarters to make inquiries as to the state of feeling among the Khonds and those living near the hills. I shall not fail to report, should there be any real feeling of uneasiness in the District.

Deggy Moliko and Callea Degallo.

No. 56. ORDER THEREON, No. 311; dated 8th March 1858.

The Government approve the proceedings of the Acting Agent as reported in the above letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No 311

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The Government approve the proceedings of the Acting Agent as reported in the above letter

For the Secretary
8th March 1858

J.P.

To the Agent in Bangkok Despd 12th

C.R.O. 20-21
26/1/58

Draft for Despatch
30-6-58