M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial ~~Revenue~~ DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 270 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 20 · 3 — ~~19~~ 1888

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 3. Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Tinay Chowky, 7th March 1858, No. 140.

SIR,

Since I last had the honor of addressing you on the subject of these frontier disturbances, no movement of importance has taken place in this or the Belgaum Camp. Since the attack of the 25th, on the Dursengooda, the main "band" has eluded observation, but a recent report which places the enemy's position in the "Phond" jungle some 4 or 5 miles south of this, seems on many accounts highly probable. This jungle abounds in shade and water, has long been known as the rendezvous of smugglers engaged in the salt trade, and is, from its proximity to the Kurenjolly and Kooveshy ghâts leading directly from Sonally, the former settlement of the insurgent chiefs, admirably favorable for every purpose of shelter, intelligence and supplies. On receipt of the information that the enemy was located in this gorge, I immediately wrote and sent a sketch map to Captain Schneider, Special Political Agent with the Belgaum Field Force. This officer subsequently found his way over to my Camp, and after much deliberation, returned to Tullawady, in view to arranging with Colonel Maclean, Commanding the Belgaum Field Force, some concerted plan of attack. On the result of his interview to-day with Colonel Maclean, will depend the possibility of acting on our present information, for until the arrival of the Hurryhur and Bellary reinforcements, I am unable, without the assistance of our allies, to undertake any expedition with the small force now at my disposal. Although the part of the insurgent band under the immediate leadership of the Saventha brothers is, I am disposed to think, for the moment inactive, still I regret to state that several branch bands have sprung up in the more inland parts of this talook, and that murder and pillage have attended their movements. By a report received last night from Jugglebett, I find that on the night of the 5th, one of these bands attacked that place, and after killing the peon on guard, set fire to the Tanah and a shed which I had erected for the accommodation of myself and Cutcherry on my Jummabundy tour in December last. After committing these outrages, the gang is reported to have passed on eastward without making any attack on Cusbah Soopah, where a small guard of Sepoys has been located to defend the village and Treasury. The attack on Jugglebett is, I consider, one of the boldest and most determined movements the enemy has yet made, and was probably undertaken with a view of increasing the consternation which up to that time had not extended so far inland, and thereby crippling us more effectually in the intelligence and Commissariat departments. The panic in this talook is now so general, that nearly all the villages have been abandoned, so that as well as regards authentic intelligence respecting the enemy's intentions and movements, as the degree of sympathy and complicity between him and my own people, I am for the moment well nigh helpless. Until in fact the arrival of our reinforcements enables me to locate strong parties of troops at points where recent events have proved their presence most required, I cannot expect any improvements either as regards our own position or the re-establishment of good order and confidence among the population. As nearly as I can calculate, the Hurryhur part of our reinforcement should reach the Hullial frontier about the 10th Instant, and I have this day addressed a letter to the officer in command of that Detachment, requesting him to have a party of 50 men under a Subaltern at Jugglebett, and join my Camp with the remainder of his men. Our communications being thus re-opened, and the enemy held in partial check in that neighbourhood, I am in hopes of being able to arrest the inland progress of the revolt until the arrival of the Bellary force gives me the means of dealing more systematically and energetically with the evil. I may state in conclusion, that no exertion has been spared or expedient overlooked by either Captain Walpole or myself, so far as our small means went, calculated to arrest the onward progress of this disturbance, but as Government will, I hope, be prepared to allow on perusal of this and previous correspondence, we have had difficulties to contend with, which no ordinary foresight or judgment could have provided against. On the result of to-day's deliberations at Tullawady Head Quarters, and the plan of operations adopted, I shall take the earliest opportunity of addressing Government. I have addressed Mr. Fisher on the advisability of issuing a Special Commission under Act 14 of 1857, and requested him to submit my proposition with his own comments for the consideration and instruction of Government. Mr. Ballard's arrival at Sirey, and the impossibility of my quitting this neighbourhood and

making over charge to him for the present, would seem to point to him as an officer whose services might be turned to account in this or some other special capacity. I have no hesitation in repeating my already recorded opinion that report has greatly overstated the number and resources of the enemy, but still such is the disorganized and panic-stricken state of this neighbourhood, that this fact even if admitted, by my own villagers would not tend to re-establish confidence, and promote a spirit resistance among them, and 10 men are just as formidable for purposes of evil as 100 would be in times of greater security and independence.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 370; dated 20th March 1858.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

I hope to be prepared to address on perusal of this and previous correspondence on those last difficulties to contend with which an ordinary foresight or judgement could have provided against. On the result of these deliberations at Talkaundy Head quarters, and the plan of operations adopted I shall take the earliest opportunity of addressing Government. I have addressed Mr. Fisher on the advisability of opening a special communication under Act 14 of 1857. and requesting him to submit any proposition with his own comments for the consideration and instructions of Government. Mr. Ballard arrived at Suiej, and the impossibility of my quitting this neighborhood and making over charge to him for the present, would seem to point to him as an officer whose services might be turned to account in this or some other special capacity. I have no hesitation in repeating my already recorded opinion that report has greatly overstated the number and resources of the enemy, but still such is the disorganized and panic stricken state of this neighbourhood that this fact even if admitted by my own villagers

villagers would not lend to re-establish confidence, and promote a spirit inimitance among them, and no man are just as formidable for purposes of peril as 100 would be in times of greater security and independence...

I have the honor to be
Your most obed. Servt.

[signature]

Asst. Magt.

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In Dy Rs Cons: 23d March.
Judicial — 1858 — Septr

Judl Dr to Engr 30th June
No 9 of 1858 - Paras - 2 No 3

From the Joint Magistrate
of Canara — No.

d/7
2/15 March/58.

No 482.

Transmits certain
further information relative to the disturbances
in the Canara province.

H.

No 870
Recorded
20 March/58.

344.

C 15 March
R 18.