M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 373 Press Mis

7-8

Dated 22-3- 19(illegible)

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 7. Read the following Petition.

To the Right Honorable GEORGE FRANCIS ROBERT LORD HARRIS, Governor of Fort Saint George in Council.

The humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the populous and large town of Sydapet near Guindy in the Collectorate of Chingleput.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That owing to the inefficiency of the strength and discipline of the present Police, your Petitioners are most apprehensive of the safety of their persons and property and therefore seek at your Lordship's hands that protection of which they stand greatly in need of.

2. Your Lordship might have been informed of a daring gang robbery attended with violence committed in the house of Punnappa Moodaly on the night of Saturday the 20th Instant. The robbers entered the house openly and after ill-treating the inmates in a manner at which humanity must shudder and which your Petitioners cannot consistently with due decency detail, left the place in as public a manner as they entered it, using during their stay in the house rockets, blue lights and torches. It is impossible to believe that either the Head of Police who lived in the neighbourhood or the Police Peons were unaware at the time of what was taking place, but your Petitioners are not in the least prepared to charge them with any inattention to their duties, because the gang, they learn, consisted of nearly 100 men, some of them armed, and the Head of Police had not even ten Peons competent to resist them. The Head of Police appears to have attempted to pursue the robbers and your Lordship's Petitioners learn that though they were within his reach in the pursuit, the inequality of the strength of men and arms with him deterred him from approaching them. Your Lordship's Petitioners further beg to bring to your Lordship's notice that such robberies attended with cruelties have been almost of periodical occurrence in this town.

3. Your Petitioners are aware that some grand changes are to take place in the Police, but as their fears are so intense that some of the inhabitants even contemplate abandoning the place and removing to the jurisdiction of the Madras Police, they beseech that your Lordship in Council will allow the Magistrate some temporary establishment and direct him to adopt immediate measures to check the evil.

4. That your Lordship's Petitioners beg to suggest what should be done. Tanahs (for the present temporary sheds will answer the purpose) should be erected at different places round the town in such a manner that no person can enter it out of the view of the Peons in the Tanah. Each Tanah should have at least four able bodied and armed Peons to watch during the night by turns as well as to patrol through a certain limit. These Peons should be furnished with some sort of trumpet with instructions that if any disturbance or robbery takes place in the limits assigned to any particular Tanah it should be sounded and that the Peons of the other Tanahs should immediately after hearing it proceed to the scene, leaving one Peon in each of the other Tanahs. Besides an Inspector should be appointed to watch that these Peons do their duty properly. Unless some such plan is adopted, your Lordship's Petitioners cannot hope to live in peace particularly at this time when the price of food is so high as to render increase of crime a probable result.

5. Your Lordship's Petitioners also beg that some of the Sepoys who guard the Treasury and Jail in Guindy, the immediate neighbourhood of Sydapet, or some of the Troopers of your Lordship's body guard stationed at the Guindy Park may be directed to patrol during the nights in the town. In the event of the other demands for their service not rendering such a measure practicable, your Petitioners beg that orders may be issued that either the Sepoys or the Troopers shall always be prepared at short notice from the Head of Police or his locum tenens for the time to assist him in apprehending the robbers while they commit the robbery or in pursuing

them immediately afterwards. Your Lordship's Petitioners further humbly solicit that the Sepoys or Troopers may be at once directed to partrol through the town till other arrangements can be made by your Lordship in communication with the Magistrate.

For these acts of kindness your Petitioners as in duty bound.

Shall ever pray,

Sydapet, 26th February 1858. (Signed) A. J. JOHANNES and others.

No. 8. ORDER THEREON, No. 373; dated 22nd March 1858.

Referred to the Magistrate of Chingleput for report.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial Depart

No 411

The Inhabitants of Sydapet, Chingleput

Dated 26th Feby 1858

For Orders.

the petitioners while expressed
their object of their appeal with
in early attention -

I wish the Collector to prepare
his return of police called for
in circular - as I think an Assist
major Sugden is appointed to
Sydapet with advantage to
other part of the magistracy

attended
with

likewise are described & Petn. humbly
do have made a part of their objects.

Lastly if such a Jury made an attack
in the form as described and were to
closely followed by the Sheriff & Bailiffs
possible to discover them

and that the district of Edmondson. there
has no fixed reason for the Court Meeting
at Morton — we might take for one

Sist

No 373

Referred to the Magistrates of Chinglebut
put for report.

Torbay George
22nd March 1858.

JP

City & Magistrates of Chinglebut
with orig. Petition
Desp. 25

Returned.