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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 680

#5-46

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

28-5-

19/57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation. 25th May 1858.

No. 45. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Commissioner and Acting Joint Magistrate, North Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Jugglepett, 9th May 1858, No. 1.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that a ryot came into this Camp yesterday at about 11½ A. M., and informed me that a few hours previously, Hanumuntha Savunth in person, with a few of his band, had come to Combely, a village some 7 or 8 miles off; that they had made some enquiries regarding our Troops, that they had taken his brother with them, and were then bivouacked in a piece of jungle close to the village aforesaid.

2. Whilst questioning this man regarding this rather improbable story, the brother in question, Baupoo by name, appeared, and told us that the gang had merely made him show them a convenient place in the jungle to cook and stay in; that he had just left them, and could take us direct upon them.

3. Captain Leggatt and Lieutenant Bird, with Lieutenants Cox and Caulfield, who very fortunately happened to be in Camp at the time, in company with Mr. Binny and myself, immediately started with some 25 Sepoys, and Baupoo as our guide.

4. We were all quite unacquainted with the ground, and it is rather difficult to get accurate ideas in such cases from a Native, especially when in such a state of excitement as our guide not unnaturally was. The circumstances however were favorable. The rebels were described, and as we afterwards found truly, as being in an irregular patch of jungle, crossed by several ravines, partly surrounded with comparatively open ground.

5. We arranged that flanking parties should proceed along the comparatively open ground at each side of the jungle keeping a little in advance of the centre party, so as to cut off any fugitives that might attempt to escape at the sides or in front, and that the centre party following the guide should make a dash at the very spot where the rebels were.

6. The arrangements were partially successful. The rebels, who are said by the prisoners to have numbered 18, were taken by surprise; but from the nature of the ground, and the smallness of our party, the greater part of them effected their escape. One was shot: two were captured: and several others undoubtedly severely wounded. I fully expect one or two at least of the latter to be brought in shortly. Our fire was returned pretty smartly at first, a bullet passed through one Sepoy's turban, and another Sepoy received a trifling wound in the hand in a struggle with the second prisoner whose capture was effected by Lieutenant Caulfield breaking the stock of his double gun over the rebel's head.

7. We had never believed that Hanumuntha Sawanth was with this party. From the statements of the prisoners it appears to have been one despatched by him to reconnoitre; to collect intelligence regarding the number and disposition of our forces; and to ascertain the feelings of the country people, &c. The leader was Myrapatta Row or Desai, the individual killed yesterday. He appears to have been a person of considerable importance in the band. He, with Arjuna, and Vittoo, (also leaders but who escaped) had lately been Sayer Peons of the Beedy Talook in Belgaum. One of the prisoners was also a Beedy Peon, and so were several of the fugitives.

8. Five guns, six tulwars, several ammunition bags, &c., were found on the persons of the rebels, or as dropped by them in their flight. One of the guns is a Sepoy's fuzil

marked $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} 3. L. I. \\ B. \\ 71 \\ 42 \end{array} \right\}$. This was Myrapatta Desai's, another is a Sebundy musket marked C. 29.

This was picked up with an ornamented pouch, both said by the prisoners to have belonged to the Arjuna abovesaid. In a bag containing old clothes, &c., were found two belts, with brass badges, inscribed in English and Mahratta "Frontier Peon." One of these is said to have belonged to the Vittoo abovesaid.

9. The prisoners were taken red handed and their statements could neither heighten nor lessen their punishments. I have received a good deal of information regarding the band from one of them, of which the most important items are, Istly, that (by his account) Hanumuntha and

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 25th May 1858.

his brothers have only some fifty fighting men with them, but that these are his immediate relations and followers, the best of his band, and that far from considering the setting in of the monsoon an impediment, they look forward to working in it with increased vigour and activity, purposing to attack any parties, not too strong, and to loot wherever there may be the best chance of plunder in the Company's country. 2ndly that the main haunt of the band is in Deepurany's country and that he not only affords them a comparatively safe asylum, but directly provides them with supplies, &c.

10. I only received directions from the Magistrate to act on my Commission ten days ago, and reached this part of the country last Monday. It is therefore with all deference that I offer an opinion, but it appears to me plain that unless this Deepurany is at once induced or forced to discontinue his protection of Hanumuntha Sawunth and his band, we shall have much and serious trouble in connection with them. It is by his assistance alone that the band are able to keep their heads above water. If that is withdrawn, they sink. The Portuguese appear unwilling or unable to controul Deepurany, or assist us, and notwithstanding the difficulties of the country and season if he will not at once deliver up or expell his guests, his country should be entered in force and not left till he had been severely taught that he could not beard us with impunity.

I hope to write regarding the prisoners, to-morrow.

No. 46. ORDER THEREON, No. 680; dated 25th May 1858.

Resolved that copy of the above letter be furnished to the Magistrate of Canara. The Government will address him separately on the subject of the concluding para. in reference to his letter of the 19th Instant.

2. The Special Commissioner will immediately present the two ryots* by whom information was given him, with a reward of (200) two hundred Rupees each, for their intelligence and as an encouragement to others.

*Baupoo and another his brother, name not given.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Judicial Department

No. 680

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 25th May 1858 -

Read the following letter
from G. St. Ballard Esq. Comr.
and Asst. Mag. North Canara

Ass. dated 9th May 1858.

Resolved that copy of

the above letter be furnished

to the Magistrate
The Government

of Canara - and that

will address him separately
his attention to the subject of the concluding

para in reference to

his letter of the 19th Instant.

communication with

the Portuguese Ambro.

and measures for

compelling the Deepu.

to withhold

all communication

shelter from the Rebels.

JP

Magistrate of Canara

Asst. Mag. G. St. Ballard -

2. The Special Commissioner

Sampoo and
another. his brother
name not given

with immediately present
the two agents by whom
information was given
him, with a reward
of 200 R for hundred
Rupiah cash, for their
intelligence & as an
encouragement to
others

Mag of Canara }
J. A. Ballard Esq. & Comm. Canara } Dispt. 20th
Asst. General }
Comm. Auditor } Dispt. 22nd June

J.P.

Chudnovich Letter to Perry
7th Oct 1852
Jan 20/54

to Comd. 25th Div.
Ind. 1852
Dyke

19th 1851

to Anna Comd.

7th 1852

Dated 25th May 1852

F.C. 15th June 1852

45040.