

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Industrial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 780

Press
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35-36

Dated

15-6-

1948

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copy

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th June 1858.

No. 35. Read the following letter from W. FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara ; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Mangalore, 26th May 1858, No. 39.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes Consultation, under date 12th May 1858, (No. 620), directing me to submit my views on the strength and composition of the Local Corps, proposed to be formed for service in this District.

2. In order to enable me to do so, it seems necessary that I should know whether the proposed Corps is to be distinct from the Police force, I believe it to be the intention of Government to organize, and whether they wish me in submitting my views, to have regard only to the wants of our north west frontier, or to those of the District generally.

3. If the Corps in question is to be one for frontier duty only, its numbers would of course be limited ; but if the whole Police force of the District is to consist of the proposed Corps, the formation of such a body would call for calculation and arrangement which would not be required in giving an opinion on the strength and composition of a small and distinct force, embodied for a specific service.

4. The value of a Local Corps must of necessity depend much on its composition, and a small body does not afford room for the admission of many elements which add much to the efficiency of Corps of this description.

5. In this District, I would if possible have the peculiar wants of North Canara, or rather of the frontier Talook of that Division, supplied from a body of men raised for, and worked throughout the District.

6. Such a body would contain members of various castes and persuasions, and its component portions whether under the term of companies, or any more suitable designation could in turn do duty in every part of the District, whilst its composition would afford security against its feelings as a body being enlisted in any cause out of which future disturbance may arise.

7. Against a small Sibundy Corps for frontier duty there is much which tends to render it inefficient, and at the same time to make it liable to desertion, if not dissolution ; as from its necessary composition the sympathies of the men may be engaged against those they serve.

8. A frontier Police for North Canara must from the distaste which natives of the low lands and more southern portion of the Balaghât have for serving permanently in its jungles, consist much of men of the frontier, and hence mostly of one class, and that class not exactly to be depended on.

9. Recent reports will have informed Government that many of the best and boldest of Hunamantha Sawant's followers have been Belgaum frontier Police men, or the peons of our own Custom Houses ; and as a force to be permanently posted in our northern jungles must be composed of men of that part of the country, I should much prefer if possible, that the future guardians of our frontier should be drawn from the general armed Police force of the District, which would be made up of recruits from all parts of the country, and be so distributed, as to serve in turn in every corner of the Province.

10. Under the impression that the new Police arrangements for this Province and the Presidency generally, were before Government, I have refrained from addressing them on the subject of an armed Police force for Canara, the need of which I have sorely felt at times, when I have not been able to muster half a dozen men who could load or fire a musket.

11. A small number of Sibundies (armed peons) have long been employed in the Soopah and Sondah Talooks and although of some use as patrols and against common marauders, they are always too much scattered to possess the smallest amount of discipline, and are not numerically strong enough to be placed under the command of European Officers, on which so much depends. Whilst Mr. Robinson could place little faith in the courage of our Sibundies, and they were all but useless in the late disturbances, the Dharwar Police under the leading of European Officers did good service which Mr. Robinson readily and properly acknowledged.

12. A frontier guard for Soopah need not I think be so strong in numbers as the Malabar Police Corps, if a separate armed Police for general District duties is raised, but there are peculiarities in our case, some leading features of which I have already alluded to, likely to make it desirable that no distinct frontier guard should be entertained but that the District Police should

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 15th June 1858.

if their organisation admits of it, perform this duty as well as all others, for which such a force is calculated.

13. In conclusion, I have the honor to report with reference to para. 2 of the Extract under reply, that due provision has been made as regards *corn* and supply for the Troops now posted in North Canara.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, No. 780; dated 15th June 1858.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to defer the consideration of the formation of the local Corps proposed to be raised for service in Canara, until the Police force of that District can be re-organized.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

35830

Judicial Department

N. 962.

*From
The Magistrate of
Canara.*

Dated 26th May 1858.

For Orders.

*According to the British opinion
the Government had better let our
the two police force for Canara
can be re-organized.*

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No 780.

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Fort St George,

15 June, 1858-3

J P

Copy to Magistrate of Canara }
" Military Dept. }

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just letter to my d No. 1327.9.58

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