M.R.O. 1—20,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1236 Press Mis.
33-34

Dated 13—5— 1935

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1236
A

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, from 10th to 16th September 1859.

No. 33. Read the following letter from W. FISHER, Esq., Magistrate of Canara; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Mangalore, 26th August 1859, No. 41.

I have this moment received copies of Mr. Ames's letter to your address dated 18th August, No. 404, and its enclosure. I have also received a demi-official note from Lieutenant Drever, dated 19th, in which he tells me of his attack on the Bund on the 15th Instant, and observes that if arms cannot be procured in the Ankolah Talook, the villagers will soon learn to despise five armed men, and that we may therefore fairly conclude their days are numbered. You will observe that Lieutenant Drever does not believe that the Bund can re-arm themselves in the Goa territory, into which he is following them, but thinks they may attempt to do so in Ankolah, failing which, he considers their course is run.

2. Lieutenant Drever has no doubt written to Mr. Pochin, and as the villages on the North bank of the Black River (the only ones open to an attack from the Bund) are protected by parties of Sepoys under Lieutenant MacLean, I imagine there is no chance of the Bund being able to seize any thing that escaped them on their last visit to that neighbourhood.

3. Mr. Ames observes, that if the Bund obtain more muskets they are very likely to again increase in number, and become as troublesome as heretofore, and in conclusion observes, that he considers the presence of the re-inforcement which has marched from Mangalore, still necessary.

4. It does not appear to me that the Bund have any chance of obtaining arms in the Ankolah Talook. The Black River confines their operations to a very small portion of it, and that portion is guarded. Again supposing that the Bund did obtain arms either in the Goa territory or in ours, it is highly improbable that their numbers would increase.

5. It is clear that they have not been recruited since the attack made on them by Lieutenant Drever in the Dandelle jungles, and now they have lost Siddi Bastian, one of the boldest of their leaders, and the man who was best acquainted with the country in which they operate. Their armed men are reduced to five or six. The gang does not attempt to face Lieutenant Drever's party, even when the nature of the ground prevents his coming to close quarters with them, and he is of opinion that they cannot hold out much longer.

6. The force in Soopah at this moment, all Troops, Police and Setsundies included, cannot be far short of 500 men, and if villages from which information has been obtained can be protected, Lieutenant Drever's party under the guidance of Bhundari Gopala are more than a match for this gang. Under these circumstances I have taken on me the responsibility of halting the re-inforcement which left Mangalore, on the 22nd Instant, and Colonel Wight agrees with me in thinking this step desirable, more troops can hardly be required to put down a few robbers whom the ordinary Police would in more quiet times be competent to deal with; and the improbability of the Bund increasing in numbers now that political excitement has died out, is pretty clearly proved by their numbers, when discovered on the 15th and the way in which they fled for their lives.

7. I was strongly inclined to interpose when the troops were about to start on Mr. Ames's requisition, but I believe these matters can be best judged of by those on the spot, and I thought that Mr. Ames, and Lieutenant Drever had probably been in communication regarding the necessity of a re-inforcement. Of this however I can find no trace in the correspondence, I receive.

8. The difficulty of marching a body of men during the monsoon for some two hundred miles, can hardly be estimated by a Civilian during his first season on this Coast, and now that we not only know the Bund have not gathered strength since the Dandelle affair, but that they have been reduced to five or six armed men, I think it is useless to expose Officers and Sepoys to the continued rains which will prevail for some weeks.

9. I have suggested the halt rather than the immediate re-call of the detachment, because Brigadier FitzGerald may have his own views on the subject, having just directed Colonel Pritchard to take command of the Soopah Field Force.

10. I have addressed the Brigadier forwarding to him copies of this letter, and those now received from North Canara.

No. 34.

ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1859, No. 1236.

To be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 41.

Magistrate Cutcherry
Mangalore 26th August 1859.

From

W. Forbes Esqre
Magistrate of Canara.

To

T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

I have this moment received copies of Mr Stokes's letter to your address dated 18th August No 1414 & its enclosure. I have also received a demi official note from Lieut. Drever dated 19th, in which he tells me of his attack on the Bund on the 15th Instant, & adds that if arms cannot be procured the Subadar & Jemadar & the villagers will soon learn to despise five armed men, & that we may therefore fairly conclude these days are numbered. You will observe that Lieut. Drever does not believe that the Bund can disarm themselves as the Goa territory

territory into which he is following them, but thinks they may attempt to do so in Antolak, failing which, he considers their course is clear.

2. Lieut. Driver has no doubt written to Pte. Pochin, as the village on the North bank of the Black River (the only one open to an attack from the Band) are protected by parties of Sepoys under Lieut. Maclean, Imagine there is no chance of the Band being able to do anything that would cripple them on their East west to that neighbourhood.

3. Pte. Ames observes that if the Band obtain more Snider they are very likely to again increase in number, & become as troublesome as heretofore & in conclusion observes that he considers the presence of the reinforcement which has marched from Thanjalok still necessary.

4. It does not appear to me that the Band have any chance of obtaining arms in

in the Antolak Valley. The Black River confines their operations to a very small portion of it & that portion is guarded. Again supposing that the Band did obtain arms either in Lyoa territory or in ours it is highly improbable that their numbers would increase.

5. It is clear that they have not been recruited since the attack made on them by Lieut. Driver on the Dandelle Jungle & now they have lost Siddi Baste one of the boldest of their leaders & the man who was best acquainted with the Country in which they operate. Their armed men are reduced to five or six. The gang does not attempt to face Lieut. Driver's party when the nature of the ground prevents his coming to close quarters with them & he is of opinion that they cannot hold out much longer.

6. The force we have at this moment all troops, Police & Setundies included,

cannot

Cannot be far short of 300 men, & of vil-
lages from which information has been
obtained can be protected, Lieut. Dre-
ver's party under the Jemadar of Bhim-
Bari Gopala are more than a match
for this gang. Under these circumstan-
ces I have taken on me the responsi-
bility of halting the reinforcement
which left Shangalore on the 22d. In-
stant & Col Wight agrees with me
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to deal with, & the improbability of the
Band increasing in numbers now that
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Pros. 2 Sept 1859 No 1442
C. No 1391.

Gen. Lr. to Engr. 18th Novr.
No 44 of 1859
Replies to by the Sec. of
State for India
of 24th Febr. No 3 of 60

Pros. 2 Sept 36 Sepbr
Judicial 1859 Sept.

From Superintt of Canara
& Chief Secretary to Govt.
Fort St George.

Dated 20th } August 1859.
Recd }

No 41.

No 14
No 1350

To be recorded
13/9/59 GP
Reports on the present
state of the Band, &
informs that he has in
Consequence of a Divn Officer's
letter received from Lt. Drever
thought it proper to halt the
Detachment now on its way
to Coorgh pending instruc-
tions from Brigadier Jervis
General on the subject.

C 2 Sept 33434
RJ "