

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1299

Press

~~Mis.~~

(26-28)

Dated

24-9-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
from 24th September to 4th October, 1859.*

No. 26. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government of Fort St. George, dated 7th September 1859, No. 42.

1. With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation 3rd-November 1858, No. 1541, I regret to have to report a late renewal of the Toda sacrifices, attended with the usual amount of cruelty and brutality.

2. I believe I have had some influence with the Todas and Burghers on the Hills; I had done my best to abolish this and other degrading and senseless customs; they had been omitted for several years, and the parties had voluntarily agreed to submit to a fine if they broke their promise; and I therefore then conceded to them the indulgence they advert to in their own petition to Government, (para. last but one), of gradually abolishing this barbarous and senseless destruction of property, by agreeing, under their voluntary promise, to slaughter only 2, instead of 10 or 15 fine Buffaloes at each funeral.

3. Taking advantage of my absence in England, they sent in the petition, (evidently written for them); and emboldened by the fine (they had voluntarily submitted to) being entirely remitted, they have now reverted to their barbarity, and as I have no means of punishing them otherwise than by fine, I feel my hands tied in the matter, much to my regret; persuasion has of course been tried, but with only partial effect. If the Government think a fine* for cruelty under the Regulations, (on which ground I imposed it) not tenable, the only other alternative I can suggest, is, that I may be permitted by Government to withhold the annual allowance (of 150 Rupees), now paid to the Ootacamund Todas, if they continue their brutal sacrifices.

3. The Urzee of the Tahsildar (a sensible and useful servant of Government, who has been noticed as such by Government on several occasions, speaks for itself.

Translation of an Urzee addressed to E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, by SOONDRA MOODELLY, Tahsildar of Neelgherry talook, under date the 30th August 1859.

On the 17th Instant, I was informed that some Todas on the 16th idem, sacrificed 12 fine Buffaloes in a *sholah* (wood) situated at a distance of 8 miles from Ootacamund. I deputed Appavoo Koomky Roysom, and 4 peons, to the spot, with instructions to bring the Todas who made the above sacrifice, to the Cutcherry for enquiry. They accordingly went, and brought Aknaud Tody, and other Todas with some Koturs that were found in possession of 6 Buffalo hides, six other hides were also said to have been taken away by the koturs belonging to the village of Shaloor, which I have also caused to be produced. On enquiry I understand that a Toda by name Panookalee (aged 60 years, elder brother of Carooppavanoo, residing at Poollookaud mund in Todanaud village,) and another Toda by name Koleyavanoo, aged 18 years, nephew of Aknaud Tody residing in the same mund, died on the 11th and 14th Instant respectively, and that on the 16th, 12 Buffaloes were sacrificed secretly in the sholah for their funerals. I beg to submit herewith the Depositions taken from the parties concerned.

Two koturs "Sagolay" and "Ganathon" depose that "Carooppavanoo" and "Aknaud Tody" wanted them to attend the funerals; that they accordingly went, and saw there Bellavanoo and other Todas; that on the 16th, 12 Buffaloes were sacrificed in the sholah, and that six of their hides were taken by the koturs of a village known as Teroochookady. Patha Gowdah, Monigar of Todanaud, who was at Cusbah at the time, and Goondookullun a Toda Monigar who appears to have then proceeded to Yeppanaud, both state that the above 2 Todas jointly performed the sacrifice, and that Bellavanoo materially assisted them. Appavoo koomky Roysom, and others who were deputed by me to the spot, add that the above Bellavanoo and some other Todas met them on their way; and that Bellavanoo hid himself in a wood. Carooppavanoo and Aknaud Tody also admit that they sacrificed 12 Buffaloes. Bellavanoo states that

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from 24th September to 11th October 1859.*

he neither went to the spot, nor knew any thing of the matter, but I think without his assistance as a chief man the above Todas would not have dared to make the sacrifice. The Todas being emboldened by the refund according to Government orders, of the fine formerly imposed on them for killing Buffaloes, have reverted to their cruel practice.

During the time of Mr. Cherry, the Todas attempted also to sacrifice Buffaloes, and as soon as I was informed of the circumstance, I took steps to prevent it, but they have now renewed their cruelty by sacrificing Buffaloes clandestinely in a sholah. Carooppanoo and Aknaud Tody, who performed the sacrifice, and Bellaranoo who appears to have assisted them, should be fined each 20 Rupees for their cruelty, and they should likewise be cautioned personally by you, otherwise they would not hesitate to carry on the practice. The koturs are so far innocent, inasmuch as they only take the hides of the Buffaloes killed by the Todas. I request to be favored with your orders if I should return the hides to them. Bellaranoo is younger brother of Aknaud Tody, one of the parties who killed the Buffaloes, and I beg to repeat, that he has taken a prominent part in the sacrifice. It appears that several other Todas were also present on the occasion, but it is difficult to ascertain who they were. I have allowed the above-mentioned 3 Todas to go home, after obtaining from them proper security. The 12 hides alluded to, are kept in the Cutcherry, they are of a very large size, and I will produce them before you when you visit the Hills. It is necessary that an agreement should be taken from the Todas in your presence, and other proper steps taken for the prevention of their brutal acts when you next come up to the Hills, or they will be repeated.

(True translation.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS,
Collector.

No. 27. MINUTE by the HONORABLE the PRESIDENT, dated 20th September 1859.
Mr. Thomas exceeded just limits in his measures against this barbarous practice, and as his decision was reversed, he has, for the moment, lost his influence over the Todas.

He should, I think, be instructed to inform the leading men among them that, although the Government remitted the fine which had been imposed on them, the Governor in Council regards the cruel practice of killing Buffaloes by a lingering death at funerals with the same disapprobation as before, and expects that they will, at least, confine themselves to sacrificing two animals on each occasion, and that they will put them at once out of pain.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

No. 28.

ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1859, No. 1299.

Resolved that the Collector of Coimbatore be instructed to inform the leading men among the Todas, that although Government remitted the fine which had been imposed on them, the Governor in Council regards the cruel practice of killing Buffaloes by a lingering death at funerals, with the same disapprobation as before, and expects that they will, at least, confine themselves to sacrificing two animals on each occasion, and that they will put them at once out of pain.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

2
order of the Government - that the fine should be remitted
the nature of these sacrifices is
explained by Mr Thomas in his
letter of 25 June 1856 26.
It is probable, in his opinion, that
the continuation of the fine would have
discouraged the Todas to resume
the barbarous practice of
It surely is punishable under the
penal code, or Mahomedan law as
any other act of cruelty.
The allowance is sufficient to do this

and expects that they will at least
 confine themselves to sacrifice
 animals on each occasion, and that
 they will put them at once out

of pain. *20 Sept 59*
W. H. [Signature]

No. 1294

*which purports to be a copy of the
 original of the same with the original
 [unclear]*

*Read letter from the Collector of Coimbatore of 14th Sept. 59
 Minute by the Hon. President 20th Sept. 59*

No. 1299 - 24th Sept. 1859.

Resolved that the Collector
 of Coimbatore be instructed
 to inform the Leading Men
 among the Sodas that altho'
 Govt. remitted the Fine which
 had been imposed on them,
 the Governor in Council regards
 the cruel practice of killing
 Buffaloes by a lingering death
 at funerals, with the same dis-
 approbation as before, & expects
 that they will, at least, confine
 themselves to sacrificing two
 animals on each occasion, &
 that they will put them at
 once out of pain.

J. P.

The Collector of Coimbatore. *29th Sept 59*

5. Nov 2 1858 at 38 to 40.
12 Aug 1856 at 708.

19/2/88
4-3-89

7-5697
30/8/21
2/3/99
21/8/21

Judicial
1859 Department
From Prince of Geo 4 Act
The Collector of Customs
of
The Secretary to Govt
Dated 7
Received 3 Sept 1859

5042 7/15/59
8th enclosure

Reports this review
by the Todas;
of the sacrifices of
Buffaloes on the hills
and requests orders
for preventing such.

Judge G. B. Hartman
 of Dec 1290 of 24/57
 7 A. B. Hartman

26 @ 28

With an Order.

[Faint handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

How of course been laid, but with only faint light

limited sacrifices

to the O. A. S. for the purpose of

have the money

the

your great object

J. A. Howard

Collector

W. H. Wood