M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1392	Press Mis.
61-62	
Dated 13 — 10 — 1925	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, from 5th to 21st October 1859.

No. 61. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, dated 4th October 1859, No. 3529.

Communicate a letter from the Adjutant General of the Army, reporting the Proceedings of the Court of Enquiry held at Quilon, respecting the rice disturbances that took place at that Station in June last. (Vide Proceedings, Military Department, from 24th September to 4th October 1859, Nos. 283 and 284.)

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 13th October 1859, No. 1392.

Communicated to the Magistrate of Malabar and to the Resident of Travancore and Cochin.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

2/96

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter:—

From the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 28th September 1859, *No.* 1046; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit the following for the information of the Honorable the Governor-in-Council.

2. No report having reached Army Head Quarters regarding the Rice disturbances that took place at Quilon in June last, the attention of the Officer Commanding Southern Division was drawn to the subject, with the view, should no enquiry have been instituted into the circumstances, that the same might be done forthwith, and the result reported as soon as possible for His Excellency's information.

3. In reply the Officer Commanding Southern Division stated that he had received intelligence on the 8th July of a riot having occurred on the 26th June in the General Bazar at Quilon; but from the report made by the Officer Commanding 45th Regiment Native Infantry he, Major General Budd, had not considered the matter of sufficient importance to be reported to Army Head Quarters—but a Court of Inquiry had been assembled and the trial of certain men* ordered.

* 8 *Sepoys*
1 *Camp follower*

4. Major General Budd in the same communication states, that on the 12th July he received a second report from the Officer Commanding 45th Regiment Native Infantry with charges against 8 more Privates, accused of having in their possession stolen property identified by shopkeepers of the Town, and he directed their trial also by a Native Garrison Court Martial—The Major General adds that from the public prints received at Tricpinopoly a somewhat similar disturbance appeared to have occurred a few days later at Cochin where a Detachment of the 45th Regiment Native Infantry was stationed of which he had then received no report but had called upon the Officer Commanding there for a full explanation as to the part taken by the Sepoys on that occasion. This affair was brought to the notice of Government by the Magistrate of Malabar as recorded in Proceedings in the Judicial Department dated 4th August, No. 1046.

5. The Commander-in-Chief directed the Officer Commanding Southern Division to report the result of the trials ordered, and to forward the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry referred to—that Officer was at the same time informed that His Excellency did not agree with him that the matter was not of sufficient importance to be immediately reported—that he considered so grave an outrage of very great importance in its effects on discipline alone, apart from the loss and injury inflicted upon the inhabitants, and that it must be clearly shewn whether prompt and suitable steps to vindicate discipline were or were not taken by the Officers in Command at Quilon and Cochin, respectively, to enable His Excellency to decide whether or not further steps with respect to them were called for.

6. On the 10th of August the Judge Advocate General of the Army forwarded the Proceedings of Garrison Courts Martial on the trial of the first 8 men and a Camp follower named in the margin. These trials had been disposed of by the Officer Commanding Quilon; but as that Officer had no Warrant from the Commander-in-Chief for the purpose, the Proceedings were rendered illegal—although the men in question were convicted of the charge against them and sentenced to a year's imprisonment with hard labor, yet, consequent on the illegality of the Proceedings, His Excellency had no other course than to order the release of the Prisoners. The men were however deemed unworthy of remaining in the service and were directed to be paid up and discharged; and the Officer Commanding Southern Division was requested to call upon Major Lys, Commanding Quilon, for full explanation of the grave error into which he had fallen, in order that His Excellency might judge whether he should be continued in Regimental Command.

	No.
Private Venkanah	...2301
" *Moonsasawmy*	...2271
" *Mootoosawmy*	...2556
" *Mahomed Jaffer*	...2239
" *Appanah*	...2302
" *Ramakistnah*	...2419
" *Iyempermall*	...2430
" *Moodookistnah*	...2266
Camp follower Khadee Buksh.	

7. On the 31st August the Officer Commanding Southern Division forwarded Major Lys' explanation regarding his having illegally confined and carried out the sentence of the Court Martial—This, His Excellency has deemed so unsatisfactory, that he cannot allow Major Lys to retain an independent Command, and has accordingly superseded that Officer by the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel H. Bower to the 45th Regiment Native Infantry in G. O. C. C. of the 22nd instant.

8. It appears from the Proceedings that of the 8 men charged with having stolen property in their possession, 2 have been acquitted ; one was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor, but the Proceedings were vitiated by illegal confirmation ; and, in the cases of 4 of them, Major General Budd has confirmed the sentences of imprisonment with hard labor for one year—One man has yet to be disposed of ; his trial is delayed in consequence of the illness of the principal witness.

9. With reference to the affair at Cochin the Officer Commanding Southern Division states that the disturbance and injury to property originated with one of the Sepoys of the 45th Regiment Native Infantry reported to have put his hand into a dish of rice exposed for sale and to have entered into an altercation with the Bazar man in which the dish of rice was thrown into the road and tumult ensued, and that the offender has not been discovered, but that the Bazarmen, who, he presumes are the informants, failed to identify this individual or any other of the Sepoys against whom they are so ready to complain.

10. The Officer Commanding Southern Division in the letter referred to in para. 3 of this communication alludes to the hardship and privation which had latterly been entailed on the Sepoys of the British Government serving in the Travancore Country, not only from the exorbitant prices at which grain had been retailed but also from the systematic adulteration of that sold in the Bazars and the frequent inadequacy of the supply.—The issue of Rice or money compensation was calculated upon the daily consumption of one man, but the Madras Sepoy, however willing to proceed on any duty he may be ordered, enlisted with the full expectation of being able to support a family.

11. Upon this the Commander-in-Chief observed that he could not accept as an excuse for the misconduct of the Soldiers, the expectation which every man is alleged to entertain on enlisting, that he would have a family to support—The Government fulfilled its part when it found the prescribed rations for the individual soldier, and all breaches of discipline and disorderly conduct should be instantly punished and repressed without reference to the difficulty the men may experience in providing for the support of the families with which they were so prone to encumber themselves.

12. To this observation Major General Budd replied that his remarks had reference to the representations he had previously made regarding the systematic adulteration of the Rice at Quilon for which no remedial measures have been adopted by the British Resident or Travancore Government.—With regard to this the attention of the Major General has been directed to Extract from Minutes of Consultation No. 332, dated 22nd May 1858, copy of which was furnished to him on the 11th June 1858.

13. The original correspondence from the Officer Commanding Southern Division is herewith forwarded for reference if necessary.

ORDER, No. 3529, *4th October* 1859.
Communicated to the Judicial Department.
(True Extract.)

Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department. *With 3 Spare Copies.*

Exd. W. D'Arachy.

No. 1392 — 13 October/59

Communicated to the Magistrate of Malabar & to the Resident of Travancore & Cochin.

The Magistrate of Malabar. } Dispd 13th
" Resident of Travancore & Cochin } Oct. Standing Orders.

~~LC 5th Aug 1859 ch 14843~~
~~P&C 25th May 1852 ch 7223~~
~~" 30th March " ch 5446~~
~~" 7th Oct " ch 6046.~~
~~" 18th Jan 1859 ch 849~~

Secy Govt 21st Oct

Judicial 1859 Depart

List of 18 Ack

2 Proceedings of Govt in the Milty Depart

3529.

Dated 4th
Rec'd 11th } October 1859

3 Sp. copies

No 1696

Communicating a letter from the Adjt Genl of the Army, reporting the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held at Quilon, respecting the late disturbances that took place at that Station in June last

With an Order.

1962.