

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Judicial* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 275

Press  
~~Mis.~~

30-31

Dated

28-2.

19/11/29

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 1st March 1859.*

No. 30. Read the following letter from J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th February 1859, No. 12.

SIR,

1. M Head Assistant Mr. Sullivan, reports to me that on the 18th Ultimo, the head of Police of Coimbatore arrested two persons named Vencatachellum and Narrayan, who described themselves as having been detached from a recruiting party of the 10th Regiment at Salem to Coimbatore, for the purpose of collecting recruits, but as they were not provided with Passports, uniform, money or any documents, the head of Police suggested that they should be detained pending an enquiry into the truth of their statement. After examining the men himself, Mr. Sullivan deemed it right to adopt the suggestion of the head of Police, and at once wrote to the Officer Commanding Salem, whose reply was received on the 2nd Instant, in which he stated that the statement given by Vencatachellum and Narrayan was correct. The parties were accordingly discharged from custody.

2. My object in bringing this matter to the notice of Government is to point out the abuse and inconvenience likely to arise, by Sepoys being detached on such duty without being furnished with Passports. For want of this precaution the above two individuals were detained in custody for a fortnight. Before ordering them to be confined, Mr. Sullivan consulted Captain Sweet, the Officer Commanding Coimbatore, who told him that they had no right to be wandering about the country without Passports, and that if Mr. Sullivan did not detain them, he (Captain Sweet) should feel it his duty to do so until he could ascertain the truth of their statement.

3. If Sepoys are thus permitted to go about collecting men, without anything to show that they have authority to do so, the system of recruiting is likely to get into bad odour, as crimps will spring up on all sides, pretend to enlist men and refuse to let them go unless bribed to do so.

4. Under these circumstances I would suggest stringent orders being issued by Government in the Military Department, if such do not already exist, as to the necessity of recruiting men being provided with Passports and sufficient funds for the subsistence of the men enlisted by them, until they could rejoin their party. The two individuals above alluded to, were absolutely penniless, and during the time they had been in custody, petitioned for and received the usual batta granted to prisoners.

No. 31.

ORDER THEREON, No. 275; dated 28th February 1859.

Resolved that the foregoing letter be referred to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, through the Military Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,  
Chief Secretary.

No. 275.

Resolved that the foregoing  
letter be referred to His Excel-  
lency the Commander-in-  
Chief, thro' the Mily. Dept. —

John B. George.  
20 February 1859.

JP

RM

The Acting Magistrate of }  
Coimbatore. }  
Mily. Dept. }  
Signed 3rd