M.R.O. 1—25/99—14-12-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 787 Press Mis.

45-50

Dated 7th June 10 1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, from 1st to 10th June 1859.

No. 1 Read the following letter from R. H. McDONELL, Esqr. Acting Magistrate, South Arcot, to T. PYCROFT, Esqr. Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Cuddalore, 20th May 1859, No. 15

In continuation to the subject contained in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated the 3rd of February 1858, I have the honor to make a report on the measures introduced by Mr. Taylor for the better surveillance of the Kuravers and wandering tribes in this District, which arrangement received the sanction of Government in the proceedings noted above for one year.

2. Under the introduction of these rules which provide for the escort of these parties (who are prevented passing through villages after the sunset hours of roads), there has been a considerable reduction in the number of Dacoities committed. The Head Assistant Mr. Puckle, reports, that on the roads under his charge, viz. from Mercara on the Salem frontier, and on the Road, No. 8, about 120 miles of road, not a single case of highway robbery occurred.

3. Contemporaneously with the introduction of these surveillance rules, a new system of Police and Thanahs was established throughout the entire province, this has worked well and the people generally acknowledge that they enjoy a security of person and property, hitherto unknown.

4. In the whole Cuddalore Taluq alone, 7,610 persons were escorted through the Patrol limits, and the Joint Magistrate in his report mentions that "there have been no complaints that the rules enforce any hardship or that they in any way impede the free travelling of all parties."

5. In the four Taluqs forming the Assistant Magistrate's Police charge, nine cases of gang and highway robbery occurred in the 1st quarter, while in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of the year, there was not a single case of highway robbery, and but four of gang robbery, which Mr. Puckle says are due to the better system of Police surveillance now in force.

6. I regret to find that there is on record in this Office, any one instance in which a complaint has been made of these powers having been abused; neither as Joint Magistrate were any complaints of this nature, preferred before me.

7. The only objection, however, Mr. Nicholson, the Collector of Chingleput has urged to the system of surveillance in his district, as deterring traders from frequenting the annual fairs in his District.

8. I do not know what reasons Mr. Nicholson has for supposing this to be the case, it is a fact that many of the Merchants from the west must pass through this district to reach the annual fairs of Chingleput, these traders are usually escorted along certain lines of road, and not permitted to leave villages about the evening, they are not allowed to make encampments along the line of route passing on to the limits of the district, at which to them own convenience with respect to the next point on Chingleput or those of Veerapuram, in South Arcot, consequently the inconvenience of the detention of Chetpet and Chingleput pass in the Collector's district.

9. But Mr. Nicholson's first communication to me on the subject, I have stated objections, arising out of the surveillance rules with the movements of these traders, after they had passed to the limits of their respective charge, leaving all to the discretion of the Police authority on the spot.

10. On the establishment of the new Thanah and Police stations, the movements of these persons should be, according to the Board's orders, are known, the entire element in the Police which has been so long wanting, is now beginning to be gradually developed.

11. Many of the Police Force, have been drilled and taught the use of weapons, two drill masters have been established, one under the immediate superintendence of the Inspector at Head Quarters and the other under the Head Mr. at each Taluq Cutcherie, consisting generally of about 12 persons, who, when thoroughly instructed, are sent to work on the Taluqs, others taking their places among the drilled parties.

12. The Superintendent of Police, is of opinion, that the services of these trained men will prove a great aid to him in increasing the Police management of the District, they have

many of them acquired useful local knowledge and are familiar with the haunts and habits of the suspected characters.

13. I would therefore in conclusion, beg to submit, the opinion of Government for the continuance of the surveillance rules at present in force, with such laxity as Mr. Hannyngton has duly explained the new system of Police, about to be introduced in this district.

14. I further beg to forward a comparative statement, showing the number of gang and highway robberies committed in this District in the year under review, and those in the year immediately preceding the introduction of the Koorsee surveillance rules, by which it will be seen that there was a decrease in crime and that the value of the property plundered was much less in the year in which the new rules have been in operation.

Comparative Statement showing the number of violent robberies committed in South Arcot during the 12 months prior to the introduction of the Koorsee surveillance rules and those during the year they were in operation.

	From 1st May 1857, to 30th April 1858.	From 1st May 1858, to 30th April 1859.
Total cases of violent robberies	201	139
Total value of property stolen	Rupees 22,521	Rupees 2,192

10th May 1859.

(Signed) H. D. McDONELL,
Acting Magistrate.

No. 33 Order thereon, 7th June 1859, No. 725.

1. In Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 159, Judicial Department, dated the 1st February 1858, the Government sanctioned the introduction into the South Arcot District of the rules in force in Salem for exercising an effective surveillance over the Koorsee robbers and other gang robbers. The measure however was to be regarded as experimental only and to be reported upon from time to time, with an eye at the end of a year. In subsequent orders the Government approved the arrangements proposed by the late Acting Magistrate for the better working of the District Police, and authorized a temporary increase in the establishment for the pay of Periyers and Peons employed on Patrol duty.

2. From the present letter, which reports the results of the year ending 30th April 1859, the Government learn that Taluks have been established for Patrol purposes throughout the entire District. The system thus far has worked well; there has been a decrease in the number of highway and gang robberies during the year under review, and it is satisfactory to observe, that the measures have given a feeling of security, and gained the confidence of the people.

3. The Government trust that the precautions taken to prevent abuse of their powers by members of the Police Force, will be carefully enforced.

4. The present arrangements will, as proposed in para. 13, continue in force until the new Act for reconstituting the Mofussil Police is brought into operation in the District.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Rot. J. Cartwright