M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	37	Press Mis.
10-11		
Dated	11-1-	19 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3-11-39

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, for the month of January 1860.

No. 10. Read the following letter from CECIL BEADON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor General; to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Camp Meerut, 20th December 1859, No. 730.

Foreign Department.

I am directed by the Governor General to forward for the information and guidance of the Government of Fort Saint George, the annexed Extract from a Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No. 57, dated 3rd ultimo, in the Judicial Department, and to request that the utmost possible reduction may be effected in the Native Military and Police Levies still entertained, employment being given to such men as are qualified for it, in the Civil Department as vacancies occur.

Extract from a Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, in the Judicial Department, No. 57, dated 3rd November 1859.

Paragraph 1. With reference to former communications pointing out the urgent necessity for a reduction in the number of Native Troops throughout India to the lowest scale compatible with efficiency, I request you will take into consideration the expediency of drafting selected men of these Levies and Regiments into the Military and Civil Police, and also into the Customs Departments. The long extended Customs line through the Punjab and North Western Provinces, whereby the salt of the Punjab and Rajpootana is brought under taxation might afford facilities for the employment of a good many Native soldiers. The Civil Officers might be instructed to weed out all inefficient men in employment, and they should be strictly forbidden to fill up any vacancies which may hereafter occur, except in the manner now indicated.

2. The Police of Madras are now under organization; this opportunity should be taken of filling up its ranks by efficient volunteers selected from the Native army, so that the reduction in its ranks may at least proceed *pari passu* with the organization of the Police. In order to render this arrangement popular and effective, the Volunteers should, as far as practicable, be drafted into Police Corps in the vicinity of their own homes. It is of primary importance that every effort be made to reduce the vast armed force, which, under different denominations, is eating up the resources of the State.

3. In a late Despatch, the Government of India point out the difficulty of reducing the Troops, from an apprehension of the danger which might be caused by letting loose large bodies of trained men in that country, at a time when some 20,000 Convicts are at large. It must be obvious that, the longer men remain in our ranks, the more likely are they to prove dangerous when the time arrives for their discharge. The less fitted also will they have become for peaceful occupations, the more accustomed will they be to a Military life and the use of arms. Large numbers of the Native soldiers, it is understood, have gained much plunder during the last two years; and these men would much more readily quit the service now, than a year or two hence, when they have spent these gains.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. U. AITCHISON,
Under Secretary to the Government of India, with the Governor General.

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1860, No. 37.

It is observed that the Extract received with the above letter is identical with the Despatch, 3rd ultimo 1859, No. 26, received from the Secretary of State. The latter, on its receipt, was communicated to the Inspector General of Police and the Adjutant General of the Army—and the particular attention of the former functionary was directed to the instructions conveyed therein.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 37 11 January 1860.

It is observed that the Extract received with the above letter is identical with the Despatch, 3 Ulto. 1859 No. 26, received from the Secretary of State. The latter, on its receipt, was communicated to the Inspector General of Police & the Adjutant General of the Army — & the particular attention of the former functionary was directed to the instructions conveyed therein.