M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1260 Press
~~Mis.~~

53-54

Dated 15.10.1861 ~~19~~ .

3/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 53. Read the following :—

No. 1,534.

MEMORANDUM.

1. With reference to Memorandum, No. 369 of the 19th instant, forwarding an Extract from a Vernacular newspaper, containing certain allegations against the Police, I beg to submit to Government the following remarks.

Vurthamana Taranghasi, 10*th September* 1861.

2. The very extravagance of the charges brought forward, goes far to refute them. It is stated that Police Officers constantly rob travellers on the public roads, violate their females and even kill such as resist. I observe that the Editor also alludes to a supposed case of murder of a Brahmin's wife in a Police Station House; an account of which appeared in the columns of a Local English newspaper some months ago, but which was devoid even of a shadow of foundation. With regard to the case of gross maltreatment of a female by the Police, stated to have been decided by the Sub Magistrate of Salem, the Superintendent of Police in that District informs me that no man of his force has ever been brought forward on such a charge. The Editor proceeds to remark on the inconvenience attending the occupation of Travellers' chuttrums by the Police; an evil which he hopes will be remedied; and here as it appears to me lies the true motive of the article. Travellers' chuttrums have been temporarily occupied by the Police in some few places where no other shelter was available, but measures are now in progress to provide separate Station Houses.

3. It is simply impossible that robbery, violation and murder can be a constant practice of the Police. The question remains whether a sufficient degree of misconduct exists to form some foundation for this hyperbolical statement; and whether as the Editor affirms "the dangers to which the people in the interior are exposed are greater than hitherto." I most sincerely believe that the contrary is the fact,—cases of violence and maltreatment unhappily still occur. It could not be otherwise. But such instances are keenly hunted out and unsparingly punished; and I am convinced that the difficulty of concealment has already produced a marked effect upon the conduct of the Police in this respect. The readiness with which complaints are made to the Magistracy, and to the Superior Officers of Police, shows that peaceable people are no longer *afraid* of the Police, and this is a great point gained. Oppression was formerly practised in secret, securely protected by a combination of interests. It now comes before the public eye, and even the petty squabbles which arise from uncalled for interference form matter for appeal to higher authority. *Prama facie* therefore the general conduct of the Police may perhaps be exhibited in a worse light than before, but it is not really so. The hidden sore has been brought to the surface and though all the more unsightly for a time, it is tangible and under process of cure.

4. And I beg the Government to believe that the Officers of the Police Department, whose exertions it is my privilege just now to watch, are one and all most earnestly striving to eradicate these abuses; to put down oppression and violence with a strong hand; and to promote the good of the community. It is a difficult task, and complete victory can only be obtained after a laborious and patient struggle. But in this direction at least great progress has been made, and persistent effort with keen supervision can not fail of ultimate success.

CHIEF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF MADRAS POLICE,
TANJORE, 1*st October* 1861.

(Signed) C. S. HEARN,
Actg. Inspector General of Police.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1861, No. 1,260.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

List of 18 Cases.

Prosy Cert 3

Judicial

1861 Departt

From

Captain L. S. Hearn

Ag Insp Genl of

Madras Police

Madras

To

T. Pycroft Esqre

Chief Secy to Govt

Fort St George

Dated 1st October 1861

Rec'd 8th

No 1534

No 1622

Submits his re-
marks to Govt on an
Extract from a Ver-
nacular newspaper
containing certain al-
legations against the
Police – No 1260 – 15th Oct 61

Recorded

5-3-5-4