

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1305	Press
125-130	~~His.~~
Dated 25.10.1861	~~18~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
25th October 1861.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 125. Telegram from the Right hand caste people of Masulipatam; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 10th October 1861.

The Goldsmiths here endeavour to introduce innovations not allowed to their caste. Magistrate upheld them, obtained a party armed with shot. We fear much that this will attend with loss of lives, &c., as done in 1820. Shops closed two days. Magistrate took interference with caste prejudice contrary to usage and to Her Majesty's Proclamation. Magistrate refused our prayer—vide Government Order 11th July 1820. Please relieve us of this calamity by taking immediately notice.

Referred for the report of the Magistrate of the Kistnah District.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secy. to Government.

15th October 1861.

No. 126. Telegram from the Right hand caste people of Masulipatam; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 15th October 1861.

If our Telegram of 12th be not attended to, greater ravages might be committed than those done on 13th and 14th; please keep peace.

Referred to the Magistrate of the Kistna District in continuation of the endorsement of the 15th instant.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE.

Acting Dy. Secy. to Government.

16th October 1861.

No. 127. Telegram from the Right hand caste people of Masulipatam; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 23rd October 1861.

Our objections to Goldsmiths white-washing street walls and tying wreaths to their gates are given in detail by to-day's post; we pray no orders be passed pending its receipt.

No. 128. Telegram from the Right hand caste people of Masulipatam; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 24th October 1861.

Magistrate however removed fennellages from Goldsmiths' gates on the 22nd and not chunam.

No. 129. From GEORGE THORNHILL, Esq., Acting Magistrate Kistna District: to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government in the Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Masulipatam, 19th October 1861, No. 28.

With reference to the Orders of Government, dated 15th October, passed on a Telegram from the Right hand caste in Masulipatam, dated 10th October, I have the honor to state, for the information of Government, that on the 8th instant, it was reported to me, by the Head of Police of Masulipatam, that the Goldsmiths were commencing to white-wash the outside of their houses; and that the people of the Right hand caste were objecting to the practice; and that it was rumoured that a disturbance would take place if the practice was not prohibited.

2. I informed the Head of Police, that no obstruction to so reasonable and proper a practice, as the white-washing of houses, could be permitted and that he was instantly to arrest any one who attempted to molest or interfere with the Goldsmiths. I, at the same time, directed the proper precautions to be taken to prevent any disturbance in the streets.

3. Two days later than this, I was informed at 8 o'clock, P.M. that large crowds were collecting in the streets, and was requested by the Deputy Magistrate in the Town, to apply for a Military Guard, I at once placed myself in communication with the Officer Commanding, and requested him to have a Company in readiness to act if required; and went into the Town to ascertain personally the extent of the disturbance. Before I reached the Town, the crowds had disappeared, and the streets were perfectly quiet, and no attempt was made to disturb the peace during the night.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
25th October 1861.

4. On the next day however, as the feeling of uneasiness remained unabated and as the Dussara festival was going on, I thought it advisable to obtain the services of a small guard, to be stationed at the Police Office, to support the Police if necessary, and to restore confidence to the people.
5. During the two following days, I had information that some influential members of the Right hand caste were endeavoring to persuade the Pariahs to attack the Goldsmiths' houses, and create a tumult; and in the evening of Sunday the 13th at about 7 1/2 o'clock, when the Dussara processions were in the streets, a trifling attempt of the kind was made; the doors of some 10 or 14 Goldsmiths' houses were broken by the mob; but the Head of Police was promptly on the spot with the Police, and a portion of the Sepoy guard, when the crowd at once dispersed.
6. Two men were apprehended, one in the act of battering a Goldsmith's door, and the other pulling down the enclosure of a Goldsmith's yard, and 12 others were taken up on suspicion; I have sentenced the two former to six months' imprisonment; and, in the absence of direct proof against the others, have released them on security. I was in the Town myself about 9 P.M. when all was quiet.
7. There has been no open attempt to break the peace since; but nightly some of the Goldsmiths' houses have been bespattered with dirt and hitherto the perpetrators have escaped undetected. I have however strengthened the Police by calling in some Musselmen Peons, who are unbiassed in this dispute, from adjoining Taluqs, and trust a stop will soon be put to the outrages: I withdrew the Sepoy guard on the conclusion of the Dussara.
8. When the dispute first arose, I collected the Moonsiffs of Pattas in the Town, 14 or 15 in number, and directed them to explain to the people the impropriety and folly of endeavouring to obstruct their fellow Towns-men in so reasonable a practice, as white washing their houses; I caused to be read to them the Order of Government of the 26th March 1859, on the subject, and showed them that this was quite a case in point; (this Order I may mention was published in the District Gazette on 2nd March last on the occasion of some objection being raised to the construction of an upper story to his house by a Goldsmith), and lastly I assured them that I would punish severely any attempt to obstruct the Goldsmiths by raising a tumult or by any act of violence.
9. I was on the point of reporting this occurrence to the Government, when I received the order under reply, and as the Telegram is not addressed by an individual to whom an endorsement can be delivered, I beg the Government will authorize me to publish any order they may be pleased to pass on this report, in the District Gazette.

No. 130. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1861, No. 1,305.

The Government fully approve of the Magistrate having upheld the undoubted right of the Goldsmiths, in common with other members of the community, to white-wash their own houses.

2. The Magistrate may publish these orders in his Gazette.

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

Order thereon 25th October 1861 No. 1305

Read Telegram - No. 1174, 1661.
1702 + 1709.

Read letter from the Magistrate
of the Krishna District -
(14 & 19 Oct 1861.

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W. M.

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To the Mag of the H. D. - 24/10
Order table - 24/10

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the
10th inst. in relation to the
above mentioned matter. I am
pleased to hear that you are
interested in the same, and
I am sure that you will find
the enclosed papers of interest
to you.

Yours
W. H. W.

Very
Respectfully,
W. H. W.