M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1528 Press ~~Mis.~~

68-70

Dated 12.12.1861 ~~19~~ .

8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 12th December 1861.

Read the following papers:—

No. 68. Abstract of Petition from JOHN THOMAS, A. MICKAB and SIVAN PILLAI, Inhabitants of Tuticorin, dated 17th October 1861.

Complain of the injustice, extortion and corruption of the Police Officials of the Town of Tuticorin.

State that they are all of one family and closely related. That the Police Amin is father-in-law of his Royasam's brother and that the Pound-keeper of Tuticorin is brother of the Royasam and nephew of the Police Amin. States that the Police Amin and Royasam commit all manner of unjust acts. That they sentence parties convicted before them *nominally* to a few days' imprisonment, but in reality collect a fine from them which they appropriate to themselves. That the Police Amin has borrowed large sums of money from Merchants of the town, and compel all grain sellers in the town constantly to supply him with paddy, &c. That the Royasam and the Pound-keeper his brother appropriate the grounds of cattle fines, &c.

Mention the names of the Merchants who have lent money to the Police Amin.

Pray for enquiry and the removal of the 3 individuals from the Town.

No. 3,054 of 1861.

Forwarded to the Magistrate of Tinnevelly for enquiry and early report.

By Order,

Fort Saint George,
6th November 1861.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE,
Acting Dy. Secy. to Govt.

No. 69. From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Tinnevelly, 23rd November 1861, No. 432.

In returning the Petition addressed to Government, and signed with certain fictitious names, conveying accusations against the Police Amin of Tuticorin and forwarded to me by the Deputy Secretary to Government, with an Order dated the 6th instant, for enquiry and early report, I have the honor to submit for the information of Government, copies of a report from Mr. Underwood, Deputy Collector and Magistrate stationed at Tuticorin, and of my reply to the same.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy Collector and Magistrate; to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 20th November 1861.

Documents are herewith forwarded.

I have the honor herewith to submit the result of my enquiries, on the charges against the Police Ameen of this place.

2. I have made every endeavor, to find out the complainant, but have not been able to do so, I therefore sent for the several parties named in his Petition, of having advanced large sums of money to the Ameen; they all denied before me on solemn affirmation, that they had done so, or that they had any knowledge of any business transactions, that the Ameen might be carrying on, on his own private account.

3. During the examination of these witnesses, I got an English anonymous Petition by Tapal, addressed to me for immediate delivery, which I herewith forward; I went myself immediately to the Post Office, to endeavor to find the party that had put it in the post, but could get no information; I have also had one or two parties up in this place, that generally write English Petitions, but they denied having written it themselves, nor do they know the writers of the Petitions.

4. The party has evidently sent the Petitions with a malicious intention, for the parties he has named as having advanced money to the Ameen, flatly deny the fact; and further, should he desire an investigation on the charges he has preferred, it would be very easy for him to appear before me and make his complaint; and not send Petitions under fictitious names, for there are no persons in this place agreeing with the names signed in the Petition.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th December 1861.

5. The only relationship there is between the Ameen and his Royasam, is, that the sister of the Ameen's son-in-law is married to the Royasam, and the Pound-keeper is a brother of the Royasam.

6. I have never received any complaints from the Europeans or Natives in this place against the Police Ameen; and as far as I can judge he does his work satisfactorily.

7. It seems to be a practice with the Natives in this Town, for any cause of petty spite or dispute they may have, or if things are not done or carried out as they desire, immediately to fabricate false charges against the officials, to whom they may owe a private grudge, or whom in their official capacity, had they done as the parties desired, would act to the prejudice of the Government, and in violation of the Laws, and rules laid down for their guidance; and the Petitioner in this case is evidently one of this class. I therefore request your permission that the complaint may be dismissed.

From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector and Magistrate; to W. S. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy Collector and Magistrate, Tuticorin, dated Tinnevelly, 23rd November 1861.

I beg to return the documents which accompanied your letter of the 20th instant, and the charge against the Police Ameen will of course be dismissed; the practice referred to in the 7th paragraph of your letter as prevailing in Tuticorin, I regret to say, might well be applied to the District generally.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. SILVER,
Collector and Magistrate.

No. 70. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1861, No. 1,528.

The Government approve of the Magistrate of Tinnevelly having ordered the Deputy Magistrate to dismiss the enquiry into the charges made, in anonymous Petitions, against the Police Amin of Tuticorin.

2. They are of opinion, however, that the relationship that is shewn to exist between the Police Amin and his immediate official subordinates is objectionable, and Mr. Silver will arrange for the removal of the latter to equivalent situations in other Taluqs, reporting to Government what he has finally done.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Tuticorin 1861.

To
His Excellency the Governor in Council. Madras

May it please your Excellency

We the undersigned residents of the town of Tuticorin most submissively beg for the liberty of bringing these following few lines to the notice of your Lordship believing that we will be kindly pardoned for the trouble we have hereby caused which we after all patience are obliged to give under the following miserable circumstances to which we with the rest of the inhabitants are subjected by the oppression, cruelty and avarice of the Police officers of this place.

The Police Amin of Tuticorin (Alvaruppa Pillai) is very closely allied with his writer or raisam (Aruvalathanda Pilly) the daughter of the former being given in marriage to the brotherinlaw or wife's brother of the latter.

By this it is very evident that both of them will live in great union which is of great service to their committing different sorts of frauds in the discharge of their official duties which frauds have been herein stated being

Firstly in all Police cases they in consideration of the bribery they receive produce unlawful decisions with little or no regard to justice for doing which they when necessary effect fraudulently some modifications in the documents and depositions connected with the case. They in some cases usurp for themselves partly or in whole the fines imposed on the offender or offenders and when an usurpation of the whole sum is made they enter in the Police records that the offender or offenders were sentenced for imprisonment to a term not exceeding 10 days; this is done only in the event they are well aware that the injured party would not appeal against their decision or is not in the circumstances to spend money for doing so.

Secondly they make a flat denial to [illegible] the bribery they receive of their decision be reverted in appeal.

Thirdly or lastly. They torture the poor inhabitants including the merchants, Bazaar men and others to offer them yearly a sum proportionate to their abilities threatening that in the event of a refusal they would be heavily fined. They compel the petty merchants coming from villages with rice paddy and other corns to offer them a measure of corn for every couple of bags in consideration of which they give them the free liberty of selling the corn at any rate they may choose, thus rendering the poor inhabitants totally unable to support themselves. Neither the Police Amin nor his Royasam buy any rice, for what they get in these pilfering ways leaves a surplus which they sell away, over what they need.

These are such and several other ways which certainly may be mentioned they attend much to the bad rather than to the good of the people whom they render unhappy in all possible ways and from [illegible] we may say that we are at a loss of expressions to describe how dangerous with people.

The Police Amin notwithstanding at a the rule that Government officers should not borrow money with this additional proviso that any such breaking the rule would be put out of Government service has borrowed rupees 800 (eight hundred) from Halicappa Pillai a broker in this place; Rupees 250 from C. Ramaswamy Pillai; rupees 150 from broker Narotoswamy Pillai; rupees 450 from Venkaperumal chettiar; rupees 200 from Chinnaya chettiar; rupees 700 from Natocottay Narayana chetty; Rs 100 from N. Cumarappan chetty and sums less than rupees 100 from several petty merchants all on no interest thus making up a total of nearly 2700 Rupees by means of which he carries on some private merchandise. If these merchants were called upon and inquired the truth of it would become evident. We therefore beg since the Police Amin is totally ignorant of the English Language that he should be transferred to the post of [illegible] attached to [illegible] Taluq which is the Police Amin's ~~proper~~ place and if

Police Amin

(6)

Police Amin of good acquaintance with the English language strictly observing the Government rules and attending much to the good of the people be appointed for the town of Tuticorin it would be a great blessing to it for Tuticorin is a large commercial port town in the Southern part of Southern India often frequented by European ships to carry Indian commodities to foreign continents and further it is a place of permanent residence for European agents of Cotton screws the trader etc. the agent and the S. Co in charge of the Salt and sea custom departments with none of whom he is able enough to talk two words for he is totally ignorant of the English tongue and thereby he is an vexation to the European agents who are always in want of interpreters to speak to this man.

The Royasam we have to say commits additional frauds of a quite different nature. This is done by misappropriating for himself the fines collected on animals penned in the pound at Tuticorin, with his brother Shivasubramaniah Pillai who is the pound keeper and who got the appointment merely by the recommendation of the Royasam his brother and the Police Amin his uncle. These

these

these three persons all of the same family being employed in one office have made themselves enemies to justice, obstacles to the recovery of the town from famine, and plunderers of the money which is rightly due to the Government alone for which they are highly indebted to their honor, wealth, &c and as a mark of their gratitude towards their benefactors, the Government, they prove themselves to be men of such abominable wickedness. We therefore request that the Police Amin should be transferred to the post of Bashkar of Thirumandum attached to the Vullyur Taluq, being his proper place, and the Royasam to a post in the revenue department such as a Gomastah or a like in the Taluq, for if he were to continue for any more time in the Police department either in Tuticorin or any other place he is sure of persuading his Superiors for the commission of such wicked acts as have been mentioned thereby render the inhabitants of the place in which he shall be employed, extremely unhappy. By transferring the Royasam from Tuticorin to any other place the Government shall clearly understand that he is surely guilty of the said charge preferred against him that is usurpation of fines connected with the pound, for if the present Royasam goes away the poundkeeper his brother a simple coward would not any more dare to misappropriate for himself even a single cash thereby increasing the fines to a very greater extent than had hitherto been.

Requesting your Lordship to be gracious enough to take due consideration on the matter we beg to remain

your Lordships
obedient servants

17th October
1861

Thom Thomas
A Mc[illegible]

No 3054 of 1861.

Forwarded to the Magistrate of Tinnevelly for enquiry and early report.

By order

Fort St George
6th November 1861

Ch. Whiteside
Actg Secy to Govt.

No. 1283
3054 of 1861

From Joan Thom
A. Michael and
Savan Pillai inha
tants of Tuticorin

Dated 17th Octobe
Recd 29 October

Complain of the in
justice, extortion and
corruption of the Poli
officials of the Town of
Tuticorin -

State that they a
all of one family and
closely related - Tha
the Police Amin is
father in law of the
Rayasam's brother and
that the Pound Keep
of Tuticorin is brot

of the Rayasam & ne-
-phew of the Police Amin.
States that the Police
Amin and Rayasam -
commit all manner of
unjust acts - That they
sentence parties convicted
before them nominally to
a few days imprisonment
but in reality collect a
fine from them which
they appropriate themselves.
That the Police Amin
has borrowed large sums
of money from merchants
of the town and compel
all arrack sellers in the
Town constantly to sup-
ply him with paddy &c.
That the Rayasam &
the Pound Keeper his
brother appropriate
the proceeds of Cattle fines
&c.
Mention the names
of the merchants who have
lent

N. 3.

=lent money to the
Police Amin -
Pray for enquiry
and the removal of the
3 individuals from the
Town -

Received 13th } Nov.
Returned 25th } 1861

Magistrate

Judicial

Proceedings of the Madras Governme

Read again Petition of John
Thomas & others
Here entered No 3054 of 1861

Read letter from the Magis
-trate of Tinnevelly
Here entered 23rd Nov. 1861

Order thereon
12th Decr 1861 No 1528

The Government approve
of the Magistrate of Tinne
-velly having ordered
their deputy Magistrat
to dismiss the enqui

into the charges made, in anonymous Petition against the Police Commissioner of Tuticorin.

2. They are of opinion, however, that the relationship that is shewn to exist between the Police Commissioner and his immediate official subordinate is objectionable, and Mr. Silver will arrange for their removal of the Latter to equivalent situation in other Talugs, reporting to Government that he has finally done.—

To the Magte of Tinnevelly
Decr 13th

Pros of War

Judicial 1861 Dept.

No. 1528.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Dated 12th Decr. 1861.

F. No. 2 of 1862.

Directing Mr. Silver to arrange for the removal of the immediate subordinates of the Police Ameen of Tuticorin to equivalent situations in other Talugs. –

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