M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 343 Press ~~His.~~

112-113

Dated 13.3.1861/ ~~19~~ .

3/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
13th March 1861.

No. 112. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 8th March 1861, No. 465.

Communicating letter from the Officiating Magistrate of Cuddapah, reporting upon the state of that District in respect to the alleged prevalence there of serious offences. (Vide Proceedings Public Works Department, dated 8th March 1861, Nos. 122 and 123.)

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1861, No. 343.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Police.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Public.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Cuddapah, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Cuddapah, 28th February 1861, No. 5 :—

SIR,

1. I have had the honor to receive the Order of Government dated 21st February 1861, No. 350, on the Chief Engineer's letter dated 5th February 1861, No. 9,619, requesting a report on the state of the Cuddapah District in respect to the alleged prevalence there of serious offences. The localities alluded to in the correspondence of the Engineer Department, which led to the above Order, are some part of the Sub-Division, not stated, to which I have called the attention of the Joint Magistrate, and the Rájampet Táluq.

2. I am concerned to state that the transfer of the latter Táluq to the new Police was not marked by any improvement, but rather by a considerable increase of violent crime, and I accordingly requested the Superintendent to proceed to the Táluq with a strong force, and take every measure to put down the offences then so prevalent.

3. It is useless to suppose that any Táluq Constabulary, a chain of stations, can put down ubiquitous crime, which is committed and the perpetrators gone long before information reaches the Police. I requested the Superintendent to take certain radical measures of a preventative and detective nature, which I believe will be attended with good effects. No system of Police will answer here unless with the hearty co-operation of the village heads. I requested the Superintendent to make the acquaintance and ascertain the character of each one of them. A personal influence once gained over them will supply the power which the localization of the Tahsíldár, under the former system, had over these men. I directed a list to be given by each village Munsif of persons of suspicious character, &c., with no ostensible means of livelihood, residing in their respective villages, such persons to be held to security, and on failure of disclosing the bad characters of his village, the village Munsif was to be held officially responsible on the conviction of a resident of his village of the crime of gang robbery. I requested the Superintendent to use his best detective agency in tracing and obtaining proof of the complicity, which it is strongly suspected several heads of villages have, in either planning robberies, or countenancing and screening the perpetrators of them.

4. The Government must be informed that the Superintendent of Police of Cuddapah has no ordinary difficulties to contend with. First, there is the climate, the well-founded fear of which prevents his getting a superior class of Inspectors, and delays his operations. His efforts are paralyzed by the Inspectors being struck down with fever, and without proper supervision the rank and file are not efficient. His Police are apportioned not to area, but to population, and there is a great inequality between a rich rice field like Tanjore of small area with a numerous and peaceable population, with so many Police per thousand, and a district like Cuddapah surrounded and intersected by hills and jungles of a larger area, and a less population of a different character from the less energetic inhabitants of a rice country.

5. There are some other circumstances which make this transition state one of exceeding difficulty. A mistaken view of the proceedings of the Inám Commission, leading the village Police, whose Ináms where registered with a view to future enfranchisement, to imagine that they were at once to be relieved from duty, a mistake I took immediate measures to correct; the impending change of releasing from duty and responsibility several of the village chief officers and centring the responsibility on one of each class, and also a mooted proposal of enfranchising all service Ináms and assessing them at 66 per cent. of their nominal value, have tended to unsettle the minds of the village officials, without whose cordial support and fidelity our administration cannot be efficiently carried on.

6. I am in daily communication with the Superintendent of Police, to whom I have always given my most cordial support and best advice, founded on the experience of many years in this District. I have every confidence that whatever can be done by untiring energy and intelligence will be effected by Captain Hearn, whose last report, dated 23rd February, gives a better account of affairs.

7. I have not alluded as yet to the high prices of grain, which have led to numerous grain robberies of small amount, which are, from the nature of the article robbed, difficult of proof by identification. The son of a former village head has just been convicted of attempted gang robbery with violence, and sentenced to 14 years' hard labor. By the measures in progress I trust that the disorder lately prevalent will shortly be put an end to.

ORDER THEREON, 8th March 1861, No. 465.

Ordered to be communicated to the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Dated 22nd March

Pros of Board
Judicial 1861 Dep^t

Pros: of Govt in the
P. W^s & 465.

Jud 8th
Dep 11th 3 March 1861.
3 Separate copies

No 407.

Copy letter from the
Mag^te of Candahar reporting upon
the state of that District
in respect to the alleged
prevalence there of serious
Offences.

112 & 113.

Write an Order

No 343 — 13th March 1861.

Communicated to the
Inspector General of Police.

The Inspector General
of Police. 13-3-61 Rec^d