

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	616	Press
		~~Mr.~~
51-52		
Dated	10 th 5. 1861	~~Mr.~~

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

10th May 1861.

No. 51. Read the following letter from V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Magistrate of Madura, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 19th April 1861, No. 157.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 431, dated the 28th March 1861, I have the honor to report that the Session Judge has not quite accurately described the sport called in Tamil "Jalikat;" from personal observation and from enquiries made by me, I have ascertained that it consists in loosing either from a large pen or from a number of stakes to which they are tied, a lot of cattle with cloths, or handkerchieves tied to their horns, money being some times knotted in the cloths—nothing is done to infuriate the cattle before being released; when let go the spectators shout and cheer and a tremendous tom-tomming is set up, this so far excites the animals that most of them go off at a gallop, then such of the spectators as wish to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their countrymen as swift runners and brave men go after the cattle and strive to pull the cloths off the beasts' horns, the cloth and any valuable attached to it being the reward of the captor.

2. This kind of sport may be considered the national amusement of the people of this part of the country, it is practised in this District, Trichinopoly, Poodoocottah, I think in parts of Tanjore, and is as much their passion, as horse racing is that of the people of England or bull baiting that of the people of Spain.

3. Mr. Clarke when Joint Magistrate prohibited it in Dindigul Division, while the Magistrate of Madura allowed it in the Madura Division, but subsequently in 1855, it was also prohibited in Madura.

4. Numbers of people asked me to allow it again. I believe there was much discontent at the prohibition and therefore permitted it—and notwithstanding the prohibition against it, so devoted were these people to it that it was still practised at all risks.

5. Out of curiosity I went myself to see it, it was performed as I have stated above; no one was hurt and I know of several other instances in none of which any accident occurred, but one accident, I believe, occurred which called forth the remarks of the Session Judge; directly I heard of it, I directed the Joint Magistrate to enquire into the case and to commit the owner of the beast to Court, if culpable homicide could be proved against him.

6. At the risk of causing much discontent amongst the people, I did not consider I was called upon to put a stop to their amusements, because there was some risk attaching, no more than I should put a stop to some of the feats performed by tumblers, because the performer sometimes falls from a great height and is killed, and in the case of this "Jalikat," no one can possibly be hurt excepting those who voluntarily go after the cattle.

7. Rich Ryots, Zemindars and head men are the great promoters of this kind of sport, by running their own cattle &c.; directly they find that its practice is attended with danger of being tried for an accident, it is probable that they will voluntarily withdraw from actively continuing it, when it will greatly lose its interest and excitement among the people and they will then probably voluntarily give it up and take to or invent some more harmless amusement.

No. 52. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1861, No. 616.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter from the Magistrate of Madura, be furnished to the Judges of the Sudder Court, in reference to their Proceedings of the 21st March last No. 38—and that they be informed that, under the circumstances represented by Mr. Levinge, it does not appear to Government that their interference is called for.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

11 - 1 - 1900

Judicial Department

№ 675-

From The Magistrate of Madras.
Dated 19th April 1861.
For Orders.

I would leave the
matter as it is - in
leaving the lead of the
2^d Co. that they are directed
to pass any orders on
the subject.

Our steeple chases are quite as dangerous
or I think more so - Wm

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Read again Proceedings of the Sudder Court, dated 21 Mar. '61 N^o. 38. Recorded in Proceedings 28 idem N^o. 431.
Read also letter from the Magistrate of Madras — Inter 19 April '61 N^o. 157.

Order — 10 May 1861. N^o. 616.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter from the Magistrate of Madras, be furnished to the Judges of the Sudder Court, in reference to their Proceedings of the 21 Mar. last N^o. 38 — & that they be informed that, under the circumstances represented by Mr. Sewing, it does not appear to Court, that their interference is called for.

The Sudder Court.
" Magistrate of Madras } Dec 11-5-61.

Magistrate
25/10/18

Mr. Richard Hunt

Have the honor to be
at once furnished with
up and take to the
probably ordinary
and the people & they are