

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1103

Press
~~MIS~~

107-108

Dated 12.7.1862

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th July 1862.*

No. 107. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 21st June 1862, No. 1,326.

General Department.

With reference to the Order of Government, dated 21st instant, No. 952, I have the honor to state that the District Officers are giving the subject of walling in wells much attention—opportunity will be taken to impress the matter further upon them.

2. I submit likewise a copy of an Order on the subject of these so called suicides. Many murders are doubtless returned as suicides. The Officers sift each case with care.

POLICE ORDER CCXLVIII.

Dated 23rd April 1862.

The Superintendent of Police of while remarking on the number of accidental deaths and suicides of young women by falling or jumping into wells and the like, says "I am convinced that the murder of young women has prevailed, and does prevail, to a frightful extent. Whenever a poor young girl or widow is found, by the old women of the house, to be in the family way, she is forthwith drugged or poisoned by them; and then during the night put into the nearest well."

2. The Returns of accidental deaths and suicides, annually prepared in the Office of the Inspector General, show beyond a doubt, that these domestic murders must be fearfully prevalent in certain Districts.

3. Superintendents must bear in mind that the feeling of society in many parts of the country is against the easy prevention of this crime and too generally treats lightly these sad offences. Many races of the people look upon female infidelity as a capital offence, and rude country people are not very particular as to how, what they think a merited punishment, overtakes the poor out-cast offender. Crime is resorted to and the connexions and caste people all lend their assistance in hushing it up. If this crime, therefore, is to be checked it must be done by the special exertion of the European Officers of the Force. The Superintendents must give to cases of alleged accidental deaths and suicides of young females their most anxious personal attention. Native Officers of Police cannot as a rule yet be trusted to deal with them impartially.

4. Circumstances render domestic murders of this character, as a rule, exceedingly difficult of detection by the Police; but even here success has followed the exertion of the European Superintendent's detective tact and ability. Much more may however be done to prevent such crimes—by making each instance as it occurs the subject of most searching enquiry with reference to caste, age, habits and probable circumstance of the victim and her family. To this our endeavours must first be turned. The Deputy Inspector General of Range remarks "I have no doubt that the knowledge on the part of the people that this subject is exciting such close attention as that which is being paid to it by the Superintendent of and that the particulars of each case are so minutely enquired into will have very great effect."

5. The Inspector General knows that this painful subject is already exciting the most anxious attention of most District Officers—and with some success; but he will again earnestly press upon them the noble desire that the British Government has ever manifested for the suppression of cruel and murderous habits existing amongst the people whether of infanticide, *thugges* or other inhuman crime. With this remark he leaves the suppression of this frightful offence to the earnest exertions of his able District Officers.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspector General of M. Police.

No. 108. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1862, No. 1,103.

The Governor in Council is of opinion that the Circular Order submitted with the foregoing letter which, it is observed, has been published in some of the District Gazettes, should not have

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th July 1862.

been published, but have been issued merely as a confidential order, for the guidance of the European Superintendents of Police.

The assumption on which this Order proceeds, which however well founded, is not capable of proof, that most of the alleged suicides of Natives are in fact murders, cannot fail to be exasperating to respectable Natives, and for this reason should not have been made the subject of a published Circular.

The same objection applies to the publication of the remark made by the Inspector General in paragraph 3 of the Order, on the untrustworthiness in such matters of the Native Police.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Acting Chief Secretary.

For 24th June 1862
to the High Judge

through the
Judicial

1862 Department

Memorandum -
M. Robinson Esquire
Inspector General
of the
Police
to the
Hon. the
High Judge
of the
Madras
High Court
for the
purpose of
obtaining
information
relative to
the
suicides
of Natives
in the
Madras
Presidency
and the
reasons
therefor
and the
steps
taken
to
prevent
the same
from
occurring
in the
future

Dated 24th June 1862

Received 25th
P. 1826

Enclosure one P. 1827

Reports that the district
Officers are giving the subject
of the suicides in the Madras
Presidency much
attention and submit a copy
of an order issued on the subject.

to the High Judge

for the purpose of
obtaining information
relative to the
suicides of Natives
in the Madras
Presidency and the
reasons therefor
and the steps taken
to prevent the same
from occurring in the
future

70,

as a confidential order
and to his satisfaction
in the order is not
objectionable - and as
such it should have been
issued

But I find - see enclosed
copy of the order - that it
has been published at least
in the D. G. - the Madras
Presidency

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from Mr. Robinson Esq. Inspector Genl
of Madras Police.

(Received 24th June 1862. N^o 1526)

Order thereon 12th July 1862 N^o 1103.

The Governor in Council
is of opinion that the Circular order
submitted with the foregoing letter
which, it is observed, has been published
in the District Gazette, should not have
been published, but have been issued
merely as a confidential order, in the
guidance of the European Superintendent
of Police.

The assumption on which
this order proceeds, which however well
founded, is not capable of proof, that
most of the alleged suicides of natives
are in fact murders, cannot fail to be
exasperating

Wm

Wm

Chief Office of the District Court
by Mr. Robinson Esq. Inspector Genl
of Madras Police
Dated 24th June 1862.
To
Mr. Robinson Esq. Inspector Genl
of Madras Police
Acting Chief Secretary
to Government
Dated 24th June 1862.
With reference to the order of
Government dated 21st August 1852, where
the former to state that the District Officer are
giving the subject of meeting in public much
attention - opportunity will be taken to
improve the matter further upon them.
2. Do submit likewise a Copy of any
Order in the subject of those to other friends.
Many friends are doubtless returned so
satisfied. The Officer will take care with care.
I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt servant
J. Robinson Esq.
Inspector General
of Madras.

General Department
N^o 1326
Chief Office of the District Court
by Mr. Robinson Esq. Inspector Genl
of Madras Police
Dated 24th June 1862.
To
Mr. Robinson Esq. Inspector Genl
of Madras Police
Acting Chief Secretary
to Government
Dated 24th June 1862.
With reference to the order of
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Public - subject -
to have been sent
to the District
by Mr. Robinson Esq. Inspector Genl
of Madras Police
Dated 24th June 1862.

expressing to respectable natives,
and for this reason should not have
been made the subject of a published
Circular.

The same objection applies to
the publication of the remark made by
the Inspector General in para 3 of the
order, on the untrustworthiness in such
matters of the native police

G. A.

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To
The Inspector General of
Police } Dec 14th

x^o
a

Charles Smith
India & 1862. Department.

No. 1103

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 19th & 20th Aug 1862.

Stating that post one of
opinion that the Circular Order
of the Director Genl M. Rice,
with reference to accidental falls
in wells should not have appeared
in the district of Agder, but have
been confidentially communicated
to European Agents in the district of Pina.

1874-108

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