M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 113 Press ~~Mis.~~

171-172

Dated 28.1.1862 ~~19~~

15/15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 171. Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Magistrate of Tanjore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vellam, 4th January 1862, No. 6.

With reference to your Official Memorandum of the 27th November last, No. 467; I have now the honor to report for the information of Government that I have made a full and careful investigation into the charges brought against the Tahsildar of Mannargudi and his subordinates, by the Reverend W. O. Simpson. As stated in my letter to Government of the 4th December, previous to the receipt of your communication, I had called upon Mr. Simpson for a more explicit statement of the facts to which he had been an eye witness, and on the 10th December I proceeded to Mannargudi to hold a personal investigation into the matter. This took place on the 11th in the presence of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Police, and the following parties were duly examined:—

The Reverend W. O. Simpson.
Mr. Demonte, East Indian School Master.
Narrainasami, Native School Master.
Kristnan, a Pupil in the Wesleyan School.
Ramasami Aiar, Tahsildar.
Palanisami Raja, Police Inspector.
Mutial Naik, Head Constable.

I had also previously in the morning gone the round of all the bazars, and verbally enquired of the bazarmen if they had been put to any unnecessary and illegal restraint during the occasion of the annual Car Festival, and the answer of one and all was, that they had not, but that it was their custom to close their Shops in the morning and also in the afternoon during the continuance of the feast, keeping them open, however, during the middle of the day.

Subsequently also, and at my request the Reverend Messrs. Levell and Cockill, Wesleyan Missionaries, (now at Trichinopoly, but who were at Mannargudi during the feast) were examined by Mr. McDonell.

I beg to enclose for the information of Government copies of the statements made by the 3 Reverend Gentlemen and from the result of the examination now held, and also from the enquiries made by myself, I can come to no other conclusion than that the charges made against the Tahsildar and his subordinates either of collecting ryots by force or of compelling them against their will to drag the Car, are not proven.

The Car at Mannargudi is one of unusually large size, requiring the united exertions of about 6,000 men to drag it; and owing to the breaking of the axle tree on one occasion, and the frequent breaking of the ropes by which it is moved, the work of getting it round last year was one of great difficulty. The Tahsildar and his subordinates, as also a number of Police Constables, and on several occasions also the Deputy Collector were present to preserve order among the crowd, and it is not improbable that, as members of the Hindu religion, they themselves were not indifferent to the progress of the ceremonial. Beyond, however, that the Head Constable busied himself in marshalling the crowds who came from the different villages and conducting them to the place where the Car was, there is no evidence whatever to show that the Tahsildar or his subordinates or any other officials made any undue use of their influence or official position on the occasion, nor indeed would the Mirasidars submit to such compulsion. It is well known that the Mirasidars themselves are the moving parties in these matters, and that their coolies or laborers are yearly supplied with extra batta for their services in dragging the Car at the annual festivals, and although there can be no denying the fact that the Tahsildars and other officials are often very much urged and pressed by the Mirasidars to lend their official aid and countenance in collecting coolies for the purpose; I am not of opinion that there is any evidence to show that, on this occasion, any such solicitations were either made or complied with.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
28th January 1862.

The only official indeed who is proved to have taken a somewhat conspicuous part on the occasion is the late Head Constable, and his conduct would seem to have been confined more to marshalling and regulating the bodies of coolies as they came into the Town than to other compulsory measures. He has, however, since been removed by the Superintendent of Police.

I would take this opportunity also of informing Government that at the same time I held an investigation into a somewhat similar charge made by the Reverend Mr. Hobday at Trivalore, and in an extract which appeared in the "Madras Times" of the 15th November 1861. I enclose for the perusal of Government copies of the correspondence which passed between that gentleman and myself, and have only to add that the result of the investigation was similar to that of the Mannargudi case. I trust it is unnecessary for me to state that, if the charges now made in the public prints and after a lapse of months had been brought either before myself or the Superintendent of Police they would have, at once, been carefully and promptly investigated; advantage has, however, been taken of the present enquiry to impress on the Tahsildars and all their subordinates that, while the Government allow the most perfect toleration to all classes and creeds (and whether officials or not,) they will not allow any official authority to be made use of in any other way than that allowed by Law.

No. 172. ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1862, No. 113.

It is evident from the foregoing papers that there was some movement on the part of the Government officials on the occasion in question.

2. The Government consider that the notice taken by Mr. Cadell of the matter will doubtless have a good effect, and that no special orders from them are called for.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Statement of the Revd. W. A. Simpson given
before W. Mc. Cadell Esquire Magistrate of Tanjore
on the 11th December 1861

Was present at Mannargudi in the month of
March and during the continuance of the festi=
val, went on several occasions to see the
festival, remembering once with other Jentlem.
on the evening of the 15th March. There was
on that occasion a great number of res=
pectable people dragging the Car but there
were few Town or Police Constables & any
kind there until I see we leave the next
evening, nothing particular occurred on that
day but the crowd was less, did not go
again till some few days afterwards, when
on going down to the town I found the
bazaars closed, went in the evening (do not
remember the exact day) to the place where
the Car was standing which was the next
street of the Pagoda, it might have been
about 6 P.M. Saw there the Deputy Collector
Dharmadaya Mudali, the Tahsildar, the Ins=
pector Subramaniami Pillai, and an other official
who

who was stated to be the Brahmin spoke to the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar on ordinary matters, the people then assembled were chiefly villagers (not town people) and the number of peons and Constables was larger than I had seen before, but I am not able to state how many:- they were taking an active part in getting the villagers to attend the Car but whether they were acting under the orders of superior authority or not, I cannot say- did not see any direct attempt by any of the officials whose names I encourage them in so doing. At one time during the feast I perceived considerable difficulty in getting supplies from the bazaar such as oil, grain vegetables &c, and the reason my servants gave for their not being procurable was that they had heard that the Tahsildar had forbidden the shops to be opened on pain of the shopkeeper being fined. The fines were stated to range from Rupees 5 to 25 rupees. The servants who brought me this report were not present. I represented in writing to the Tahsildar the difficulties I was under, and he

he at once gave orders that I should be supplied with what I wanted; my School Master Mr Desmonte likewise experienced considerable difficulties in getting provisions and for 3 days could procure nothing it was generally stated that the shops were closed by the Tahsildar and myself and for several days the shops closed both in the morning and the Evening & cannot say positively whether they were opened in the middle of the day or not, I spoke to the Tahsildar regarding the closing of the shops which remark was, Sir what can I do the Brahmin trouble me. I know it is unlawful" During the continuance of the feast for several days saw large bodies of men marched past the English School and on several occasions headed by the late Head Constable, Muttiah Naik, he was generally riding on a Pony. Saw also on several occasions, bodies of people lying about the street, and on one occasion saw a Pean (if I recollect right, a Perumal Pean) with a tom tom beater

come

came up and take away a party to assist
in dragging the Car, one evening also had
a conversation with some men who had
been dragging the car and who complained
of having been taken from their homes to
do this work. these men stated that they
had been ordered to do so by the Magistrates
and that the latter were acting under the
influence of the Tahsildar towards the
conclusion of the feast next year evenings
while Police violence was made use of towards
those drawing the Car, saw the Police Constables
(although cannot specify names) strike people
and also a Man with a leather belt on the
road. the Deputy Collector and the Tahsil=
dar were then present but saw nothing
whether the Police Inspector was there, cannot
say whether the Peons or Constables were
acting under orders from higher authority
or not. saw several parties, men boys & girls
to compel them to go to the rope, but saw no
wounds or any one who received actual injury.

In answer to Question by Captain Bates/
no attempt was made on the 3 evenings last
specified by the Native officials then present
to prevent or cheque the Constables and Peons
acting as they did.

The above deposition has been
read over to me and I declare that it
contains a true statement of what I
witnessed to the best of my remembrance.

/Signed/ W. O. Swinton

Taken before me this eleventh day of Decem-
ber 1861.-

/Signed/ W. M. Castle

Magistrate.

/True Copy/

W. M. Castle

Magistrate.

Statement given by the Revd A. Lovell before the
Presiding Magistrate of Tricheinopoly this 15th day of
December 1861.

In regard to the nature of the ear feast
at Mannargudi last March all I have
to say is that I was at the time simply on a
visit for 2 or 3 days at Mannargudi and
only on one occasion was present at the dragg-
ging of the Car, being a stranger to the place
and the Officials I feel wholly unable to
furnish, from my own personal observation,
any statement which would further any
inquiry to be made in this matter.

I know nothing regarding the closing
of the bazaars as this is reported to have
taken place after my leaving Mannargudi.

(Signed) A. Lovell
Wesleyan Missionary
Tricheinopoly

Taken before me at Tricheinopoly this
15th of December 1861

(Signed) A. P. McDowell
Sg Magistrate

True Copy
W. Sadleir
Secretariate

The Statement given by the Revd W. R. C. Cockile, Wesleyan Mission, before the Acting Magistrate of Trichinopoly, this 18th day of December 1861.

I am generally occupied at the Mission School in Mannargudi, and I recollect in March last, on the occasion of the Car feast during some two or three days, seeing a number of people led by Police privates; and more than once I saw the head constable also lead them upon his pony - and as I then understood from all our teachers and others with whom I entered into conversation, they were collected for the purpose of aiding in dragging the Car, but by whose orders these people were collected I am unable to state -

On this same occasion my horse went without his daily meal, and on my enquiry I learnt from my servants that the bazaars were closed, on which I went to the Tahsildar's house, he was not at home, but some person from his house (of whose name I am ignorant but whom I could identify) accompanied me

to the bazaar and procured what I required, Viz^t some gram, to do which he had to enter the dealer's stone, the back way. The dragging of the Car lasted for about eighteen days; on one evening while walking through the town, I saw plans of every description, Viz^t Police and Revenue, also others who, at the time, believed to be Cutchery Subordinates, though I might have difficulty in identifying them, urging the people to pull on the Car proper by Shouts and blows from small Switches and rattans - I mention this Incident in particular - because we approached him from behind and as it were unawares, on other occasions when we approached the scene openly every thing was hushed and the Car at a stand still which we were told was occasioned by our presence, the gods refusing to move while we were present.

I did not ever see the Tahsildar personally using his influence in this matter -

I did not see the Inspector of Police on any occasion - I am unable to state by what order the shops were closed, but I was under the impression at the time, that this was done by the order of the Tahsildar Ramasamy Iyer, this is all the information I can give on the matter from personal observation -

I did not see the Deputy Magistrate present on any one occasion therefore I cannot state what measures were taken for repressing these coercive measures.

(Signed) W. R. C. Cockill
Wesleyan Missionary
Mannargudi

Taken before me at Trichinopoly this
15th of December 1861

(Signed) R. P. McDonell
Acting Magistrate

(True Copy)

D. Mc Farlane
Magistrate -

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(Signed) W. R. C. Cockill
Wesleyan Missionary
Mannargudi

Taken before me at Trichinopoly this
15th of December 1861

(Signed) R. P. McDonell
Acting Magistrate

(True Copy)

D. Mc Farlane
Magistrate -

No 673.

To

The Revd James Bakeway
Resident Missionary
Madras Wesleyan Mission
Triveloor

Sir,

My attention has been drawn to an article in the "Madras Times" of the 13th Instant and in which it is broadly stated on the authority of a Report made by you and an Extract of which is given at the foot of the Article that "3 Tahsildars of this District and a Police "Inspector were engaged at Tiruvalore in ejecting "to drag the Car at that town, and that they were "were engaged in whipping and forcing people "to do the same thing"

I have the honor to request you will favor me by stating when the alleged occurrence took place, what are the names of the 3 Tahsildars referred to and also that of the Police Inspector, and that you will also be good enough

1882 Registered
the 2 Letters
From the Magistrate
of Tiruvalore
Dated 14th January 1882
Received 16th January 1882
Answered
Matters of the Revd
J. E. Cockle
Sub 2/62 &
No 312

I think he particularly obliged by your favoring me, with an early reply to this communication.

I have &c signed W Lascelles
Coll: and Mag:trate

Vellain
16th November 1861

To

W. M. Cadell Esquire
Collector and Magistrate Tanjore

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and in reply to state, that I beg respectfully to decline making more particular statements than I have made in my Report, a copy of which as published originally in the Madras Field for November. I have the pleasure to forward to you for perusal. my reasons for doing so are, first, that having no other design in publishing my report than to warn the persons concerned in the occurrences which I witnessed, without bringing them to punishment, I have not prepared to assist in the inquiry which you have so kindly

to give me the names of any parties who may have been present with yourself, and who were eye witnesses of what is stated to have taken place. I beg you will also distinctly state what Sahibdin promised to bring 3000 men and what other Sahibdins engaged to bring 1000 each and also in whose hearing these promises were made. I trust it is unnecessary for me to state that, if the occurrences above adverted to had been brought to my notice at the time they would have been the subject of the most searching and full investigation. it is a matter of regret to me that this course was not taken at once and when the facts were recent, but at all events I have no doubt that you will now give me every assistance in the prosecution of the inquiry which I shall be sorry to find in making, and perhaps, under the circumstances, you will not object to favour me with an Extract of your diary made at the time, and which may contain full particulars of the occurrences which came under your observation.

offered to prosecute; secondly, there at present is
expedient for me to take a prominent part in
prosecuting any individuals in their public or pri
vate Capacity. I should thereby interfere with
the exercise of any prerogative, especially as the
suspicion has been but recently established in
Swaraland gives considerable difficulty. I would
only observe that I know three persons who were
eyewitnesses of facts similar to those which I have
noticed in the Report, and that I have more than
once seen officious influence employed in the way
I have stated, in Swaraland.

2. I have the honor further to state that
any reason for not informing you directly when
the events occurred was simply to avoid taking
any part towards injuring any person, which
could be done only by taking the course which
I have adopted.

3. I regret to say that for the period
during which the last great Ou Festival
was observed I kept no Diary.

4 The mere publication of my Report
with, I have reason to think, be a warning

to those for whom it was intended. But
if it be set forth a more explicit announcement
of the desire of Government, that, Native
Officers as well as European abstain in
their public Capacity from all interference
with the religious of the Country, I shall
have accomplished all that I intended
in giving publicity to my statements.

I have the [illegible] honor to be
Sir
Your obedient
Servant
J Roberts
Kelay an Impimary

Swaraland
22d November 1861

No 682

To
The Revd James Roberts
Swaraland

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant
in reply to mine of the 16th idem.

Before taking any further steps
in the matter, I must request you will
be good enough to state to whom you refer
in the last para of your letter where you
observe that "of the publication of your Report

call for the more explicit announcement of the desire of Government that Native Officials as well as European abstain in their public capacity from all interference with the religious of the country to be" From this I can only infer that the interference of which you complained in your first report and which was therein stated to be confined to Native Officials is at least tacitly permitted if not countenanced by the European Officers of the District I have not a doubt that such a statement would not be put forth by a gentleman of your position and holding the office of a Christian Magistrate without some grounds I may I request therefore you will be good enough to inform me to what European Officers of the District you refer and from what acts of theirs you have been led to the conclusion that if not actually cognizant of they were, at least, indifferent to the interference complained of

I have &c Signed W Caldwell
Coll & Magistrate

Tanjore
23rd November 1865

J.

W. Caldwell Esqre
Collector & Magistrate Tanjore

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant: In reply I beg respectfully to state that in that passage of my letter which is quoted by you reference is made to the proceedings of the Supreme Government as reported in the "Friend of India" some time ago towards two European Officers who were called to account for being present at a Christian Service where two Native Converts were baptized and was not meant to allude to any European Officer in this District

I have &c Signed J Roberts

Tanjore
26th November 1865

True Copies

W Caldwell
Magistrate

1862 Department 6-

Re a letter

from the Magistrate
of Tamford

to

The Chief Secretary
to Govt Toronto

Dated 4th January 1862.
Recvd

No 6.

Copies of Correspondence

Sent 62 D
No 82

duties Table.
List

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the
Magistrate of Tanjore - Enter 4th January 62 No 6.

Order - 28th January 1862 No 113.

It is evident from
the foregoing papers
that there was some
movement
of a political character
on the part of the
Govt. officials on the
occasion in question.

2. The Govt. considers
that the notice taken
by Mr. Cadell of the
matter

Proc. of Collr.

Encl 1862. Department

No. 113.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Dated 28th January 1862.

Stating that Govt think that the investigation made by the Collector of Tanjore into the charges brought against the Thasildar of Manargudi will be productive of good effect & Special orders are consequently unnecessary.

5329] Madras—Printed at the Government Press.

17/1/172

matter will diminish... left home in good c... effects & that no p... trial orders from them are called for.

The Magistrate of Tanjore.

Dec^r 28th

" Superintendent Land.