M.R.O. 1—32,000—15-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 699 Press ~~His.~~

281-282

Dated 30-4-1862 ~~19~~

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 30th April 1862.

No. 281. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 16th April 1862, No. 794.

I have the honor, with reference to the accompanying correspondence,* to request the sanction of Government to present, as recommended by the Magistrate, a Bangle valued at 100 Rupees to Nullana Gounden, one hundred Rupees in cash to Shedia Gounden, and fifty Rupees to Palany Mullay, for courageous and most creditable conduct on the occasion of one of the most serious gang robberies that has occurred in the Southern Districts for some time.

* From the Superintendent of Police to the Magistrate of Coimbatore, dated 4th March 1862.
From the Magistrate of Coimbatore to the Inspector General of Madras Police, dated 12th March 1862, No. 69.
In original.

2. The case has been carried to the most successful issue; 23 men of this formidable gang—the Police are in possession of a list of eleven serious gang robberies known to have been committed in the Coimbatore and Trichinopoly Districts by these ruffians and their comrades and they are suspected in several others—have been convicted, and others will be brought to justice as soon as they can be apprehended.

3. It is unnecessary to occupy the time of Government with details of the case, but, as the Magistrate observes, its conduct reflects great credit on Lieutenant Balmer and Captain Weldon's ability as Police Officers and on others under them. If the Government would therefore sanction the recommendation of the Magistrate and place Rupees fifty—the lesser sum will suffice, as it is rather a mark of approbation than remuneration that is required—the liberality will have the best effect in stimulating future exertion.

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police, dated Ootacamund, 12th March 1862, No. 69.

In forwarding for your perusal, the very satisfactory account by Captain Weldon, of the tracing, capture, and conviction, of 23 out of a long dreaded and formidable gang of robbers, long infesting this frontier, I would beg cordially to support Captain Weldon's recommendation, for rewards by Government, to the Moonsiff "Nullana Gounden;" for whom I would suggest a gold Bangle of not less value than 100 Rupees, with a short suitable inscription—to "Shedia Gounden," who is poor, 100 Rupees in money—to the Cavilgar "Palany Mullay" 50 Rupees. The defence made, was most courageous and creditable, and tended to the eventual recognition and capture of so many of the gang.

Original from the Superintendent of Police Coimbatore, dated 4th March 1862, to be returned.

2. Great credit is due both to Captain Weldon and Lieutenant Balmer, for their indefatigable and successful conduct in this case; the result of which will I trust be to deter, for a long time, similar gangs and outrages.

3. I would also suggest that 100 Rupees be placed at Captain Weldon's disposal and discretion, as an encouragement to some of the Police Force, who I hear behaved uncommonly well, in obtaining clues, and exerting themselves under the orders of their superiors. The moral effect of this case will I think last for some time, both in this and the neighbouring Districts.

From Captain T. WELDON, Superintendent of Coimbatore Police; to E. B. THOMAS, Esq., District Magistrate of Coimbatore, dated 4th March 1862.

I have the honor to report the successful prosecution of the Prisoners lately committed for trial on a charge of being concerned in the late gang robbery at Pichampatti in the Carur Taluq of this District; and in doing so I would beg to bring to prominent notice the gallant conduct of "*Nullana Gounden*" the Munsiff of Kakawadi, and owner of the house which was attacked on the above occasion.

2. On the night of 7th December 1861, a gang collected from the Districts of Trichinopoly and Coimbatore, attacked the house of "*Nullana Gounden*," Munsiff of Kakawadi, who is reputed to be very wealthy. The alarm was first raised by a Kavilkar named "*Palni Mallay*" who was sleeping in an enclosed court yard of the Munsiff's house. The Kavilkar saw four men jump

over the wall into the enclosure and proceed to open a door for their confederates. *Palni Mallay* raised an alarm and courageously attacked the four men with his iron shod staff; the door however was opened. *Nullana Gounden* the owner of the house hereupon rushed out, and, armed with a bamboo, gave battle for a considerable time to the gang in the court yard, but as the robbers kept crowding in, was eventually obliged to retreat inside his house.

3. The gang succeeded in partially forcing open the door but *Nullana Gounden* had meanwhile armed himself with a spear and keeping his shoulder against the door plied his spear with such good effect, that, with the assistance of his wife he again succeeded in closing the door. Again did the gang force the door, and this time took the precaution to drop a large stone between the door and the frame thereof to prevent a second closing; but yet the active manner in which the spear was plied by the gallant old man whenever any one came near, kept the whole gang at bay. One of the most daring of the gang received a spear wound in the chest (which subsequently led to his apprehension): but shortly after when making a thrust, the spear was seized and dragged from the Munsiff's hands.

The Munsiff's wife, who during the struggle assisted her husband in keeping the door from being further opened, handed *Nullana Gounden* a bill-hook, and with this the defence was maintained.

The door being at the top of some steps and opening into a confined verandah precluded more than 3 or 4 of the gang from approaching together.

4. The gang finding themselves unable to dislodge the Munsiff by open attack, pulled down a portion of the pandal, set it on fire and pushed the lighted sticks under the door. By this means they literally roasted the unfortunate Munsiff along the whole of his left side, from foot to shoulder; but notwithstanding this, *Nullana Gounden* would not surrender, and it was not till the house itself took fire that he retreated and took up a position on a kind of loft inside his house, where, armed with a basket, as shield, and bill-hook, he stoutly defended himself, resisting all the attempts of the gang to kill or disable him.

5. At this time the alarm had spread to some neighbouring hamlets, and a rumour was heard that assistance was coming. The gang moreover had been occupied for more than an hour in laying siege to the gallant Munsiff, and they were eventually obliged to retreat, only capturing a few brass vessels and inconsiderable ornaments, value of the whole not exeeeding 50 Rupees. The Munsiff himself at the time of the attack wore a massive gold chain and bangles which he retained possession of.

6. The Munsiff nothing daunted endeavoured to pursue the gang when they retreated, but a short distance from his house fell wounded and exhausted; and a report being spread that "*Nullana Gounden*" had been killed, all the neighbours crowded to his house probably glad of any kind of excuse for not pursuing the gang.

7. I regret to state that one of the villagers, "*Shedia Gounden*," when hastening to the assistance of the Munsiff was set upon by the gang and had his left hand completely severed from the wrist by one blow from a sword carried by one of the gang.

8. Both *Nullana Gounden* and *Shedia Gounden* are, I am happy to state, now doing well, though the former lay for a considerable time in a very precarious state owing to burns and wounds about the head and face.

9. I would respectfully suggest that some suitable reward should be bestowed on "*Nullana Gounden*," Munsiff of Kakawadi, also on "*Shedia Gounden*," who is disabled for life, and the Kavilkaran "*Palni Mallay*" who kept the gang at bay for a considerable time and rendered signal assistance in the defence of the Munsiff.

10. *Nullana Gounden* being a man of considerable wealth some reward other than an actual money payment would be more suitable to his position, and might be preserved as an heir loom in his family.

11. Though I have from time to time kept you aware of the steps taken to detect the perpetrators of the outrage, I delayed bringing the recommendation for a reward to "*Nullana Gounden*" and others mentioned in paragraph 9 of this letter, officially to your notice, in order that I might, simultaneously with my report, announce the result of those steps.

12. Judgment was pronounced on the 3rd instant—(21) twenty-one Prisoners being convicted of the gang robbery; and (2) two for receiving the stolen property—total (23) twenty-three. The Police are still in quest of a few more of the gang, who, I have reason to hope, will also shortly be brought to justice.

No. 282. ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1862, No. 699.

To Nullana Gounden, a Silver Bangle of the value of	Rupees	100
„ Shedia Gounden	„	100
„ Pallany Mullay	„	50
	Rupees	250

The Government sanction the rewards to the extent of two hundred and fifty Rupees to the parties named. They also place Rupees 50 at the disposal of Captain Weldon for distribution to those of his Police Force who most distinguished themselves on the occasion.

2. A notice of the affair should be published in the District Gazettes of Coimbatore and Trichinopoly.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Dcing 17, 1862

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1862 Departt

Enclosure No 2

- In a letter from W. Robinson Esqre Insp Genl of M Police dated 16th April 1862 No 794

From
The Magistrate of Coimbatore

To,
The Inspector Genl of Madras Police

Dated 12th March 1862

Rec'd

From
The Magistrate of Coimbatore

Supports the recommendation of Vepery forgiving rewards to certain parties for courageously resisting robbers.

Supports the recommendation of the Superintendent for giving rewards to certain parties for courageously resisting robbers.

Ind 62 D
No 769

M.W.C.

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Editor's Table.

No. 699 – 30 April 1862

The Govt. sanction the rewards to the extent of Two Hundred & Fifty Rupees to the parties named. They also place Rs 50 at the disposal of Capt. Wilson for distributing to those of his Police force who most distinguished themselves on the occasion

30 Nullana Gounden, a silver bangle of the value of Rs.	100
" Sedia Gounden	100
" Pullanyethullay	50
	Rs. 250

2. Notices of the affair should be published in the District Gazettes of Coimbatore and Trichinopoly.

The Inspector Genl. of Police
" Magistrate of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly } leave till 1st May 1862.
" Civil Paymaster.
" Accountant