M.R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1555	Press ~~Mis.~~
127-128		
Dated	16—12—	~~19~~1883

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 16th December 1863.

No. 127. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Bellary; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Bellary, 6th December 1863, No. 55.

I have received information that the Cowle or Military bazaar of Bellary was plundered on the 30th ultimo, by a party of men chiefly composed of the Native Cavalry and Infantry at the station. Also that on the 2nd December, a party of 260 Cavalry and Infantry Sepoys were seen on the bund of the tank trying to get into the Bruce Pettah, or Civil town of Bellary, by the lanes at the back of it. The offenders are reported to have been apprehended, peace restored, and the shops were re-opened.

2. The cause of such an outbreak, and attempt at another, is the high price of grain, now ruling in the District; and this, by an appearance, is more likely to increase than to fall.

3. Mahomedan Sepoys are apt to think that Government should regulate the price of grain, as indeed is the practice in the Nizam's territory, and finding that the authorities will not interfere with the Merchants' rates, are apt to attempt the remedy themselves. They know that there are large stores of grain, and cannot understand that the rise of prices, consequent on the bad season, is an insurance against ultimate scarcity by limiting consumption.

4. As it will not be an economical arrangement to mass the Police permanently at head-quarters, to defend the town from the Native Military. Nor will it be advisable that the European Troops should mount guard over the bazaars, I would suggest for the consideration of Government the advisability both for the preservation of the peace, and for economy in saving the high batta consequent upon present and probable future rates of grain, of removing the Cavalry from the station to Bangalore, or wherever prices may be less, and Military control available. As the force is chiefly Mahomedan, I think they are more likely to be the leaders in raids upon bazaars, and I think that their services may be dispensed with at present in Bellary, seeing that there are Horse Artillery who could perform any Cavalry duties that might be required.

5. I am also under the impression that it was in contemplation to remove a wing of the Cavalry to Bangalore; but under present circumstances, I think that the whole Regiment should be sent away if they can be accommodated elsewhere.

6. The Superintendent of Police has proceeded to Bellary, and will communicate with the Inspector General. I have requested my Head Assistant, the Honorable J. C. St. Clair, now at Bellary, to telegraph to Government any information of importance.

No. 128. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1863, No. 1955.

The Governor in Council is not prepared to act on the suggestion made by the Magistrate in the foregoing letter, that the Regiment of Native Cavalry, now at Bellary, should be removed to another station, and he observes, that such a recommendation should not have been made by the Magistrate without having previously conferred on the subject with the Officer Commanding the Division.

2. The adoption of such a measure, unless it were requisite on Military grounds, would, under the circumstances of the case, be open to very grave objections. All that is needed to prevent outrages of the nature of that reported by the Magistrate is, that the ringleaders should be discovered and severely punished. If this be done, it is not probable that the outrage will be repeated either at Bellary or elsewhere.

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

Exd.. T. McMootry.

Judicial Depart

For orders

Letter from the Ag Magte of Bellary - dated 6 Dec/63
No 55

It seems to me that it is not the business of the Magistrate to make such suggestions as these - His duty is to report facts and leave for the Govt to take such action on them as they may see fit -

When it is required on the existing grounds I should be most opposed to the removal of Mr Ingram, & I cannot see that appears to me unnecessary and open to much objection - All that is needful is to discover and punish strictly the actors

and Station of the 2nd Regiment at Bellary - I do think it would be for the interest of such discipline that Bellary should be changed.

Such disturbances are not uncommon when the price of provisions rises materially - but can easily check-ed by prompt & firm measures of Repression

13 Dec

J.P.

- I concur in the above remarks & do not consider that the Magistrate should have made such a suggestion without returning to Bellary and consulting the General Commanding the Division. -

H.E.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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Here entered 6th Decr 1863. No. 55.

Order thereon 16th December 1863 No. 1955.

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To the Magiste of Bellary.
" Military Department
" Inspector General of Police

Judicial 1863. Department.

No. 1955.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 16th December 1863

F.S. 20th Dec. ct. 238-239.

The recommendation of the Magte of Bellary to remove the Cavalry who plundered the Cowle Bazar not complied with — The severe punishment of the ringleaders suggested to prevent the recurrence of this evil. —

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