M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1556 Press Mis.

129-130

Dated 16 12 ~~19~~ 1883

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 129. Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Acting Magistrate of North Arcot; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 8th December 1863, No. 42.

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that yesterday, while the weekly fair was being held at a village called Nursingaroypett, distant at about 13 miles from Chittoor, a disturbance was got up in the bazaar, and coarse country cloths to the value of 100 Rupees plundered from some merchants who had exposed them for sale.

2. The originators of the disturbance were some Pariah residents of the neighbouring villages, and they got up the row to enable them to loot the Cloth Merchants' shops. The Superintendent of Police, who was in Chittoor at the time, rode to the spot immediately on hearing of the occurrence, and found that the Police had been on the alert expecting something of the sort; but the whole passed so suddenly that they could not, though near at hand, prevent it; they seized eight of the plunderers with the stolen property in their possession.

3. I would not have reported this trifling occurrence, but that a feeling is abroad that similar disturbances will be got up at similar fairs in future, and the shops generally will be plundered. Both country cotton cloth and rice, but the former especially, are very dear at present; and it is to this I am sure that such outrages are due. The people cannot or will not understand that owing to the American war, and the high prices of produce generally, rice and cloth must be very dear now; and they think the great rise in price is owing not to natural causes, but to some combination among the merchants, and so wreak their vengeance on them.

4. A similar occurrence happened a short time ago at Tirvettoor in the Arcot taluq, when some fourteen plunderers were seized. Both rice and cloth shops were then the object of attack. Very lately too at the weekly fairs held at Goriattum, Vellore and Chittoor an alarm was raised that a raid was to be made on the shops, and they were shut, but nothing actually did occur. One example of this sort is very infectious, as Government may see from what I have written, and therefore I report on the matter.

5. The Superintendent of Police will in future warn his Police to be much on the alert at all weekly fairs, and will strengthen his posts in villages where they are to be held, if necessary. He is quite as well aware as myself of the dangers of allowing such alarms to spread. Prices will continue to be high in this district from the almost entire failure of our north-east monsoon.

No. 130. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1863, No. 1956.

The Governor in Council relies on the Superintendent of Police doing every thing in his power to prevent illegal acts of the nature of those reported in the foregoing letter.

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

Exd. T. McMoorty.

16th December 1863 No. 1956.

The Governor in Council relies on the Superintendent of Police doing every thing in his power to prevent illegal acts of the nature of those reported in the foregoing letter.

To The Inspector General of Police
" " Acting Magistrate of North Arcot } despd 17