M.R.O. 1—23,000—15-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1 2	Press Mis.
109-110	
Dated 17 - 8 -	19 1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

17th August, 1864.

No. 109. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Kotagherry, 10th August 1864, No. 1667.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit an Extract from the Diary of Captain Davies,* descriptive of the state of Gudalur in Wynad.

* Superintendent of Police, South Malabar.

2. The suffering in that fever and cholera-stricken place during some months of this year has been terrible.

Extract from the Diary of the Superintendent of Police, South Malabar.

July 20th.—I walked through (what was five months ago) a most busy bustling bazaar. There are about 200 houses in Gudalur; of these *at least* 100 are empty. The Sub-Magistrate pointed out the different vacant huts in which five and six persons had died, whole families, father, mother and children. Coimbatore and Palghaut coolies came in with the fever and died off like rotten sheep in the verandahs of the huts. Even now, when the worst is over, I saw two skeleton-looking creatures at the top of the street, one a gaunt starved girl of 13 or 14 (all the rest of the party from Coimbatore were dead), and the other an old man. They are kept alive by the aid of the Sub-Magistrate, who allows them a little conjee. Half-way down the street is a most pitiable sight, three little children are all lying in one of the deserted huts. The eldest may be seven or eight; not a soul to look after them; one appears to be dying, and the others looking on. These too are kept alive by the small quantity of food given in charity; they are too weak to be moved, so I ordered Mr. Sutter* to look well after these poor creatures, and gave money to the Sub-Magistrate to feed them well (if it be not too late) till the middle of next month when I hope to be in Gudalur again; the yellow puffed faces of the people, who are still holding on, show what they have suffered. Yet all say the worst is over, and a few of those who left in time are now beginning to return. With the exception of one cholera village in Salem, I have never seen so much human suffering in so small a compass as in Gudalur, and the worst is that *many* coolies (if the accounts I heard be true and there is no reason to doubt them) who straggled into the town smitten with the fever and diarrhœa (or cholera) died from exposure and want of food. Their bodies were buried in rows along the road-side. The supply of medicine with the Inspector has done good. I will ask for more if he gets through it.

* The Inspector.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 110. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1864, No. 1240.

Resolved that the Magistrate of Malabar be desired to report whether the Sub-Magistrate at Gudalur brought to his notice the state of things, represented in the foregoing papers, in time to admit of relief and medical aid being afforded to the sufferers.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Magistrate of Malabar.
" Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
" Sanitary Commission.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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No 1240 - 17th August 1861.

Resolved that the Magistrate of Malabar be desired to report whether the Sub Magistrate at Gudalur brought to his notice the state of things represented in the foregoing papers in time to admit of relief and medical aid being afforded to the Sufferers.

The Magistrate of Malabar.
" Principal Inspector General Medical Department
" Sanitary Commissioner.

dispatched 22/8