M.R.O. 1—99,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1425	Press Mis.
221-222 Dated	28-9- 19 1864	

13/14

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 221. Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Vizagapatam, 22nd August 1864, No. 243.

On the evening of the 27th July I received a letter at this place from the Sub-Magistrate of Gunapur in Jeypore, reporting the murder on the 23rd idem of the Inspector of that station, Mir Hussein, and four Constables by certain people of the Sowrah hill tribe, at Puttasinghi, a place in the mountains, about 18 miles from Gunapur.

2. Lieutenant Porteous, Assistant Superintendent of Police, is stationed at Parvatipur, which is 40 miles from Gunapur, but it happened he was on leave, and though the Superintendent (Captain Galbraith) and I proceeded with all possible expedition, we did not reach Gunapur till the 2nd instant. On the same day, Lieutenant Porteous, who had in the meantime rejoined from leave, came up from Parvatipur.

3. When the Inspector was murdered, there remained at the Gunapur station some dozen men only, and the greatest possible alarm prevailed lest the Sowrahs should pour down from the hills and loot the town. Fortunately the Sub-Magistrate, Yemmada Narsing Rao, is a person of considerable energy and judgment, and he lost no time in calling in the Constables from the Khond Taluqs of Godavery and Bissemcuttack (where there are powerful Urya chiefs, quite competent to take care of themselves) and in indenting on the nearest Telugu Zemindars of Vizagapatam for two or three Companies of Paiks. The Ganjam Assistant Superintendent of Police at Purla Kimedy at the same time furnished 50 men; so that the towns-people became quickly re-assured, and the bazarmen opened their shops once more. Our own reinforcement of 60 men which we got together, half from the Reserve, half by draining the lower Taluqs of the District, did not arrive till the 5th August, instant. We are now in the south-west monsoon, and of all Districts in the Presidency Vizagapatam is perhaps the least favored in the matter of roads.

4. The first question, on our arrival was, "How did the affair arise?" The second, "What course should be taken?"

I have had occasion in my Annual Jeypore Reports to make mention of the Sowrah hill country. It lies to the east and north-east of Gunapur, and belongs for the most part to Jeypore; certainly all the wilder portion is Jeypore; but some villages to the south own the jurisdiction of Purla Kimedy. It was never visited by the Meriah Agency, the Sowrahs, it was supposed, not being addicted to the practice of human sacrifice or infanticide. Little or nothing is known of it. Like other mountaineers in a primitive state, the Sowrahs contain a large element of the lawless and predatory classes. Burglary by night in small parties of two and three, and cattle lifting (both with the abetment of the lowland Pariahs) were the principal crimes. These were commonly carried out by stealth; but the thieves were always armed and readily used their weapons to effect a safe retreat with their plunder into the hills. In the course of my first tour, I established a post of 20 Constables, being all we had to spare, at Jalteru, at the foot of the hills, about eight miles from Gunapur. One or two important captures were made, exemplary punishments followed, and a

" accompanied by twenty-
Constable

considerable check to crime was the consequence. At my next visit I was pleased to find that a weekly fair had been established at Jalteru, and after meeting the heads of several Sowrah villages there, I proceeded with Captain Tennant, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, some miles further to a village at the top of the first Ghaut, and there interchanged greetings with several other headmen, amongst whom was the Gomango or Petty Chief of Puttasinghi. These people came in only after repeated invitations; but it was their first intercourse with Europeans and their shyness was no more than was to be expected. Each headman brought a kid, a basket of plantains or what not, received our presents in return and parted from us exceedingly good friends. Shortly afterwards, owing to reductions in the Police Budget, the Jalteru station was brought down from 20 to 12 men. The "beat" to Puttasinghi, however, has been kept up. Two Constables have visited that place every Sunday, and have been always received by the Gomango in a civil and even hospitable manner. He provided a meal for them, frequently compelled the restoration of any stolen property which could be traced to his village, and deputed a guide to show them the way back.

5. Thus every thing promised fair. We do not pretend to know much of the country, far less to carry out Police procedure in its integrity. Strict injunction was laid on all concerned to avoid collision with the Sowrahs in their fastnesses, the aim and object of the agency being solely to protect the property in the lowlands, and not, at all events, for the present, to penetrate into the hills to capture offenders, for which we have (ordinarily) neither men nor means. The population in these Sowrah tracts is estimated at 3000 fighting men, of whom 700 are said (but the statement is probably exaggerated) to be armed with matchlocks. There is a strong feeling of brotherhood amongst them; while unlike the Khonds, they manage their own affairs without the intervention of Hindu "Patros;" so that there is no intermediate agency directly available between ourselves and a powerful race of very gross savages.

6. However, on the 23rd July, ultimo, it seemed good to the late Inspector of Police, Mir Hussein, an old Sibbandi, to go up to Puttasinghi from Jalteru, with a following of 23 Constables, and to arrest the Gomango. He had no warrant, nor was there any particular suspicion of the Gomango's criminality: but of late there had been an increase in thefts, and the Inspector arrested him on the general charge that he was a notorious receiver and harbourer, and desired him to give up all the stolen property he had in his possession. The old man replied that he had purchased nothing lately but a buffaloe which he had paid for in paddy, and that if it had been stolen, he was willing to give it up, which he accordingly did. The Inspector then tied a rope to his arm and took him along with him. After proceeding a short distance, the Gomango, encouraged probably by seeing the crowds of advancing Sowrahs, who came running home from their fields at the news of his capture, refused to go further, and the Inspector, now in great alarm, released him, propitiating him at the same time with a piece of red cloth, which he hastily tore off from a Constable's turban. Meanwhile, the Sowrahs commenced discharging their arrows, but at too great a distance to take effect. The Constables were too much concerned to be steady and blazed away all their ammunition in a few minutes. The Sowrahs waited till this was done, and then drawing near let fly a volley of arrows,

which killed or disabled the Inspector and four of his men. The rest of the party took to flight and six are still missing.*

* One man has come in since.

The next day, early, a party of Sowrahs came down and burnt the thatched hut which was built at Jalteru as the "station." Nobody was in the Police lines but an old sick woman, the aunt of one of the Constables, she was immediately put to death.

7. Before leaving Vizagapatam, I telegraphed the main facts to the Inspector General of Police and requested him to communicate them to Government. Mr. Robinson in reply telegraphed to the Ganjam Superintendent, who came down to Kimedy with 200 men, and ultimately proceeded to Callicote, a post about the same distance from Puttasinghi on the south, as Gunapur is on the west, whence he wrote to me, offering to move up against the place if we marched against it simultaneously from our side.

8. I had then to determine whether a campaign should be undertaken now or postponed, and after considering all the information I could procure as to the nature of the country and the character and resources of our enemy, I decided without hesitation that it would be the height of rashness to attempt any wholesale offensive measures at present. It is not only that the enemy is a strong and determined one, that the country is entirely unexplored and unknown, and that the Ghauts or succession of Ghauts we have to cross have been strongly barricaded by the simple measure of felling the trees on either side of the path, but a Hill campaign in the south-west monsoon is a novelty so obviously calculated to result in disaster and discomfiture, that it entirely outweighs the consideration (and a very important one it is) of the expediency of aiming a strong blow at once when the authority of the Government has been publicly defied.

9. I determined therefore, that it is advisable to wait till the rains are over, when such punishment as is called for can with certainty be exacted; and I have come to this opinion with the less anxiety, because it is to be remembered that, though the entire Sowrah tribe has unhappily confederated together in open opposition to the law, this state of things has been mainly brought about by the want of judgment, the misguided zeal or worse of our own officials. I say "or worse," because I have reason to believe that the Gomango at his arrest was handled by our Constables in a manner in the highest degree contumelious, and because a statement has been made by credible witnesses that a short time ago the Police at Jalteru took in custody the son of another Gomango, and kept him prisoner for seven days without any just cause or pretext whatsoever. It is not therefore an insurrection resulting from an active spirit of disloyalty to the Government, having for its object the independence of the tribe, the remedy of an alleged general grievance, the liberty of practising certain cherished barbarous rites, or the like, that we have to deal with; but simply a sudden and unpremeditated ebullition of clanish feeling which has been evoked by certain mischievous proceedings of our own subordinates. For the first 20 days not a Sowrah left the mountains. The entire community seemed to make common cause; but on learning that we were not bent on a war of extermination, but would be content with the seizure of the actual delinquents, many of them have seceded from the ranks of the insurgents, and it is probable (if negotia-

" accompanied by twenty-

tions are well managed) that all will do so who are not too far committed by overt acts of violence. Already, before I left Gunapur, eight villages had returned publicly to their allegiance.

10. What is proposed, therefore, is this: to keep a guard of 50 Constables and twice as many Jeypore Paiks at Jalteru, the same force at a place called Bhimpur, and the same at Gunapur, and thus to hold our own till the cold weather, when, if necessary, ulterior measures will be enforced. But I do not anticipate that necessity. I believe it is in the power of the Rajah of Jeypore, especially if he comes here in person (as I have desired him to do) to coerce these Sowrahs into submission with very little further trouble. If these rude tribes own fealty to any one, it is to the Jeypore family, whom they style "Deos" and revere next to their gods. By express statute, by the terms of his Sanad, by ancient prescription, the Zemindar is a chief servant of the State, bound on occasions like the present to give every assistance towards the restoration of law and order, and in this case I doubt neither the will nor the ability, and intend to put both to the test. Once cease to recognize and to act on this principle, and the Constabulary on these hills must be doubled and trebled over and over again.

11. We have the names of 22 of the principal offenders, for whose apprehension I have proclaimed rewards to the extent of Rupees 3400, as per enclosed list, which I trust will be sanctioned. I hope that in a short time the capture of some of these men may be effected by the Paiks under the stimulus of the money offered. If the leaders be captured, and the arms left behind by the fugitive Constables restored, no campaign will be necessary. A few capital executions carried out at Jalteru will bring the Sowrahs to their senses, and restore the country to tranquillity. Meanwhile, sanction has been received from the Inspector General for the enlistment of 50 additional men for the Gunapur Taluq. Care will be taken to enlist hill men only. The dread of men from the Coast for this climate disorganizes or imperils all our proceedings. Of the Telugu men we brought up, upwards of 60 at one time banded together, refusing to garrison Jalteru, and it was only by the greatest firmness and tact on the part of the superior officers that the conspiracy was at last put down.

12. When the three posts above mentioned were taken up, I returned to Vizagapatam. I left Gunapur on the 18th instant after staying there 18 days. The Superintendent of Police will remain a few days more, and Lieutenant Porteous will stay on a short time longer. He is not alone. A brother officer, Lieutenant Druid Monro, is with him on leave.

13. The Superintendent of Police will recommend the families of the deceased Constables for the usual pensions. I have the honor to request sanction for the following gratuities to the heirs of three non-officials, who fell by the side of the Police. It is necessary to explain that the Inspector took with him to Puttasinghi 42 non-official allies, viz.,

1 Doratanam (Head Paik) and 31 country Paiks.
The Gomango and seven Vetties of Jalteru.
An Arrack seller, named Kurupa, and one Pariksha, an Interpreter.

When the skirmish waxed warm, all these assistants ran* away with the exception of

*1. The Doratanam,
*2. The Arrack Seller,
*3. Samo, a Paik,
4. Bunda, a Paik,
5. Pariksha, the Interpreter,
6. The Gomango of Jalteru,

who all stopped by the Inspector's side till he was killed and the game was consequently up. The first three, marked* were then shot down and died. I beg earnestly to propose the following sums to their heirs, viz.,

(1.) To the heirs of the Doratanum, Rupees 500. This man was of superior rank, and as is usual with his class he wore a gold bracelet and other ornaments valued at 200 Rupees, which are now lost to his family.

(2.) To the heirs of the Arrack seller, Rupees 200. He was taken up as a good matchlockman, he had ornaments on to the value of Rupees 50.

(3.) To the heirs of Samo, Rupees 200. Total to heirs, Rupees 900.

* N. B.—The Paiks had little or no ammunition.

14. To the 4th, the Paik Bunda, I have presented a turban and cloth and 10 Rupees in cash (total Rupees 14-4-0) for his gallant conduct generally, and especially for his firing into a group of Sowrahs, who had surrounded a Constable. One Sowrah fell and the Constable escaped.

To the 5th, Pariksha, the Interpreter, who besides his staunchness received two wounds from arrows, I have presented 20 Rupees; and the same to the 6th, the Gomango of Jalteru, whose good conduct (he being a Sowrah headman) is particularly note-worthy.

These presents were distributed in the presence of a large concourse of Peons, and will operate as an encouragement to bravery. Sanction is requested for the total for presents Rupees 54-4-0.

15. Finally, I beg to ask sanction for Rupees 277-1-0, the sum disbursed to the Telugu Paiks called out by the Sub-Magistrate, *plus* Rupees 25 for ammunition for the matchlockmen co-operating with the Police. The services of the Telugu Paiks were dispensed with, on the posts we have taken up being duly garrisoned.

List and particulars of Proclamation.

	RS.
The Gomango of Puttasinghi, his brother, the ringleaders.....	2 at 500 each.
The Gomango of Sogada, the three Gomangos of Boraigi, the Gomango of Gundruma, and one Damma Gomango, all took an active part in the murder...	5 at 200 each.
Fourteen others engaged in the murder and in the firing of the station.	14 at 100 each.
Total...	3400

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Agent to the Governor.

No. 222. ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1864, No. 1425.

In the foregoing letter the Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George in Vizagapatam has submitted his report on the outrage which has recently been committed in the Sowrah Hill tracts, and which formed the subject of the Proceedings of Government under date the 24th ultimo.

accompanied by twenty-
Constables

2. It appears that on the 23rd of July last, the Native Inspector of Police stationed at Jalteru proceeded to Puttasinghi, a Sowrah village in the hills, accompanied by 23 Constables, and there arrested the Gomango or headman of the village on the general charge that he was a notorious receiver of stolen property; that the Gomango on being called upon to give up all the stolen property in his possession gave up a buffaloe which he alleged he had paid for, whereupon the Inspector tied a rope to his arm and took him along with him for a short distance on the way to Jalteru, and then, seeing a crowd of Sowrahs coming to the rescue, released him. The Inspector and his party were thereupon attacked by the Sowrahs who killed or disabled the Inspector and four of his men. The rest of the party took to flight, and five were still missing at the date of the Agent's report. On the following day, the station-house at Jalteru was burnt by a party of Sowrahs, and an old woman, the aunt of one of the Constables, was put to death.

3. Mr. Carmichael on hearing of the outrage proceeded to Gunapuram, and after fully considering all the information he could procure, as to the nature of the country and the character and resources of the inhabitants, determined that it was not expedient to march a force into the Sowrah hills for the apprehension of the murderers of the Police until after the rains. "It is not only," he observes, "that "the enemy is a strong and determined one, that the country is entirely unexplored "and unknown, and that the Ghauts or succession of Ghauts we have to cross have "been strongly barricaded by the simple measure of felling trees on either side of "the path; but a hill campaign in the south-west monsoon is a novelty so "obviously calculated to result in disaster and discomfiture, that it entirely out-"weighs the consideration, and a very important one it is, of the expediency of "aiming a strong blow at once when the authority of the Government has been "publicly defied." Mr. Carmichael states that he has come to this conclusion with the less anxiety, because the outbreak has been mainly brought about by the want of judgment, the misguided zeal or worse of the Police Inspector, and that "it is not therefore an insurrection resulting from an active spirit of disloyalty "to the Government, having for its object the independence of the tribe, the remedy "of alleged general grievances, the liberty of practising certain cherished barbarous "rites, or the like that we have to deal with, but simply a sudden and unpremedi-"tated exhibition of clanish feeling which has been evoked by the indiscretion of "our own subordinates." He has called upon the Rajah of Jeypore, whom the Sowrah tribes regard as their Suzerain, to exert his influence in procuring the apprehension of the principal offenders, and has further proclaimed rewards amounting to Rupees 3400 for their capture. Meanwhile, he has placed a guard of 50 Constables and twice as many Jeypore Paiks at Jalteru, and a similar force at Bhimpur and at Gunapur. The Agent applies for sanction to disburse gratuities, amounting to Rupees 900, to the heirs of certain non-official persons, who accompanied the Inspector and stood by him till he was killed and were afterwards shot down by the Sowrahs. He also requests sanction for presents amounting to Rupees 54-4-0, which he has already given to three other persons who supported the Inspector, but escaped; and for authority for the disbursement of the sum of Rupees 302-1-0 paid to certain Paiks and matchlockmen, called out by the Sub-Magistrate, after the outrage took place.

4. The Governor in Council will await the result of the proceedings taken by the Agent as reported in his letter. In a matter of this nature a large measure of discretion must be left to the local officer, and the Governor in Council has every disposition to place confidence in Mr. Carmichael's judgment. The Government have already intimated by telegraph their sanction to the rewards offered and to the gratuities disbursed and applied for by the Agent.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George in Vizagapatam.
" Inspector General of Madras Police.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Paymaster.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

accompanied by twenty.

Telegrams

From Secretary to Govt Madras.
To Agent in Vizagapatam.
20th August 12

Explain fully why you declined the co-operation of Ganjam Police in crushing Sowrah disturbances - What is your view of the matter and what do you propose doing? In such cases the authority of Government should be asserted as promptly as possible - Answer quickly -

From the Agent to the Govt. Vizagapatam
To Secretary to Govt. Madras. 22 August 12

I returned from Gumsur to-day & found your telegram. My report is sent to day which contains the information required.

Telegram to and from the Agent in Vizagapatam

Judicial Department.

No. 1798

From the Agent to the Governor – Vizagapatam.

Dated 22nd August 1864

For Orders

It seems that this unpleasant business was brought about by the pertinacity – to say no more – of one of the Police Inspectors Mr. Hoosain. It appears to me that under the circumstances and for the reasons which he has explained Mr. Carmichael acted judiciously in not making an immediate advance with Sowcar country and that the arrangements which he has made and course of action which he proposes to adopt should be approved.

The Zemindar Krishna has offended the

patrolling the Coast by his own Vessel should be sanctioned, and I would recommend the sanction of this to the Telegraph. He has evidently already procured the rewards & paid the patrolling bills on all which he and others should know at once that all that he has done & approbation of the chief Officers and compensation of the Officers' families & rewards & Boats should be by us: have the approval of Govt.

1.9.64

I concur in the above Remarks - The course taken by Mr Carmichael seems to me the best under the circumstances.

The rewards spent & patrolling paid may be sanctioned - as to the Boats of Mr Carmichael

course of action should be why can determine whether

n
ralam
43)
25.
, the
f
rpalam
rt
ed
ed
ets,
ed.
f

Sorn

Judicial Deptt

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following letter
from the Agent at Viragapatam.
(d/ 22d August 1864. No 243)

Order thereon 28th Sep. 1864 No. 1425.

In the foregoing letter the
Agent to the Governor of
Fort St. George in Viragapatam
has submitted his report
on the outrage which has
recently been committed
in the Sourah hill tracts,
and which formed the sub-
ject of the Proceedings of
Govt. under date the 24th ultimo

2. It appears that on
the 23d of July last, the
Native Inspector of Police
stationed at Jaltern pro-
ceeded to Puttasinghi, a
Sourah village in the Hills,
accompanied by twenty three
Constables

Constables, and there arrested the Gomango or head man of the village on the general charge that he was a notorious receiver of stolen property; that the Gomango on being called upon to give up all the stolen property in his possession, gave up a buffalo which he alleged he had paid for, whereupon the Inspector tied a rope to his arm and took him along with him for a short distance on the way to Jalteru, and then, seeing a crowd of Sowrahs coming to the rescue, released him. The Inspector and his party were thereupon attacked by the Sowrahs who killed or disabled the Inspector and four of his men. The rest of the party took to flight and five

five were still missing at the date of the Agent's report. On the following day, the Station house at Jalteru was burnt by a party of Sowrahs, and an old woman, the aunt of one of the Constables, was put to death.

3. Mr. Carmichael on hearing of the outrage proceeded to Gunapuram, and after fully considering all the information he could procure as to the nature of the country and the character and resources of the inhabitants, determined that it was not expedient to march a force into the Sowrah hills for the apprehension of the murderers of the Police until after the rains. "It is not only," he observes, "that the enemy "is a strong and determined "one", that the country

is

"is entirely unexplored and
"unknown, and that the
"ghats or succession of
"ghats we have to cross
"have been strongly barri-
"caded by the simple
"measure of felling trees
"on either side of the path;
"but a hill campaign in
"the South West Monsoon
"is a novelty so obviously
"calculated to result in
"disaster and discomfiture,
"that it entirely outweighs
"the consideration, and a
"very important one it is,
"of the expediency of
"aiming a strong blow
"at once when the autho-
"rity of the Govt. has been
"publicly defied". Mr
Carmichael states that he
has come to this conclusion
with the less anxiety, be-
cause the outbreak has been
mainly brought about

by the want of judgment,
the misguided zeal or
worse of the Police Inspector,
and that "it is not therefore
"an insurrection resulting
"from an active spirit of
"disloyalty to the Govt.
"having for its object the
"independence of the tribe, the
"remedy of alleged general
"grievances, the liberty of
"practising certain cherished
"barbarous rites, or the like
"that we have to deal
"with, but simply a sudden
"and unpremeditated exhi-
"bition of clannish feeling
"which has been evoked
"by the indiscretion of our
"own subordinates". He
has called upon the Rajah
of Jeypoor, whom the
Sowrah tribes regard as
their Suzerain, to exert
his influence in procuring
the apprehension of
the

the principal offenders and has further proclaimed rewards amounting to Rs 3400 for their capture. Meanwhile he has placed a guard of fifty Constables and twice as many Jeypoor Paiks at Jallery and a similar force at Bhimpur and at Gunapur. The Agent applies for sanction to disburse gratuities amounting to Rs 900 to the heirs of certain non-official persons, who accompanied the Inspector and stood by him till he was killed and were afterwards shot down by the Sowrahs. He also requests sanction for presents amounting to Rs 54-4- which he has already given to three other persons who supported the Inspector, but escaped, and for authority for the disbursement of

of the sum of Rs 302-1- " paid to certain Paiks and Matchlock men, called out by the Sub-Magistrate, after the outrage took place.

4. The Governor in Council ~~is not prepared at present to express an opinion on the course taken by the Agent. Whether the policy adopted by him in not making an immediate advance into the Sowrah country was, or was not judicious, can only be proved by the results.~~ In a matter of this nature a large measure of discretion must be left to the local officer, and the Governor in Council has every disposition to place confidence in Mr Carmichael's judgment. The Govt have already intimated by telegraph their

I would acknowledge simply & will await the result of the proceedings taken by the Agent as reported in this letter.

The last sentence in the form dyn ± confd that the Govt institutions policy adopted by the Agent - any indication or seeming indication of which had been avoided - but it altogether omitted the wisdom of the policy can only be proved by the results. The policy may have been sound both in conception and execution & Govt and it

their sanction to the rewards offered and to the gratuities disbursed and applied for by the Agent.

Gth.

To the Agent [illegible]
" Irish Secretary
" Asst Secretary
" Civil Paymaster

25

Judicial Letter to Engd 27th March
No 5 of 1866.

Judicial 1864 Dejoinette

No 1425.

Proceedings of Govt

Date 28th September 1864.

F.N. 2261.
2365. Serge

Regarding the outrage
recently committed in
the Sowrah Hill Tracts.

221-222

Received 1866

Acknowledged

Sent

Copy sent Policy 2/67