M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1454 Press ~~Mis.~~

26-27 Dated 4-10- 19 1864

3/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 26. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Magistrate of Coimbatore; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 24th September 1864, No. 76.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, dated 12th instant, No. 405, reporting on the apprehension and conviction of a gang of Dacoits in the Talavadi Division of Suttimungalum Taluk. The exertions of Police Inspector Mr. Chatelier are highly creditable to him, and I beg to recommend the same for the favorable consideration of Government.

2. On the strong recommendation of Captain Weldon, I have, under the authority vested in me by paragraph 3 of the Government Order dated 23rd August 1862, No. 1380, Judicial Department, sanctioned the payment of a reward of 100 Rupees to Mr. Chatelier.

From Captain T. WELDON, Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore; to P. GRANT, Esq., District Magistrate of Coimbatore, dated Coimbatore, 12th September 1864, No. 405.

I have the pleasure to announce the successful prosecution in the Sessions Court, of the gang of highway Dacoits committed for trial from *Talavadi*, Suttimungalum Taluq.

2. Ten prisoners were committed for trial, of whom eight were sentenced to 14 years' transportation, and two were sentenced to 10 years' transportation.

3. As you are aware, the Gazlehatei Ghat leading from this District into Mysore has for more than two years been infested by predatory gangs; but owing to the wild and unhealthy nature of the country we have been able to make but little progress towards rendering the road safe to all comers. On two occasions an armed Police patrol has been attacked.

4. In *May* last the Deputy Head Constable* in charge of the Police Station at *Talavadi* received certain information on which he acted in communication with his Sub-Magistrate. *Inspector Chatelier* who was at the time absent on duty in a distant part of the Taluq lost no time in proceeding to *Talavadi*, which Station is situated on the Mysore frontier at the head of the Gazlehatei Pass. The clue at first obtained was vigorously followed up. The Police succeeded in obtaining the names of the whole gang; but as they mostly belonged to the tribe of "Oopookorovers" accustomed to a jungle life, the task of tracking and capturing them became most difficult. On more than one occasion *Inspector Chatelier* and his men were obliged to desist, the parties being completely prostrated with fever, but the pursuit was invariably renewed till the object was attained.

* Deputy Constable Nasseroodeen, No. 715N.

5. The first clue was obtained in May. This has from that time been persistently followed up. The case has just been decided (September). *Inspector Chatelier* and his men experienced the greatest hardships whilst travelling in pursuit of the Dacoits through *Mysore* and the deadly jungles of *Hassanoor* and *Collegal*. The Inspector and the majority of his men were dangerously ill. Only one man of the party escaped. One has since died. I was myself at Suttimungalum and saw that the parties of Police were mere wrecks on their return, notwithstanding, they never lost sight of their prisoners. Captured under the greatest difficulties they had to be guarded by those whose fever fits intermitted. At one time the Inspector and one Constable were alone available. Mr. *Chatelier* is now under Medical treatment at Coimbatore. Notwithstanding the odds against them they brought in all their prisoners safely; and what is more creditable, every prisoner committed for trial has been convicted. There were 6 District cases against them. The leader one *Vencaten*, dubbed the "jungle Rajah," is, I am happy to say, one of the convicts sentenced to 14 years' transportation.

6. The officers engaged in the detection and conviction of this formidable gang are undoubtedly entitled to reward; indeed the Inspector General has intimated his intention of rewarding the men, but under existing rules the Inspector General of Police is only authorized to

2. The reward granted to
Police

disburse a sum not exceeding Rupees 20, any increase thereto requiring Government sanction. I know that *Inspector Chatelier* was put to very considerable expense in this case, as he was obliged to get even the commonest necessaries of life for his men brought up the Ghats from Suttimungalum. As I have remarked the petty Officers and men can be adequately rewarded departmentally, but in the case of *Inspector Chatelier* I would respectfully submit my recommendation that a special grant of Rupees one hundred (100) be made to him. I am aware that even this sum will leave him but a small balance after the unavoidable expenses are taken into consideration, but I am confident that *Mr. Chatelier* will set a still higher value on your approbation and that of the Inspector General of Police should you see fit to accord the same and submit his exertions for the favorable notice of Government.

7. A large proportion of property has been recovered and claimed, and a quantity still remains in our hands owing to the difficulty in tracing the owners who were, nearly in every instance, travellers from different parts of the country. The gang which has for so long been a terror on the Mysore and Coimbatore frontiers has been broken up. The Police are still on the trail of others who will in due time fall in.

8. I cannot conclude without bringing to notice the *very valuable* assistance afforded by *Sooba Row* the Sub-Magistrate of Talavadi. This officer himself accompanied one of the Police parties, and was throughout most active. I have on more than one occasion been indebted to *Sooba Row*, the Sub-Magistrate, for assistance. The Inspector also reports most favorably of *Sooriah*, head of the village of Talavadi.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Magistrate.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1864, No. 1451.

The Governor in Council has read the foregoing report with much interest, but observes that it is the province of the Inspector General of Police to reward the members of the force under his control for meritorious service. This is provided for by the Orders of Government, and it is in all cases desirable that the conduct of public officers should be noticed and recorded departmentally.

G. O., 23rd August 1862, No. 1380, paragraph 2.
„ 21st September 1864, „ 1388, paragraph 3.

2. The reward granted to Police Inspector Chatelier should be included in the Inspector General's Annual Return, although the amount has in his case been disbursed under sanction of the Magistrate.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Magistrate of Coimbatore.
„ Inspector General of Police.
„ Civil Paymaster.
„ Accountant General.

Extd. T. Cartledge.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the Magistrate of Coimbatore ——— Enter 24th Sept. '64 No. 70.

Order — 4th October 1864 No. 1451.

The Governor in Council has read the foregoing report with much interest, but observes that it is the province of the Inspector Genl. of Police to reward the members of the force under his control for meritorious service. This is provided for by the Orders of Govt., & it is in all cases desirable that the conduct of public officers should be noticed & recorded departmentally.

G.O. 23rd Augt. '62 No. 1380. para 2.
„ 21st Sept. '64 „ 1388. para 3.

2. The reward granted to Police

Police Inspector Chatelier should be included in the Inspectors' annual returns, altho' the amount has been disbursed under sanction of the Magistrate.

Dated 4th December 1861.

Madras Dep. 1861. Department.

No. 1152.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

The Magistrate of Coimbatore
" Inspector Genl.
" Police Surgeon
" Civil Paymaster.
" Audit. Genl.