

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2357

Press

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Dated 23 2 - 19 184

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd February 1864. 11

No. 167. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Kottagherri, 20th October 1863, No. 2729.

General Department.

With reference to your Memorandum, dated 2nd October, No. 327, I have the honor to submit the report of Lieutenant Robertson, Superintendent of Police of the Godavery District, relative to the state of the Rumpah country. This officer, with Lieutenant Bloomfield, brought the expedition against the malcontents in 1862 to a successful issue, and is an officer of large experience in that part of the country.

2. The charge on account of pay of Police is Rupees 13,854 per annum; to which must be added, in round numbers, Rupees 2000 for extra charges, and an estimate of Rupees 1900 for hatta to men stationed in the Hills; without which it will be impossible to maintain the indispensable force in that country. The total

Constabulary.....	Rs. 13,854
Village Police.....	1000
Inspector.....	at 30 Rs. 1000
Petty Officers at 4 do.	1000
Constables at 2 do.	2000
Contingencies.....	2000

charge would thus be Rupees 17,800 per annum.

3. The country is now at peace; and the peace will be maintained. The population is, and really ever has been, loyal to the State; but it is thoroughly disaffected towards the non-resident, and ill-advised Zemindar. His legitimacy is disputed; his authority is repudiated; and, as remarked by the Magistrate as far back as 1839—"There is not the slightest hope of his ever being able to fulfil the original con-

dition, on which alone the country could be entrusted to him;" that of maintaining law or order in the country, in accordance with the deed of 1813, by which the Zemindar bound himself "to seize all suspicious persons and thieves, and generally all enemies of the Company, who may shelter themselves in any Taluqa, and send them to the nearest Magistrate." The influence of the Zemindar for good is absolutely nil. His interference for evil has, more than once, driven the discontented population to disorders, which have been repressed by bloodshed.

4. Already the unfitness of the condition, so long allowed to subsist, has entailed much waste of treasure and life; and the state is now saddled with a permanent charge, which there is no prospect of lessening.

5. The Zemindar pays nothing on account of the nominal right which he misuses. He fails in every condition under which he was granted this immunity.

From Lieutenant W. ROBERTSON, Superintendent of Police, Godavery District; to the Inspector General of Madras Police, dated Rajahmundry, 10th October 1863, No. 401.

No. 327, dated 2nd October 1863.

With reference to Memorandum marginally noted, I have the honor to submit a short report on the subjects contained therein.

2. The Rumpah country is at present perfectly quiet. I have not heard even the rumour of a disturbance of any sort, since the operations of Police force in August and September 1862.

3. I visited the country in June last with the Head Assistant Magistrate, and then established a Police post near Rumpah. With that officer I visited many of the villages, we met and conversed with many of the Mootadars and others whom I had seen during the operations of last year. They did not exhibit the slightest want of confidence; and they promptly attended the summons to meet the Magistrate. A building for the Police was erected by the villagers, on the requisition of the Sub-Magistrate of Rahnaspoor, through whom funds were advanced, and a disposition to assist in making the Police as comfortable as possible was evident.

* Saka Bapat Doo.

4. The so-called Munsabdar of Kota* and Ram Reddy, Mootadar of Valsmeer, are the most influential men now left in Rumpah.

5. Between the former and the Munsabdar Ram Bapat an ill-feeling has existed for a long time. Saka Bapat Doo has always kept his own part of the country perfectly quiet; and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd February 1864.*

he attended with a large force of matchlock men on the summons of the Magistrate last year. This individual has very great influence with the inhabitants of the N. E. part of the District.

6. Ram Reddy, Mootadar of Valamoor, exercises great influence over the inhabitants of the distant Mootas to the N. W. The Mootadars and head men are closely connected with him by marriage; and they implicitly obey his orders.

7. Of the Mootadars of the Southern part of the District bordering on the Godavary, and of the former Kottapilly Talook, two are non-resident. They live at Pelitapully near Gokuram in attendance on Ram Bapaty. Of the remaining Rumpah Mootadars, one was transported for 17 years, and one is under sentence of long imprisonment in the Rajahmundry Jail.

8. The Mootadars and head men of the Rumpah District generally exercise great influence over the inhabitants of their own villages; and I believe that they are on the whole very peaceably disposed. But, as far as I can judge, the feeling of personal dislike and distrust of the Munsabdar still exists among the majority of them.

9. In estimating for the requisite Police force during the present year, a part of the Armed

* 2 Inspectors.
118 Head Constables.
118 Deputy do.
45 Constables.
45 Village Watchmen.

Reserve of the strength of 120 men* of all ranks was allotted for Police duties in the Rumpah country; of these it was proposed that half should be stationed in the country, and be relieved periodically by those who remained at

Rajahmundry. Owing to the unfavorable season of the year at which orders for the occupation were received, a detachment of 40 only of all ranks was posted at Chodavaram near Rumpah, where a temporary building had been prepared. Patrols were sent to visit the surrounding country, to communicate with the villagers, and obtain information regarding crime, and the state of the country generally.

10. Within a very short time of this Police post being established at Chodavaram, a large proportion of the men were prostrated by fever; and not more than one-third of the original party was able to remain till the relief took place, a period of two months only. Of these even, almost every man was sick when he returned to head quarters. The relieving party has fared quite as badly; and the majority are at this moment in hospital, suffering under fever of an aggravated type. Two deaths have been reported within the last few days.

11. Under these circumstances, I have, with the concurrence of the Magistrate and Deputy Inspector General, decided on temporarily reducing the strength of this post, during the most feverish months, viz., October, November, and December to 15 men. These will, I consider, be sufficient to maintain the post, and can be relieved at short intervals from Rajahmundry. I propose, in the month of January, to increase the detachment to its former strength, and it may perhaps be advisable to establish two smaller posts, during the hot and more healthy months, at Kota and Kotada in the N. E. and N. W. of the District.

Force to be maintained in Rumpah.

12. I consider that the force allotted will be sufficient to maintain the peace of the country; but I do not think that it can be safely reduced.

13. When the roads sanctioned by Government are opened, and a village Police is established, it may be possible still to reduce, during the unhealthy season, the strength of the Police posts, whose chief business is to watch the Rumpah tracts, as the Armed Reserve can be stationed in the plains, and yet be moved into the country in 48 hours. But during the dry months a considerable force should be maintained actually within its limits. It is during these months that violent crime is committed. All classes indulge freely in strong drinks, and under their influence commit murders, or make violent attempts on the neighbours' property.

14. Theft, house-breaking and crimes of a like nature are, I believe, unknown. The property of the villagers consists chiefly of cattle and jungle produce, which affords no temptation to the ordinary thief.

15. Sanction for the Village Police was received after my return from the hills, and at a time of the year which made it unadvisable to introduce it. It would have been almost impossible for me to make any prolonged trip into the hills; and at a time when all the inhabitants are busily engaged with cultivation, it would have caused much inconvenience to the head men,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
23rd February 1864.*

had they been called on to leave their distant villages to meet me. I propose, as soon as the season becomes favorable, to visit the hills, and in person to establish the village Police. I will then also visit the distant Mootas, which I have not yet seen. To do this I must withdraw my attention almost entirely from the current work of the District. I have prepared and furnished the Magistrate with a proposed distribution list of Village Police, of which he has approved.

16. The Magistrate intends, I understand, to begin the construction of roads in January, when local labor will be available, and the most unhealthy time of the year be past.

17. A good deal of anxiety exists among the inhabitants of Rumpah, as to the disposal of the country, and the steps which may be taken, to recover the out-standing arrears of rent now due for four years. With reference to this

State of feeling among the inhabitants.

feeling, I consider that it would be necessary to maintain the force at present allotted, until the decision of Government has been made known. In course of time it may be found possible to reduce it with safety.

18. In estimating for the hill tracts the losses which the force sustains from effects of climate must be taken into consideration; at present about one-third of the Armed Reserve allotted for Rumpah are actually in hospital, in addition to a large number who have been sent to Ragapoor to relieve the detachment at that post, when it is hoped they may shake off the fever which has prostrated them. I am afraid that of those now in hospital a large number will never be fit for further service in the hills, even should they recover from the present attacks of fever.

In addition to this the cost of the Constabulary, the expense of putting the force under cover, building guard-houses, a bungalow, &c., must be taken into consideration.

No. 163.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1864, No. 235.

For the reasons given in the Proceedings of Government, 6th October last, No. 1602, paragraph 2, the Governor in Council does not consider himself justified in calling upon the Munsifdar of Rumpah to defray any portion of the cost of the Police now stationed in that tract.

2. The Magistrate will report specially at the close of the present working season what has been done in the matter of opening roads through the country.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letter from the Inspector
General of Police.

/ H.E. 20th Octr. 1878, No 2729/

Order thereon 23rd February 1879, No 235

For the reasons
given in the Proceedings
of Govt. 6th October last,
No 1602, para 2, the Governor
in Council does not
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Munsifdar of Rumpach
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To the Inspector Genl of Police.
Magistrate of the
Godavery District } despatched 23rd Jan 1864

Judicial Department.

No. 235

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 23rd February 1864.

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