

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	314	Press
		~~Mis.~~
83-84		
Dated	5. 3.	18.64

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th March 1864.*

No. 83. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to A. J. ARRUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Cochin, 18th February 1864, No. 368.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit the report* of Captain Hearn, Deputy Inspector General of Central Range, now in charge of the District of North Arcot, on the successful prosecution of most of the culprits who robbed the Parcel's

* Dated 8th February 1864.

Mail near Kircumbady on the night of the 5th November last.

2. Twelve Yerakalers were engaged: eight of them have been convicted and sentenced to transportation for ten years each; a ninth was used as an approver. The three others will, it is hoped, be ere long in the hands of the Police.

3. The Nellore road has thus been cleared of a very formidable gang of Dacoits.

4. I request the sanction of Government for the expenditure of Rupees 133-11-6, which I considered necessary to lay out as secret service money. It has been well spent; as it was of the first importance that in so serious a case no pains or means for securing these vagabonds should be spared.

From Captain C. S. HEARN, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Range; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police, Madras, dated Chittoor, 8th February 1864, No. 63.

With reference to a letter from the Postmaster General to your address, dated 10th November 1863, I have the honor to submit a report on the robbery of the Banghy Mail near Kircumbady on the night of the 5th idem.

2. It has been ascertained that this robbery was committed by 12 men belonging to two separate Yerkala tribes, who combined at Naidoopett in Nellore for the express purpose of robbing the Banghy Mail, a design which they carried out at a spot 30 miles distant from their encampment under circumstances of unusual daring.

3. On hearing of the robbery three Constables of Yarepett station proceeded forthwith to the spot, and with the assistance of some villagers tracked the robbers into the hills where they surprised the gang, wounded and captured one robber and recovered part of the property. The rest of the gang escaped.

4. I received the report of the robbery at Saint Thomas' Mount and proceeded at once to Kircumbady. Captain Gompertz and Lieutenant Boone, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of North Arcot, had preceded me thither. Acting on a clue given by the captured prisoner, we beat up the whole country round and succeeded in obtaining tolerably accurate information as to the individuals who had committed the robbery. But in which direction they had fled was matter of mere conjecture. The difficulty of tracking and identifying these gipsy vagabonds, whose appearance is more bestial than human, but who have as many aliases as a London pick-pocket, may be easily imagined.

5. The special services of Inspector Ali Dost of the Madras District were now called into play, and the successful result of the case is mainly due to the sagacity and energy of this able detective officer.

6. It is needless to describe the process by which the footsteps of the fugitives were tracked and dogged by the Police during a period of nearly two months. Suffice it to say that eight more of the gang fell at different times into the hands of the Police, some of them in distant parts of the Cuddapah District. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, it became necessary to take one of these as an approver. The remainder have all been convicted by the Sessions Court and sentenced to 10 years' transportation. Notwithstanding all the difficulties which beset the case, the evidence produced was indisputable. Thus nine out of the 12 culprits, who dared to rob Her Majesty's Banghy Mail, have been satisfactorily accounted for; three are still at large, but they are now well known and will drop in sooner or later, unless they fly the country.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th March 1864.

7. In the course of this investigation some valuable rings, the property of an English lady, were recovered which were stolen near Naidoopett in Nellore so far back as 1852. These Yerkalas have haunted the neighbourhood of Naidoopett for years. The leader, Chittateo Poligadoo (now convicted) is a desperate old ruffian, and is said to have been concerned in many crimes. The Nellore high road had once a notoriety for robbery, due in some measure possibly to this band of thieves which has now been thoroughly broken up.

8. An expenditure of Rupees 133-11-6 has been incurred in the progress of this case of which I enclose a detailed account, and for which I request sanction. It has been paid partly as a reward for good information, and partly as compensation for the actual services of men who accompanied the Police as trackers. The money has been well spent, since without such aid the identification of these half savage men would have been impossible.

9. I have already brought prominently to your notice the valuable services rendered by Inspector Ali Dost in the detection of this crime. The credit of success belongs to him. Inspector Leigh of the Calastry Division also gave great attention to the case as far as it passed through his hands. The Nellore and Cuddapah Police co-operated most effectively under the instructions of their respective Superintendents, Captains Bowen and Balmer, and I have had much pleasure in promoting some subordinate officers of the North Arcot force, who showed great keenness and industry in the persistent pursuit of the fugitive robbers.

No. 84. ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1864, No. 314.

The Governor in Council sanctions the disbursement of the amount, one hundred and thirty-

Compensation to trackers, &c.....	Rs. 53	A. 11	P. 6	four Rupees, expended by the Police as secret
Rewards for information.....	80	0	0	service money in tracking out the gang of rob-
				bers, who plundered the Banghy Mail near
Rupees..	133	11	6	Kircumbady on the 5th November last.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Police, with three enclosures returned.

„ Civil Paymaster.

„ Deputy Auditor and Accountant General.

„ Public Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 314 — 5 March 1864.

The Governor in Council
sanctions ^{in his judgment} ~~and~~ of the
amount, One Hundred

Compensation to
trackers, &c. — 53.11.6.
Rewards for infor-
mation — 80....
Rs. 133.11.6

& Thirty Four
Rupees, expen-
ed by the Police
as Secret Service
Money in track-

ing out the gang of robbers,
who plundered the Banghy
Mail near Kircumbady
on the 5th Novr. last.

The Inspector Genl.
of Police - With
Civil Paymaster.
Deputy Auditor Genl.

dis. 10 March