

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1030	Press
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Dated	24. 2	19 (186)

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
24th July 1865.

No. 170. 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 Madras, 10th June 1865, No. 1108.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit the annual Statement of Dacoities and Robberies, for the year 1864.

2. A similar return, for 1863, was submitted with my letter, dated 3rd June 1864, No. 1168—G. O., 13th July 1864 No. 1045.

3. In 1863, 280 Dacoities, involving 1,38,906 Rupees loss, were committed

I. Dacoity by more than five persons in houses, &c.

	No. of Crimes.	No. detected.	Property.		Persons convicted.	Persons arrested.	Persons convicted.
			Lost.	Recovered.			
I. In houses and Villages...	237	60	77,274	2,203	3,752	1,181	355
II. On Highways and thorough-fares.....	313	41	74,371	14,255	2,872	524	135
III. In Fields and Jungles.....	376	46	11,427	759	3,372	631	137
	926	147	162,872	17,217	9,996	2,336	627

in houses and villages, against 237 (21 were abortive attempts), with a loss of 77,274 Rupees in 1864. Of these, 60 cases (25·3 per cent.) were detected, and 355 persons were convicted, against 287 in 1863. The

decrease was 23 per cent. in the number of offences (excluding attempts), and 44·3 per cent. in the value of property lost. This class includes the most heinous form of crime, the torch-light gang robbery. In the words of the Deputy Inspector General of the Central range, where the crime has been most successfully grappled with, "the very marked decrease in the amount of property taken argues a striking change in the general character of the crime. The daring organization which formerly distinguished these robberies is rapidly dying out, and the attacks are usually made on insecure houses in out-lying hamlets, without the aggravating circumstances which used to attend the whole-sale plunder and ruin of some wealthy merchant or family."

4. Thirty-three Dacoities in houses in all occurred in Cuddapah during the year, against 63 in 1863. The ably devised operations of Captain Bowen had succeeded in breaking up all organized gangs of outlaw robbers, and restoring peace to the country before the end of the year; and only five out of the 31 cases of the year occurred during the 2nd half of the year, after the organized gangs had begun to fail. The offence has been suppressed in that District. In North Arcot, there is an increase in 1864; but few cases were of a bold and organized type. They are committed by the bad characters of local Pariah Patcherries. In South Arcot, there is also an increase, 31, against 24 in 1863; and in Tanjore a decrease, 32, against 40 in 1863. But in both Districts prosecution has been successful. Several incorrigible Dacoits have been disposed of, with fair prospect of greater peace for the future. Kurnool presents an unaccountable increase of Dacoity under all heads, and very feeble detection.

6. *Dacoities in fields and jungles.*—Three hundred and seventy-six (376) Dacoities in fields and jungles, involving a net loss of 10,668 Rupees, were committed, against 307, with a net loss of Rupees 7863, in 1863. The crime has increased. It consists in robbery from grain heaps and sheep-pens in the open fields, or of wood cutters' tools and clothing on the Hill sides. The increase is attributable to the pressure on the poorer classes, arising from the high prices of food and clothing.

II. Robbery by less than 5 persons. involving net loss
\$ 20,000.00

II. Robbery by less than 5 persons.

	Number of crimes.	Number Detected.	Property.		Persons.		
			Lost.	Recover- ed.	Concern- ed.	Arrested.	Conver- ted.
I. In houses and Villages	172	36	6,166	563	476	221	66
II. In Roads and high- ways	529	75	14,163	2,311	1,319	467	130
III. In fields and jungles	480	64	4,123	600	1,247	399	97
Total ..	1,181	175	24,450	3,484	3,042	1,027	293

thefts from sheep-pens, in which the culprits are discovered in the act, and use violence in escaping. Making due allowance for exaggeration, the amount lost by these crimes is very small—about 20 Rupees on the average by each crime. The increase is to be attributed in part to improved intelligence, for few crimes, however trivial, now escape notice; partly to the more effectual suppression of graver crime; but chiefly, no doubt, to the destitution of the lower orders, arising from high prices. In 14·8 per cent. of the cases, convictions were obtained, and 293 robbers convicted, against 202 in 1863.

8. The successful suppression of torch-light gang robbery, that worst form of crime of violence, progresses. A tabular Statement is appended. In 1864, 153 torch-light gang robberies only occurred, against 263 in 1863; showing a further decrease of 41·8 per cent. The annual average of cases between 1857 and 1861 was 820. It is most encouraging to find Districts like Nellore with only one case for the year; Bellary with eight; Tanjore with eight; Trichinopoly with two; Madura with one; Tinnevely with none; Salem with six; Coimbatore with one. In Cuddapah, where 69 offences occurred in 1863, 33 only were committed in 1864. This District will show a very clear sheet in 1865, as the organized gangs of outlaws have been completely broken up, and almost all notorious Dacoits transported.

Statement of Robberies, classified according to the circumstances of each case, for the year 1864.

Robberies by less than five persons.

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Districts.	In House or Village.				In Fields or Jungles.				On Highways and Thoroughfares.				Total.			
	Property.		Persons.		Property.		Persons.		Property.		Persons.		Property.		Persons.	
	Lost.	Recovered.	Concerned.	Arrested.	Concerned.	Arrested.	Concerned.	Arrested.	Lost.	Recovered.	Concerned.	Arrested.	Lost.	Recovered.	Concerned.	Arrested.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ganjam...	881	18	28	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Vizagapatam...	897	363	462	115	24	12	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Godavery...	294	13	24	64	24	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kistnah...	2,783	108	194	64	24	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nellore...	1,400	82	123	40	24	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Bellary...	1,008	86	123	40	24	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Cuddapah...	782	2	185	14	5	66	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
North Arcot...	2,039	240	543	93	68	63	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Madras...	13,000	264	581	172	15	48	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Salem...	2,626	11	102	36	36	7	32	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Coimbatore...	1,464	41	152	50	43	16	10	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
South Malabar...	1,130	236	45	43	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
South Canara...	492	78	94	52	33	16	10	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
South Arcot...	2,244	14	386	150	30	25	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Tanjore...	2,209	226	461	152	34	4	13	13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Trichinopoly...	13,743	323	461	152	34	4	13	13	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Madura...	2,087	60	76	35	16	9	9	9	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tinnevely...	1,384	41	75	58	23	23	23	23	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total...	77,274	2,203	3,752	1,181	355	376	13	13	46	11,427	759	3,372	631	1,871	313	11

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24th July 1865.

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Statement of torch-light gang robberies committed and attempted in the Districts, during the year ending 31st December 1864.

Districts.	Number of cases.	Number of persons concerned.	Number of persons arrested.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of persons imprisoned.	Number of persons transported.	Property lost.	Property recovered.	Cases detected.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ganjam...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vizagapatam...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Godavery...	10	198	59	30	30	...	14,374	126	3
Kistnah...	1	40	24	...	...	...	1,460	82	...
Nellore...	1	16	4	...	...	...	106	4	...
Kurnool...	8	195	72	12	...	...	7,268	52	1
Bellary...	33	546	114	68	3	65	2,063	140	10
Cuddapah...	39	581	172	15	1	14	13,000	264	5
North Arcot...	8	96	36	...	...	...	2,635	11	...
Madras...	26	355	116	22	10	12	32,121	124	6
South Arcot...	8	149	61	18	6	12	4,971	219	5
Tanjore...	2	80	32	1	...	1	1,496	...	1
Trichinopoly...	1	20	7	6	...	6	851	11	1
Madura...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tinnevely...	6	152	51	8	3	5	2,283	41	3
Salem...	1	13	13	12	...	12	364	122	1
Coimbatore...	6	71	24	14	12	2	1,501	57	3
South Malabar...	1	10	3	...	...	...	64	...	...
North Malabar...	2	23	14	3	3	...	118	30	1
South Canara...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	153	2,545	802	217	68	149	84,675	1,283	40

CHIEF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
GENERAL OF POLICE,
MADRAS, 10th June 1865.

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

No. 171. ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1865, No. 1030.
The Statements submitted with the foregoing letter appear to the Governor in Council to be, on the whole, creditable to the Police.
2. It is especially satisfactory that so much has been done for the suppression of torch-light gang robberies.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Madras Police.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department. 4

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from the Inspector General of
M. Police.

(Here enter 10th June 1865 No. 1100)

Order thereon 24 July 1865 No. 1030.

The statements sub-
mitted with the foregoing
letter appear to the Governor
in Council to be on the whole
creditable to the Police.

2- It is especially satisfactory
that so much has been
done for the suppression of
torch light gang robberies.

WON

To the Inspr General of Police desd 25/7

Process 1865. Department.

No. 1030

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

27th 16th 1865

Dated 24 July 1865