M.E.O. 1—20,000—16-10-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1482 Press Mis.

68-69

Dated 1-11-20 - 19 186

68 45

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 68. Read the following letter from J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Cuddapah, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cuddapah, 7th October 1865, No. 39.

I have the honor to report that a band of foreigners, similar to the band described by Lieutenant Porteous as having recently visited the District of Tinnevelly, and which gave occasion for the Proceedings of the Government, in the Judicial Department, No. 318, dated the 29th ultimo, has made its appearance in this District.

2. It entered the District by the northern frontier of the Badwel Taluq on the 1st instant, having come from the District of Kurnool.

3. On its approach being reported, I made arrangements to arrest its progress; but before any measures of detention could be carried into effect, it had passed Badwel, and was on its way to Cuddapah.

4. It reached the town of Cuddapah on the 4th instant, and is encamped in the vicinity.

5. To-day, I have received reports stating that some of the women of the party on their way from Badwel to Cuddapah robbed houses in two villages—stealing from one, articles valued at fifty odd Rupees, and from the other, some silver bangles, &c. The usual proceedings will be adopted upon these reports.

6. The passage of the band through the District has not in other ways been unaccompanied by disturbance. The inhabitants of certain villages in the Badwel Taluq were so alarmed at its approach, that they voluntarily abandoned their houses and fled into the jungle. They apprehended ill-usage and extortion.

7. Unless I receive instructions to the contrary, I propose, when the band is at liberty to proceed, to allow it to travel to its present destination, which is stated to be Madras. It can travel under Police surveillance, and the Magistrates of the Districts through which it will pass will be informed that it is *en-route*.

8. I purpose permitting it to go to Madras, because it consists of Heeratees, from the city of Heerat, and can reach that place more easily from the Coast, and more quickly, than if it was turned north, and made to travel through the Presidency of Bombay, and through Scinde.

9. The spokesmen of the party, three in number, call themselves respectively, Rosham Khan, Nazeef Khan, and Yar Mahomed Khan. They are not at all communicative, and give very vague and unsatisfactory answers to the questions I put them. They aver that they are dealers in precious stones; but their present stock in trade consists of cut-pebbles and false diamonds, and turquoises made of glass. They declare that they traffic in horses; but they have only country ponies with them. At first they said they had only one musket in their band. It turns out that there are six. They have silver bangles, and silver chains round their waists, which look more like the produce of Hindoo manufacture, than like ornaments made in Mussulmen communities. That their band is a band of mere beggars is probable; because one of the houses their women are reported to have robbed belongs to a co-religionist.

10. They do not describe their wanderings clearly. They say their band left Heerat two years ago, travelled by Candahar Quetta and the Bolan Pass to Shikarpoor in Scinde, and then came South into Central India.

11. But this route does not agree with the route certain passports they produce would indicate. These documents, I should premise, are mostly personal, and do not refer to a company of travellers. The earliest of them, in date, is a pass granted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police at Calcutta in May 1862, to Rosham Khan, to travel in the direction of Patna for two months.

12. All the other passes are dated 1864 and 1865. I gather from them that Nazeef Khan, at all events, was in the early part of the former year in the Central Provinces, at Saugor and Indore, and that later he was at Broach, Sattarah, Poonah, &c. He and Yar Mahomed received passes (Nos. 31 and 32) from the Commissioner of Police at Madras on the 4th of March 1865. There are also recent passes issued in the Mysore country, and one, dated August 23rd, granted by the Magistrate of Bellary.

13. The latter passport leads me to believe that the band may be the very company complained of as having been in Tinnevelly. If the band was in the latter District not later than the beginning of July last, there is nothing to prevent its having found its way north, into the Bellary District, by the end of the succeeding month. The spokesmen will not admit that it ever has travelled south of Madras, but *their* denial is nothing to the point.

14. I am disposed to believe that the nationality of the band is truly described, because the woman wear the costume of the wandering tribes in Central Asia. The band consists of 60 souls, of whom 14 are men and the remainder women and children.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1865, No. 1452.

The Government think it better to maintain the rule laid down in their former Order, and desire that this band of wandering foreigners be sent back by the Bellary District into the Bombay Territory, from which it is shown by their passports that they came.

2. They should be moved on under the surveillance of the Police; and the Magistrate of Bellary will communicate with the Magistrate of Dharwar on the subject, furnishing him with copy of the G. O. of the 29th September last, and of this Order.

3. A separate letter will be addressed to Government of Bombay, with the suggestion that this band be deported, and sent in the direction of their own country. Copy of the papers will also be forwarded for the consideration of the Supreme Government, with the expression of the opinion of this Government that steps should be taken to check the facilities of ingress and free passage which appear to exist at present for these gangs of thieving foreigners.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Magistrate of Cuddapah.
" Magistrate of Bellary (with spare copy of G. O., dated 29th September).
" Inspector General of Police.
" Acting Commissioner of Police, Madras.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

11th October 1865 No. 1452.

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of the Jesuits with a clause forwarded
for the enquiry of the Susp. Corr.
with the Possessions of the Jesuits
of this Govt. that effects should
be taken & which the Jesuits
Fines &c. Pass Passports &c
appear & which at present
for this Govt. Service
Foreigners

[illegible]

Ag. Augt. Andrade Sat
Augt. Bellary (Witness to the Sig. of Lett)
Lieut. Jno. Hicks
Ag. Commissy Thos Rhodes.

Prov. 29th Sept. 1865 ct. 317/13.

Judicial 1865 Sept.

From
The Ag: Magte of
Cuddapah
No 39

Dated 7 Dec 10 } Oct 65 -

10 - 10

Cuddapah
No 2132

Reports the appearance of a band of Decoits in his District & the measures he has adopted to cope with resistance to them -

68. by.