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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political (Judicial) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 409 Press

183-185

Dated 23.3.1865

Sp

Not to be folded or roughly handled

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 459.

FROM

A. J. ARBUTHNOT, ESQ.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of extract from a Resolution passed by the Government of India, under date the 21st January last, I am directed to transmit to you the annexed copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Police, dated 1st instant, No. 427, and to state that the Governor in Council agrees in the opinion of that officer, that, under the circumstances stated, it is not to be expected that the approvers of the late Thuggee and Dacoity Department will prove of any use in aiding the operations of the Police in this Presidency, and that it is not expedient to transfer any of them to Madras.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
23rd March 1865.

Chief Secretary.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 1st March 1865, No. 427.

General Department.

With reference to extract from Resolution passed by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, in the Home Department, under date the 21st January, referred for report, I would respectfully remark that I do not think that any of the Thuggee and Dacoity approvers, now attached to that Department, can be usefully transferred to this Presidency.

2. The Thuggee and Dacoity Department did not generally extend its operations to the Presidency of Madras. None of the approvers are, therefore, likely to be acquainted with the criminals or crimes of this Presidency, or are likely to render useful aid to the ordinary Police.

3. There is no Thuggee in the Presidency. The Dacoity of the country is committed by local gangs; and the Police is dealing with it with fair success, without extraneous aid. The evidence of approvers is frequently resorted to within the conditions of the Law; but the approvers are persons who have taken a minor part in the perpetration of the crime, and can, therefore, give useful evidence. Professional approvers are never employed.

Exd J. H. Burn.

P. 683

Extract from a Resolution passed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council in the Home Department, under date the 21st January 1865.

Para. 14.—THE Governor General in Council observes that the main difficulty in the settlement of the transfer of Thuggee and Dacoity Operations lies in the disposal of the body of Approvers now in existence. They cannot be released. They are criminals whose lives have been forfeited, and who could not be turned loose, even under surveillance, without danger to society, and possibly to themselves from former associates or their friends. They have fulfilled, or are fulfilling, their part of the compact made with them when they became Approvers. So long as they perform the conditions upon which their sentences have been suspended or remitted they cannot be treated as ordinary convicts, and the Government must support them, however they are employed, or wherever they may remain.

15. There is, therefore, no alternative but to let them remain as they are, and the only question is whether their services should not be utilized; and if so, what is the best mode of utilizing them.

16. As the duty of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department has now been confided to the ordinary Police, it is very desirable that they should be divided among the different Governments and Administrations in India, according to the locality in which their experience in crime might make them most useful in helping the Police.

17. But, with one exception, the result of an attempt so to employ them has hitherto been unsuccessful. With the single exception mentioned, the Local Governments and Administrations declare that the Approvers are either useless or actually mischievous.

18. In a letter to one of the Local Governments, it has been explained by the Government of India, that the abolition of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department was not ordered because its system was found to be erroneous or obsolete. On the contrary, the system worked admirably, and was as efficient, if not more so, when abolished, as when first organized. The only reason for the abolition of the Special Agency for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity was that it was supposed that the ordinary Police, under its new organization, were competent to work the system without extraneous aid. But it may be feared that this hope has not yet been realized.

19. Whether the Police can or cannot be made to work the system, no proper attempt, apparently, has as yet been made to work it. The whole foundation of the system rests upon the employment of Approvers. It does not appear that any Approvers have as yet grown up under the new Police, and they seem most unwilling to use the Approvers already provided, or to utilize the information on record. It would seem to be considered that nothing but the ordinary action of the Police is required to deal with Dacoity, Thuggee, and other organized crime. This, however, the whole correspondence on the abolition of the Department shows was never the opinion of the Government of India. Experience proves that Police dealing only with the separate commission of isolated crimes have, in India at any rate, little chance against organized bodies of criminals.

20. Recent instances show that this is so still with the new Police. In the correspondence before the Government of India, the solitary exception to the general rejection of the Approvers is an application for the loan of some Dacoit Approvers by the Inspector General of Police in the Central Provinces. The new Police has been dealing with Dacoity in the Central Provinces for the past two years, and their endeavours have admittedly ended in something very like absolute failure. The Inspector General of Police desired at last to have recourse to Approvers. Colonel Hervey has informed him, very properly, that Approvers had been allotted to him for a year past, but that he had not hitherto chosen to make use of them.

21. The attention of the Local Governments and Administrations should be drawn to the obvious advantage of employing old Approvers in [illegible]rk of detection as regards the offences of Thuggee and Dacoity, and the [illegible]ity which they are likely to experience in detecting offenders, and in preventing an increase of crime under those two heads unless they employ the same agency which has, for some years, been employed with such marked success; and the employment, under proper rules and restrictions, of the men now available, so far as their services can be made useful, should again be suggested to the Local Governments and Administrations.

22. Colonel Hervey should be directed to furnish each Local Government with a list of the Approvers who, in his opinion, might, from their local knowledge and other circumstances, be found most useful by such Governments; and on application being made by any Government for the services of any men named in the list, they should be sent if available.. Men so sent should not be returned to the Depôt, but should continue thenceforward under the orders, or at the disposal, of the Government to which they may have been sent.

23. With each Approver, a copy of any deposition which he may have given, and a sketch of the principal gangs to which he may have belonged, and of the crimes which those gangs have perpetrated, should be sent by Colonel Hervey.

24. In considering this question, the Local Governments and Administrations should not allow the matter of expense to intervene. The Approvers must be kept; and it matters little whether the cost of maintaining them is charged to the Local or the Imperial Government. It is only in aiding the Police that their services can be utilized.

25. Colonel Hervey will require a number of Approvers for the foreign territories in which he is to operate. These should at once be selected and set apart for this particular duty. The rest, or those not required by the Local Governments, should be employed in the School of Industry, or in any other way in which their labor may be most useful and remunerative.

26. The present body of Approvers will probably disappear in no very long time, and the power contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure of adding new men to their number should be more sparingly exercised than appears hitherto to have been the case. A caution to this effect should be given to the several Local Governments.

ORDERED, that a copy of paragraphs 14 to 26 of the abovementioned Resolution be forwarded to the Governments and Administrations noted in the margin, for consideration and report.

Government of Bengal.	Chief Commissioner of Oude.
" Madras.	" British Burmah.
" Bombay.	Commissioner of Mysore.
" North-Western Provinces.	Resident at Hyderabad.
" Punjab.	

Referred to the Inspector General of Police

Dated 17th 1865 [illegible] Chief Secretary

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

S.E. No. 459

Extract Pol. Proceedings dated 3rd Feb. 1866

Pol. No. 296

Feb. 541.

Reference attention to the advantage of employing old Approvers in the detection of Thuggee and Dacoity and the utility which they are likely to experience in detecting offenders and in preventing the increase of crime under those heads unless they employ the same agency which has for some years been employed with such marked success and the employment under proper rules and restrictions of the men now available so far as their services can be made useful should again be suggested to the Local Governments and Administrations.

Pol. No. 296

Judicial Department.

No. 459.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India.

Home Department.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of Extract from a Resolution passed by the Govt. of India under date the 21st Inst. last, I am directed to transmit to you the annexed copy of a letter from the Inspector Genl. of Police dated 1st Inst. No. 427, and to state that the Governor in Council agrees in the opinion of that officer that.

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~~any of the Cases to~~
~~Madras~~ is not
dient to further any
of them.

Fort St George
23rd Nov 1

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N° 459.

To the Secy. to the Govt of India

Dated 23d March 1865.

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C16 March 1823.