

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Industrial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	147	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	2-2-19	1886

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7/7

1886

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
2nd February 1866.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 6. From the General Superintendent of Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Ootacamund; dated Simla, 27th May 1865, No. 479.

With reference to my letter to your address, No. 625, dated 5th August 1864, begging to be furnished with certain Thuggee and Dacoity Statements, and to your reply, No. 1335, dated 20th September 1864, informing me that they would be furnished annually, I have the honor to submit amended forms thereof as lately approved of by the Government of India, according to which I would beg that these documents may for the future be supplied as soon after the close of each year as practicable.

2. It would still be necessary that special Reports of cases of Thuggee and Dacoity be forwarded direct to this office at the time of occurrence as before requested, but of which, I would beg to submit to notice, none have hitherto been received by me from the Madras Presidency, although I am duly supplied with them by the other Governments and Administrations comprised in the Circle of my general superintendence.

P. S.—Twenty-six spare sets have been forwarded for distribution under six separate covers.

No. 1.

STATEMENT shewing cases of Thuggee, during the year of 186 , in the Districts of the
Division of

No.	Place and date of occurrence.	No. of persons implicated.	Names of persons arrested.	Remarks shewing the number and names of persons murdered, &c.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

The _____

Commissioner.

Collier & Co. 1866/2

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
2nd February 1866.

No. 2.

STATEMENT shewing the number of Dacoities perpetrated in the year 1865, in the Districts of
the Division of

No.	Date of Dacoity.	Upon whom, where, and in what Zillah.	Number of persons killed.	Number of persons wounded.	Amount of property plundered.	Number of persons arrested and disposed of during the year.							Remaining under trial on the 1st January 1866.		Remarks showing hour of occurrence, how the Dacoits were armed, what class they appeared to be, &c., &c.	
						Arrested.	Hanged.	Transported for life.	Limited imprisonment.	Released.	Died.	Absconded.	Total.	In the Session's Court.		In the Magistrate's Court.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
The

Commissioner.

No. 3.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT shewing the number of cases of Dacoity of former periods in which persons have been apprehended and disposed of, in the Districts of the Division, during the year ending on the 31st December 1865.

Number of persons arrested and disposed of during the year.																	Remaining under trial at the end of the year 186 .		Remarks.
Number in the Statement in which formerly reported.	Date.	Name of plundered party.	Remaining under trial when formerly reported.	In the Session's Court.	In the Magistrate's Court.	Since apprehended.	Total.	Hanged.	Imprisonment for life.	Limited imprisonment.	Released by the S. N. Adawlut.	Released by the Session's Judge.	Released by the Magistrate.	Died.	Absconded.	In the Session's Court.	In the Magistrate's Court.		

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
The

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Commissioner.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
2nd February 1866.

Referred to the Inspector General of Police for his remarks.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

29th June 1865.

No. 7. From the Inspector General of Madras Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 6th November 1865, No. 2171.

I have the honor to submit the following observations on Colonel Hervey's communications, dated 5th August 1864, No. 625, and 27th May 1865, No. 479.

2. Colonel Hervey requires, 1st, that the Government of Madras furnish him with half-yearly Returns of Thuggee and Dacoity in this Presidency in accordance to the forms which he transmits; 2ndly, observes that it will still be necessary to report specially to his office at Agra, the occurrence and particulars of each offence at the time of its occurrence, and requests that Magistrates may be directed to do so; and, 3rdly, he notices that the Madras Government has failed to furnish him with the information which is duly supplied with by the other Government comprised in the circle of his general superintendence.

3. The Government disposed of Colonel Hervey's requisitions by G. O. 20th September 1864, No. 1385.

4. I have carefully examined the Resolutions of the Government of India relative to Colonel Hervey's duties, and I fail to find in them any authority for his requiring direct Returns or Reports—general or special—of the local crime of this Presidency to be made to his office, either by the Government or by its subordinate Officers; or any sanction for his assuming the superintendence of any criminal matters within this Presidency.

5. The circle of Colonel Hervey's superintendence is and always has been sufficiently prescribed. It does not, and never has included this Government. No Returns of local crime are or ever have been made by this Government or its Officers to Colonel Hervey, or to any Officer who has exercised his special and limited functions, even before the abolition of the Department as a special agency in those parts of British territory in which it had been in operation. And the spirit of the instructions issued to Colonel Hervey in the Resolution of the Government of India, under date 18th February 1864, No. 186, viz., "Lieutenant Colonel Hervey," it is observed, "appears to misapprehend the intentions of Government "on this point. The duties of the office will not be increased in importance; but "on the contrary will certainly be diminished" is opposed to the extension of his prescribed superintendence which these calls of Colonel Hervey's on the local Government and its Officers indicate. The letter of the Under Secretary to Government of India, dated 27th January 1864, merely directs that the single offence of Thuggee may be noticed in the Annual Administration Report submitted to the Government of India. There are no instructions placing this Presidency under Colonel Hervey's superintendence in respect to any class of local offences.

6. I need scarcely observe that it must prove most embarrassing if an individual official in the position of Colonel Hervey be permitted to require that periodical returns be made to his office by this Government, or be allowed to place himself, as he proposes to do, in direct and immediate communication with all the Subordinate Magistrates or Police of this Presidency, by requiring them to make

special and circumstantial reports to his office at Agra of every occurrence of an ordinary offence, such as Dacoity, in any part of this country, which is quite new to Colonel Hervey, and where he has not a single agent.

7. I cannot, therefore, recommend any modification of the order already passed on Colonel Hervey's former requisition for periodical returns and special reports, causing, as it would do, increased labor, and expenditure of public time.

8. I do not think that Colonel Hervey can in any way aid this Government or its Officers in regard to the preparation of statistics of the crime of the Presidency. The Criminal statistics, and especially those of Dacoity, are collected and collated with great accuracy and completeness under the system ordered by this Government. A comparison of the forms transmitted by Colonel Hervey with those ordered by this Government, sufficiently establishes the superiority of the latter for every useful purpose. The expenditure of public time and money required for this is already incurred here, and obviously must be continued; but I do not think that a public establishment at Agra can be economically or usefully engaged in doing the same work over again in a less perfect form.

9. Nor can the statistics of a single local offence be so usefully dealt with in an isolated manner by an Officer in Colonel Hervey's circumstances as by the local Government and its Officers, who have the whole crime and condition of the country before them, and know all the facts and circumstances of each case and District, in a way that cannot be possessed by Colonel Hervey; and I anticipate both embarrassment and futile unnecessary correspondence, if the management of the statistics of one of our local offences be transferred from this Government to Colonel Hervey's Office. The measure is not necessitated or called for by any neglect on the part of this Government to manage this duty well, and submit the results in a form that embodies all the information that can be required by the Government of India.

10. With reference to the *special Report* of cases of Thuggee and Dacoity which Colonel Hervey states, it will still be necessary for Magistrates promptly to forward direct to his office at the time of the occurrence of an offence, I most earnestly trust that the Government will not require this additional labor at the hands of the already over-worked Magistracy and District Officers, or place their Officers in the proposed position.

11. As regards Thuggee, the matter were easily disposed of. Not a single case of even suspected Thuggee has occurred during the 7½ years that I have had charge of the Police; nor, so far as I can learn, for many years previously, within this Presidency. As an offence Thuggee may be said to have no existence in the Districts of South India. It has, therefore, never become necessary or expedient—even before the sound and effective measures now in operation for the suppression and detection of all local crime were adopted by the Government—to admit the intervention or superintendence of this special and extraneous agency within this Presidency. It is less than ever requisite to do so now. So far, therefore, as this branch of Colonel Hervey's special duty in any other part of India is concerned, his present requisition for general returns or special report of Thuggee from the Government need scarcely be noticed. There are no reports to make.

12. With reference to Colonel Hervey's requisition of a special and direct report on every occurrence of a Dacoity,

10th November 1863, No. 3037.

I pointed out in my report on a previous communication from this Officer, in

which he proposed—apparently unsupported by any authority from the Government of India—to extend the operations of his agency to this Presidency; that Colonel Hervey is wholly unacquainted with the character of the local crime and criminal classes of this Presidency, and that he is in error in his views, as therein set forth, on both subjects; and I showed that the local Officers and Courts are dealing intelligently and successfully with this and other crime. The Government resolved not to entertain those overtures of Colonel Hervey's. No new conditions have intervened which would render it worth while to re-consider the Resolution of Government, for events have established its soundness beyond cavil. And I do not think that either the Magistrates or Police Officers of this Presidency will now find it necessary to consult Colonel Hervey about their management of their local offences.

13. Thus Colonel Hervey's requisition for special reports of local offences to be made direct to his office at Agra has practically been disposed of by Government already. And any compliance with his renewed proposal must involve bootless waste of public time, as well as place the Officers subordinate to this Government in a position which it would be obviously inexpedient to allow. For it is impossible that all these returns and special reports could pass under the eye and consideration of this Government—indeed this is not proposed. Confusion must result; direct correspondence must arise; the thing must work badly; and a specious commencement will gradually lead to serious interference.

14. I need scarcely point out that ordinary Dacoity, as defined by the Penal Code, viz., robbery by more than four persons, is not the grave offence for the suppression of which a special agency was once deemed requisite in other parts of India, or for the superintendence of which, as regards this Presidency, a new function need be created. The Dacoity Commission was constituted, I believe, to deal with those large and organized gangs of professional and armed Dacoits who roamed over the country in other parts of India—much as professional Thugs had done—and committed the gravest outrages (often attended with murder) at a time when there was no efficiently managed local Police. Now this is not the character of the crime which now appears in our Criminal returns as Dacoity under the Penal Code. And the local Police is not now in that condition under this Presidency. Professional Dacoity on a systematic scale, characterized but few Districts. In these it has been put down by the measures adopted by this Government, without the intervention of any special superintendent. There is not a single gang of professional Dacoits at this moment "out" within the Presidency. Dacoity, even of our much less heinous type, is still steadily decreasing. The numbers concerned are far fewer, and the amount of property lost is comparatively small. In the words of the Deputy Inspector General of the Ceded Districts, where the crime was rife, a "striking change has taken place in the general character of the crime. Daring organization which formerly distinguished these robberies is rapidly dying out;

"and the attacks are usually made on insecure houses in outlying hamlets, without the aggravating circumstances which used to attend the wholesale plunder and ruin of some wealthy merchant." In fact, local arrangements are effectually meet the local need, and the introduction of an external superintendence is less called for than ever.

15. But setting aside all other considerations, I venture to draw attention to the amount of useless labor that would be entailed if—besides the reports and returns now made to this Government—other statements in other forms have to be furnished to Colonel Hervey, and *special Reports* have to be sent to his office on the occurrence of every "Dacoity" as defined by the Penal Code. There were 944 such offences registered in 1864. Of these 58 or 5.7 per cent. only presented any feature of aggravation either in respect to numbers engaged or circumstances of cruelty or outrage that attended the offence. In other words, only five per cent. of the whole number were such offences as under the old law would have appeared as Dacoity or Gang Robbery before the Courts. Again, admitting all the usual exaggeration indulged in by excited sufferers in respect to the number of assailants and amount of property lost, the average sum lost by Dacoity in 1864 was 185 Rupees, and the average number concerned was 10 men in each case.

16. But the petty character by far the greater part of the crime at present treated as Dacoity is best illustrated by details. Of the whole number (944) that occurred in 1864, 376 or about 40 per cent. were robberies by night of sheep pens and grain heaps in the jungles and open fields, involving an alleged loss of 11,427 Rupees. In by far the greater number of these cases the property lost consisted of a couple of sheep or two or three baskets of grain. In fact, the bulk of these offences are thefts, converted into Dacoity by the threats or violence used in escaping after detection. Many charges too under this head are false; the watchers steal the grain, and tell the owners that Dacoits had carried off the property with violence. Can any conceivable advantage accrue from specially reporting these ordinary local offences to an office at Agra? Further, 313 of these so-called Dacoities, or 33 per cent. more of the whole, occurred on thoroughfares—generally village paths—involving an alleged loss of 74,271 Rupees (of which 14,255, or about 20 per cent. was recovered). The 6 or 7 serious offences which were committed in Kurnool, North Arcot and Tinnevely, account for upwards of Rupees 65,000 of the entire loss; and the average loss in all the others together did not exceed Rupees 30 by each offence. More than three-fourths of the whole were under 10 Rupees each. Many of the offences consisted of snatching cloths or food, now so dear and scarce, from an unwary passenger by a party of travellers or by the people of the adjacent jungles. Many of the so-called Dacoities in houses are in fact merely burglaries (at which more than four persons are alleged to have been present) which were discovered at the time by the inmates, and are brought under the category of Dacoity by the alleged threats or violence used in escaping. What an office at Agra is to do with special and direct report on all these cases, is not easily to conceive.

17. But Colonel Hervey's proposed forms fail to show any analysis of the character or circumstances of these offences; and if used at all, they must give an erroneous view of the present state of the local crime in the country. Statistics

can be usefully managed and collated by those only who are acquainted with their circumstances and details.

No. 8. To the General Superintendent of Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity, Simla, dated Fort Saint George, 2nd February 1866, No. 147.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 27th May last, No. 479, I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying copies of the Criminal Statistics of the Madras Presidency for the year 1864, and also the Statement of Dacoities for that year. In future years, similar returns will be sent to you as soon as they are ready.

2. A copy of a letter addressed to this Government by the Inspector General of Police, with reference to the application made in your letter now under acknowledgment, is enclosed for your information.

6th November 1865, No. 2171.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Criminal Statistics
despatch No. 22/66 by the
Attorney-General
Beardmore now sent 6/2/66

despatch 5/2/66

Judicial Department

No 147.

To
The General Superintendent
of operations for the suppression
of Thuggee and Dacoity.
Simla -

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W.D.N.

6/2/65 - 271.

W.D.N.

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acknowledgment is enclosed for
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Fort Saint George

2nd January 1866

Copy to the Chief of Police
(with ref. to para 17) despatch 6/2

Judicial 1866 Depoitt

W. A. 147

To Mr. E. A. Wright of operations
for the improvement of the
and Boats - Smiles -

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March 22^d February 1866