

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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General Department
No. 1554

From

Chief Office of Insp. Genl. of Police
Madras, 17th September 1866.

W. Robinson Esq.
Inspector General of Police.

To

J. D. Sini Esq.
Secretary to Government
Fort Saint-George.

Sir,

I beg to submit a report of the disturbances which have occurred in the Madras District around Madras.

Madras District

Sydlapet, St.

Thomas's Mount
and Palaveram.

2. Occurrences in Madras on the

6th and 7th quickly affected the places immediately adjacent. On the 7th and 8th much excitement prevailed in Sydlapet and in the Cantonments of Saint Thomas Mount and Palaveram; but an outbreak was prevented and peace has been preserved throughout at these Stations.

Riot at Poonamallee &c.

3. On the 8th the Police was for a time overpowered at Poonamallee, and several shops were robbed of grain to the amount

amount of Rupees 650; two small shops in adjacent villages were likewise rifled of grain valued at 57 Rupees. Order was however speedily restored, 368 Rupees worth of the grain taken has been recovered, and 50 of the rioters have been arrested.

4. On the same day (8th) Peralore, At Peralore. a small bazar beyond Perambore and near the Railway works, was the scene of disturbances. Three small shops were broken into and 17 Rupees worth of rice carried away; but order was speedily restored and 7 persons arrested. However on the following day the mob robbed 2 shops in the village of Callatterput of about 40 Rupees worth of grain, but was quickly put to flight by the Police called in from Trivatore.

5. The excitement extended from Madras up the Cochrane Canal on the 8th. Excitement prevailed at Ennore &c. At Pulicat the Police was overpowered, 3 rice stores and 2 houses were entered and

and 70 Rupees worth of rice taken. Two boats lying at anchor at Pulicat were also rifled and 2,475 Rupees worth of rice carried off. Order was speedily restored and the Sub. Magistrate was quickly on the spot. Sixty two (62) persons have been arrested and 1,000 Rupees worth of the property taken, has been recovered.

At Ponnery.

6. On the 9th and 10th grain riots on a smaller scale occurred at Ponnery and its neighbouring villages - and also at Arner of the same Taluq; but they were put down, after about 300 Rupees worth of grain had been robbed. Thirty two (32) persons have been arrested.

At Trivellore, Tripassore &c.

7. On the same days (9th and 10th) Riots broke out in Trivellore, Tripassore and some of the neighbouring villages. About 600 Rupees worth of rice was carried away by the mob; of which about 100 Rupees have since been recovered; and 36 rioters have been arrested. Peace was readily restored on the appearance of the Sub. Magistrate and

Police

Police.

8. On the 9th and 10th much excitement and some disorder prevailed at Conjeevaram and in its adjacent villages. Three (3) small shops were robbed of 50 Rupees worth of rice in Conjeevaram and a cart and a threshing floor &c were robbed in a neighbouring village of 78 Rupees worth of rice &c. Several arrests have been made. Justice is thoroughly restored.

9. The peace was threatened during the 8th and two subsequent days at Sheeperamattur, Wallajabad, Ootramullur, Red Hills, Biderpett &c.; but the excited crowds were restrained from breaking the Law.

10. From Nellore Dist. I have intelligence Durgarazapatam &c. that 5 boat-loads of grain &c. intended for the Madras market, were robbed on the night of the 10th at Durgarazapatam (at the head of the Pulicat lake) by the fishermen of the neighbouring villages. At Kotapatnam about 10 miles from Durgarazapatam, a Committee's house

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house has been robbed, also by the fishermen.

11. Rumours have prevailed of other robberies of grain in transit by boat to Madras, committed by the fishermen on the Pulicat lake; but no official corroboration of these rumours has reached me.

12. The origin of the Riots in the villages of the Madras District is of course to be traced to general discontent at the high prices now prevailing with a tendency to rise suddenly. But the immediate cause of ebullition has every where been the sudden closing of these shops by the retail dealers - some through fear, some because the shopkeepers had not replenished their stores at the high prices prevailing in the wholesale market. The inhabitants of the place and neighbourhood gathered at the usual hour in the bazar to make their daily purchases - ready enough as a rule to purchase even at advanced rates

rated ~~en~~ but they found the retail shops
shut and no food to be had for the
day. Disappointment led to an angry
and excited feelings which it has
not been possible in some cases to
control entirely. In no case has
there been any accident to life or
limb and the places robbed have
generally been small outlying shops.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obt. servant

W. Brown

Inspector General of Police.

