

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1530	Press <u>Mis.</u>
<i>5/6</i> Dated	1-10-1866	

Not to be folded or roughly handled1530
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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st October 1866.

No. 5. Read the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Chittoor, 21st September 1866, No. 48.

I have the honor, with reference to my letter of yesterday's date, to forward, for the information of Government, copies of two letters* since received from the Sub-Collector. I am glad to observe

* Dated 18th September 1866, No. 143.
,, 20th do. No. 145.

that the disturbance does not at any time appear to have assumed formidable proportions, and I am in hopes that, under the arrangements reported, this uncasiness in the grain market may subside, and those who are disposed to be disorderly be effectually overawed.

2. I would, at the same time, suggest that, if the further presence of the Police Reserve sent from the District can be dispensed with at Madras, the men may be sent back for employment, in case of emergency.

From the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Magistrate of North Arcot; dated Vellore, 18th September 1866, No. 143.

I have the honor to report, for your information, the uneasy feeling in the bazaars here. The supply of grain has been falling short during the last forty-eight hours, owing to owners being frightened by the rumours of loots here; and, during the last few days, threatening crowds have gathered in the bazaars, but have been kept in order, and dispersed by the Police. My best thanks are due to Lieutenant Court, Assistant Superintendent of Police, for his exertions; he is in the bazaars at all hours, and taking every precaution.

2. This evening, I regret to say, there was a slight attempt at looting, at about 7 p. m. The disturbance was nipped in the bud, but, in the event of supplies of grain not coming in, we shall have soon difficulty, I fear, in keeping the peace. You may rest assured I shall take every possible precaution; to-morrow I shall keep the convicts in Jail, and add the Police, thus at liberty, to the Force on duty in the bazaars.

From the Joint Magistrate of North Arcot, to the Magistrate of North Arcot; dated Vellore, 20th September 1866, No. 145.

In continuation of my letter, No. 143, dated the evening of the 18th, and my demi-official sent express yesterday, I have the honor to give you further details.

2. For a week past, grain has been failing, and on the 17th it was hardly procurable. During the 17th, crowds collected, and cries of loot were raised towards dusk; but the Police on duty were strengthened, and all passed off quietly.

3. On the 18th, grain was still scarce, but all went well until the evening, when several attempts at riot and assaults took place. In the Oilmonger's street, at about 7-30 p. m., a draper was attacked and beaten, being mistaken apparently for a Grain Merchant. At the same hour, an attempt was made to loot grain from a shop in the flower bazaar close to the long bazaar; again, at about quarter to eight, a shop-keeper and a money lender were assaulted in the Commissariat Bazaar, and on each of these occasions disorderly crowds gathered. All these attempts at riot were put down promptly, before spreading, by the Police, who were in considerable force, and several arrests were made; and the prisoners are awaiting trial, and, if convicted, will be severely dealt with.

4. Yesterday was the most critical time. There was no supply in the bazaar, and the drivers of grain bandies, nearing Vellore, all halted and turned back, on hearing what had occurred. At an early hour there was a large and threatening crowd on the *maidan* in front of the main bazaar, and nearly every shop was closed. By this time the Police had been strengthened, by the Jail working guard party being put on town duty (the convicts being left in Jail), and at about 11 the crowd dispersed, and I left the bazaar and sent off the express which you have already received. About mid-day, the Assistant Superintendent of Police informed me that there were grain bandies at Catpady, but that the drivers were afraid to come in, thinking they might be plundered. A Police

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guard was sent to escort them in, and they were informed that they would be protected in selling at their own rates. About 15 bandies came in, and sold grain without any molestation from the crowd, who were kept in awe by the Police, who, with the additions from the Jail above alluded to, mustered some 90 Constables. This somewhat restored confidence, and I have seldom seen the town more quiet than I found it in the evening, and up to mid-night yesterday. This morning more shops are open, and more bandies are expected. Police guards have been sent out to meet and escort them into the town, so as to give the owners confidence.

5. I will write again to-morrow. I have great hopes now that we may escape any serious disturbance; but, at the same time, I cannot disguise from myself that any disturbance, however slight, would again cause all supplies from the surrounding villages to stop, and place us in as precarious a situation as before.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 1st October 1866, No: 1530.

The Government are glad to learn that the local Officers have, by their judicious measures, succeeded in preserving the peace and restoring confidence.

2. Paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter will be communicated to the Inspector General of Police, and Major Hearn.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Magistrate of North Arcot.
" Inspector General of Police.
" Commissioner of Police.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

and those who are disposed to be disorderly be effectually overawed.

2. I would at the same time suggest that if the further presence of the Police Reserve Sub from the District can be dispensed with at Madras the Reserve may be sent back for employment in cases of emergency.

North Arcot } I have the honor to
Collector's Office } Sir
Chittoor 21 Sept 1866. } Your most obedient servant

J. C. M. M.
Collector.

The Honble A. J. Subbuthand
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

4/10/66

N^o 48

North District

Collectors Catching

Chittoor 21st September

From J. D. Robinson Esq.
Collector of North District

The Honble A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George

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1st October 1866 N^o 1530

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Page 2 of the
Ch. letter will be
sent to the two posts
of Police &
Major General I do

To the Master of Records
Chief Secy of Police
Chief of Police - 3/10/66
W.D.N.