

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1771	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	8.11.	19 1886

104-105

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th November 1866.*

No. 104. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 24th October 1866, No. 1760.

General Department.

I have the honor to report on the state of crime of violence against property and theft, in the Bellary District, during the past nine months of the year.

2. The occurrence of great distress in the District, which has existed almost since the commencement of the year, has naturally checked the progressive decrease of crime which had taken place during the few years last past, and has caused a considerable increase, as shown in the following Statement for the corresponding nine months of each year 1864-65-66.

	Robbery.	Dacoity.	House breaking.	Theft.	Total.
From January to September 1864.....	108	102	364	865	1,439
" " 1865.....	81	71	311	904	1,367
" " 1866.....	135	235	521	1639	2,530

3. I have carefully gone into the particulars of the crime with the Magistrate and Superintendent of Police. The localities where it has been most prevalent are those in which the distress has been severest; and the highest numbers occurred in June and July, when perhaps the pressure was at its highest.

Dacoity in July..... 107
 " August..... 87
 " September... 41

4. Since the end of July there has been a steady decrease, and during this month (I write on the 20th) there is every prospect of a still further and very marked improvement.

5. The numerical returns show a large amount of crime during the months of scarcity; but the distress, great as it has been, has failed to call out a single organized gang, who have boldly and persistently set Law and authority at defiance. The offences have been committed by a strong agricultural population, who, under ordinary circumstances, would not have taken to crime. Very few cases have been attended with circumstances of serious aggravation. The object of plunder has almost always been food.

6. Under the circumstances, the Magistracy and Police have grappled fairly with the emergency. The Magistrate issued some most useful and stringent orders to the Sub-Magistrates and Heads of Villages relative to their duties; the Police have been on the alert; and, on the whole, the people have borne their sorrows with patience, while the well-to-do have shown liberality.

7. A fair proportion of the offences committed have been brought to justice; but it is impossible as yet to show the existing proportion of convictions to offences, as a large number of cases remain to be disposed of by the Courts.

8. Peace has been firmly maintained in all the Bazaars. There has not been a single grain riot in the District. Some anxiety was felt about the middle of September in the Town and Cantonment of Bellary, but the prompt and energetic measures taken by General McLeod, in support of the judicious arrangement made by the Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, had a most salutary effect, and no disturbance occurred.

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9. Rain has fallen abundantly; the agricultural population is at work again; employments have been organized by the Magistrate for the able bodied poor; the destitute are being relieved; and there is every reason to hope that the worst is past.

No. 105. ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1866, No. 1771.

The Government are gratified to learn that, notwithstanding the great increase of crime induced by the famine, very few cases have been attended with circumstances of serious aggravation, or committed by organized gangs of the criminal classes. It is satisfactory that the Police and Magistracy have grappled with the emergency; that peace has been firmly maintained throughout; and that, with the improved prospects of the season, crime is again on the decrease. The thanks of Government are due to Major General McLeod for his prompt and energetic action in support of the judicious arrangements of the Magistracy and Police for the preservation of the peace in the Town and Cantonment of Bellary during the height of the scarcity.

(True Extract).

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Police.
" Magistrate of Bellary.
" Military Department.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Recd the following letter
from the Inspector General
of Police.
(Here enter date & October 1866, p. 1760)*

Order thereon 8 Nov 1866 No. 1771.

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To the ^{Supr} General of Police }
Magistrate of Bellary } dated 15/11
Nobtan Chaudhary }
Editor, The

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Liberal 1866. Department.

No. 1111

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Of A. 2832.

Dated 8th November 1866.

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Press No. 4266, G. M. - 12.4.66 - 500.

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