M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-28.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 867 Press Mis.

Dated 12. 8. 19 1886

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 85. Read the following letter from the Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Kangancllur, 5th March 1866, No. 10.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, copy of a letter from the Joint Magistrate, reporting the occurrence of a collision between some Sepoys of the 6th Regiment Native Infantry now stationed at Vellore and the Constabulary.

2. Looking at the facts as narrated in Mr. Barlow's letter, Government may be disposed to think that, in making the matter subject of special report, I am attaching to it a significance which the circumstances do not warrant. The demonstration has, fortunately, not been attended with any very seriouscosequences, but in the existing pressure of scarcity and high prices, such symptoms may not be safely disregarded, and as there is undoubtedly a great feeling of uneasiness in the Vellore, Tirputti, and probably in some of the other larger, Markets of the District, I have thought it my duty to bring the matter to the notice of Government.

3. The first of the two causes noticed in paragraph 5 of Mr. Barlow's letter is, undoubtedly, the origin of this disorderly outbreak. Colonel Kempster and the Officers of the Regiment did all in their power, I am informed, to facilitate inquiry, and, besides, made such departmental arrangements, as will, it is hoped, repress any further ebulition of the dangerous spirit which has given rise to the present collision.

4. At the same time, I am bound to state that the Vellore Bazaars are not yet free from panic, and the rumour (which I have not had time to verify), that the same Regiment, when stationed at Vellore a good many years ago, was implicated in some serious grain riots and other disturbances, does not tend to allay apprehension.

5. The Government are in possession of certain confidential reports, to which I need not do more than allude, and will, from the papers thus before them, be able to form their own opinion as to whether any special precautionary measures are called for.

6. The question alluded to in paragraph 6 of Mr. Barlow's letter is too large and important an one to be touched on in this place, and I, therefore, reserve any comment I may have to offer until I have the Joint Magistrate's views before me.

From the Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot; dated Vellore, 3rd March 1866, No. 109.

When at Damarapak, on Saturday last, engaged on the Jummabundy, I received a report that some serious collisions had occurred between the Police and Sepoys of the 6th Regiment. I at once returned to Vellore, and, with the able assistance of the Superintendent of Police, I have made general inquiries as to the cause of the disturbance, as well as held a regular investigation into the conduct of the Sepoys accused of assaulting the Police, &c., &c., and attempting a "loot."

2. My inquiry has just terminated, and has led to the acquittal of the three Sepoys accused as ringleaders, but solely on the ground of individual identity being doubtful. The reasons for acquittal will be clear to you from a perusal of the remarks appended to the Calendar, copy of which will be forwarded hereafter, but the inquiry will not be without results, as it clearly brings out how far the Sepoys, as a body, were implicated—a matter of the last importance.

3. At about half past 4 or 5 on the evening of the 21st ultimo, a Sepoy, under the influence of liquor or bang, was arrested by the Police for some alleged irregularity in the Central Bazaar,

there being then large crowds in the said Bazaar and a good number of Sepoys among them. Some dozen or fifteen Sepoys upon this brandished sticks, and cried out "loot loot," and beat off the Police (including a European Head Constable) and rescued the prisoner and got away through the crowd, and then went off to the Lines in a body. None of the Sepoys were in uniform at the time. Next morning, the Regiment was paraded, and certain individuals picked out as being the ringleaders. These were the men tried and acquitted before me.

4. What followed later in the day, after the rescue in the Bazaar, was worse. At about 7 P. M. two Constables going on duty to the Jail were waylaid near the Sallyport by some dozen Sepoys armed with sticks, and very severely beaten; the men had to be sent to hospital. These Constables cannot identify the offenders, as it was dark, and the Sepoys new comers to the Station; but there can be no doubt the men were Sepoys in undress. Nothing is easier than to recognize a Sepoy even in undress as you are well aware.

5. I do not think there was any premeditated intention to loot the Bazaar, but there is not a good feeling between the Sepoys and the Police. I trace this to two causes:—1st, the high price of rice, and a feeling on the part of the Sepoys that the Civil powers are responsible and ought to interfere in some way, and, 2nd, that the Regiment have never before come in contact with the new Police, and think that when the latter interfere, it is a matter of officiousness, instead of a simple duty.

6. The large Bazaars now in Military limits, but with a Civil Police, and a Commanding Officer and Magistrate, each with separate authority, and what I would recommend, will from the subject of another and longer letter, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, No. 1802, dated 14th December 1864, regarding this Cantonment, as well as with reference to the Municipal Act about to be introduced here.

7. I trust there will be no further breach of the Peace. I have requested the Officer Commanding at Vellore to explain to the men, through the Native Officers, the position and duties of the Police, and what a serious offence assaulting them is. All Mr. Highmoor's (Superintendent of Police) arrangements and orders are most judicious, and Colonel Kempster, Commanding 6th Regiment, has issued stringent orders regarding his men being in the Bazaars after certain hours without leave.

No. 86.

ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1866, No. 367.
To be recorded
(True Extract).

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. H. Burns

Rec: 14th Dec 64 - 163-165 Jud. 1866 Department.

From
J. D. Robinson Esqr.
Magistrate of
North Arcot

To the Honorable
A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Govt
Madras

Dated 5 March 1866
Received 9 —

No 10
Enclosure 1 in 530

From the
information I sent
copy of a letter from
the Lieut Master
-porting the occurren
of a collision betwe
some Sepoys of the 6
Regt & Police Constable
on the 3rd March 1866 No 367.
12 March

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