M.R.O. 1—8k.(O)—18-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 868 Press ~~Mis~~

28-29

Dated 4.6.-19-87

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

4th June 1866.

No. 28. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Neddiwuttum, 23rd May 1866, No. 829.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit Captain Beatty's report on the recent disturbances at the Mount between Sepoys of the 6th Regiment and the Police.

2. The precise cause of irritation cannot perhaps be ascertained. A series of attacks on individual men ended in a serious row on the 16th instant, and the matter has become the subject of a Court of Inquiry, the result of which will probably be laid before Government.

3. In the meantime, I have taken measures to have both the Inspector, Matcher, and Head Constable Leahy replaced by men of more judgment.

4. Captain Beatty was at Conjeverum, on a tour of Inspection, when these occurrences took place.

From Captain R. BEATTY, Acting Superintendent of Police, Madras District, to the Inspector General of Police, Madras; dated Saint Thomas' Mount, 18th May 1866, No. 172.

With reference to the late disturbances between the Sepoys of the Detachment 6th Regiment M. N. I., and the Police here—which, I believe, have been already reported to you, during my absence from Head Quarters, by the Assistant Inspector General—having since the 14th instant been daily present at the Military Court of Inquiry, and heard all the witnesses, I shall endeavour to give you an outline of what I believe really occurred. I may mention that there are great discrepancies between the statements of the various witnesses, and it is very difficult to arrive at the truth.

2. On the evening of the 9th May, an Orderly boy of the Golandauze, named Meeranath Ally, complained at No. 2 Station in the Bengallee Bazaar that he had been assaulted by a Sepoy. He was told to make his complaint to the Magistrate, as it is not a case in which Police can interfere. Soon after, a disturbance being reported in the fish market, Head Constable Leahy proceeded to the spot. When there the Orderly boy, who appears to have followed him, suddenly called out "there is the man who assaulted me," pointing to a Sepoy named Shaik Daood; the latter immediately rushed upon and assaulted the boy. Head Constable Leahy at once separated them, on which the sepoy turned on the Head Constable, and struck him several times; on this, the Head Constable arrested and took him to the station. There have been a number of rows on this Sepoy's account in the bazaar, the bazaar people and the Orderly boys (of the Golandauze) calling him a "Wahabee." The Sepoy Shaik Daood has since been convicted by the Cantonment Magistrate, and sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment in Chingleput Jail.

3. On the evening of the 10th May, the Inspector, Mr. D. F. Matcher, had been visiting the sick in Hospital, and was returning, on horse back, to No. 2 Station, by the road through the Sepoy Lines, when he was assaulted, by having sticks and stones thrown at him, by three men whom he recognized. He went to a Native Officer and complained, but he said he could do nothing for him. On this the Inspector proceeded to the Station Staff Officer, and with him to Captain O'Neil, Commanding the Detachment, 6th N. I. The latter returned with him and the Station Staff Officer to the Lines and had the men paraded, when the Inspector pointed out the three men. Captain O'Neil declined to punish his men, as there was only the Inspector's word for it. Mr. Matcher was under the impression that the Dresser probably witnessed the assault, and sent a Constable, named Adeemoolum, for him. This Constable was waylaid by the Sepoys and beaten. Unfortunately no one but Sepoys witnessed the assault. After this, at Mr. Matcher's request, the Police at No. 2 Station were strengthened from the school.

4. At about 9·30 A. M., on the morning of the 11th, the Head Quarter Inspector sent a Constable with a telegram to me about the state of matters. This Constable was also assaulted by four Sepoys, who took away his turband, brass number, Division letter, and sandals.

5. The Head Quarter Inspector and Inspector Matcher then reported what had taken place to Captain Clementson, Cantonment Magistrate, who gave them a note to Colonel Eaton, Commanding the Station. Colonel Eaton then gave orders confining the sepoys to their Lines, and only permitting five men at a time, under a Non-Commissioned Officer, to proceed in uniform to the bazaar to make purchases.

6. On the evening of the 11th, between 5 and 7 P. M., a Picket of a Havildar and three Sepoys with fixed Bayonets patrolled the bazaar. Apparently about 6 or 6·30 P. M., a Constable, No. 411, Veerasawmy, of the office guard, was returning from his rice, when he was attacked and beaten by Sepoys. Head Constable Leahy, No. 324, Deputy Head Constable, Nagappah, and No. 17, Constable Kistappah, and No. 555, Constable Shaik Moodeen, seeing a tumult in that direction (about 100 yards from the station, opposite the shop of one Annasawmy,) and hearing that a Constable was being beaten, ran to the spot. Constable Veerasawmy has recognized and pointed out to the Court of Inquiry two Sepoys, named Shaik Gooroo and Boorun Sing, as his assailants on this occasion. At this time it was getting dark, and there seems to have been a scuffle between Police and the Sepoys, of which most conflicting accounts are given. Head Constable Leahy received a severe blow on the head, and a Sepoy named Gopaul Pillay was also severely wounded on the head. The latter accuses the Head Constable of having struck him on the head with his sword, and at the time caught hold of Head Constable Leahy's coat, and tried to drag him to the Lines. The Picket Havildar and others made him let go his hold and sent him to the Lines. The Sepoy Gopaul Pillay's statement is supported by another Sepoy and by a milk boy, whilst Head Constable Leahy himself denies it, and the Deputy Head Constable and Constables with him, as also Gunner Ryon, of the Invalid Company, who happened to be near. Head Constable Leahy and his men returned to the station, and seeing the Sepoys in great numbers, with shouts advancing from the direction of the Lines, he blew his alarm whistle to get his men together. The Havildar of the Picket; apparently consulted with his men, then advanced to the station, followed by the mob of Sepoys, and, wheeling his men right shoulders forward, gave the word "charge bayonets," driving Head Constable Leahy and his men into the station. The Head Constable from behind a pillar parried them off with his sword, the other men taking refuge behind walls as best they could, whilst the Sepoys kept up a storm of stones and other missiles on the station, smashing the station lamp and doing other damage. A Native Officer appears to have come down and driven the men to their Lines after this.

7. With regard to the causes which led to this ill-feeling, I can only attribute it to the fact that the Sepoys of the Detachment have of late been much dissatisfied with the prices of food in the bazaar, and have had quarrels with the bazaar people, more especially with the butchers, who have been "chaffing" them. Complaints have been made against them to the Police, who have declined to interfere, and consequently the Sepoys have been under the impression that the Police were in league with the bazaar people.

8. The Police were not wholly blameless during these disturbances—the attacks on isolated members of the Force, and the general attack on the evening of the 11th, excited them—but I do not consider that there is evidence against any members of the Force sufficient to support a Criminal prosecution. Head Constable Leahy showed that he has not sufficient nerve and coolness for charge of a Cantonment Station, and I fear that his word cannot be implicitly relied on; I have therefore suspended him, pending the receipt of your orders regarding his ultimate disposal.

P. S.—I should mention that, at the time of the occurrences on the evening of the 11th, the Inspector, Mr. D. F. Matcher, had gone to visit the Guindy Jail and Sydapett Treasury guards, of which he has the supervision.

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1866, No. 868.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

J. D. SIM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Copy. No. 172.

From Captain R. Beatty
Acting Superintendent of Police
Madras District

To W. Robinson Esquire C. S.
Inspector General of Police
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the late disturbances between the sepoys of the Detachment 6th Regiment N. I. and the Police here, which, I believe, have been already reported to you, during my absence from Head Quarter by the Assistant Inspector General; having since the 14th Instant been daily present at the Military Court of Inquiry, and heard all the witnesses, I shall endeavour to give you an outline of what I believe really occurred. I may mention that there are great discrepancies between the statements of the various witnesses and it is very difficult to arrive at the truth.

II. On the evening of the 9th May an orderly Boy of the Golandauze named Meeranah called at No. 2 station in the Bengallee Bazaar that he had been assaulted by a sepoy. He was told to make his complaint to the Magistrate, as it is not a case in which Police can interfere. Soon after, a disturbance being reported in the Fish Market, Head Constable Leahy proceeded to the spot, when there the orderly Boy who appears to have followed him, suddenly called out "there is the man who assaulted me" pointing to a sepoy named

named Shaik Dacod. The latter immediately rushed upon and assaulted the Boy. Head Constable Leahy at once separated them. On which the sepoy turned on the Head Constable, and struck him several times. on this, the Head Constable arrested and took him to the station. There have been a number of rows on this sepoy's account in the Bazaar. the Bazaar people and the orderly Boys (of the Golandaure) calling him a Wahabee. The sepoy Shaik Dacod has since been convicted by the Cantonment Magistrate and sentenced to 3 months Rigorous Imprisonment in Chingleputt Jail.

III :- On the evening of the 10th May the Inspector Mr. D. F. Matcher had been visiting the sick in Hospital and was returning, on horseback to No 2 station by the road through the Sepoy Lines, when he was assaulted by having sticks and stones thrown at him, by 3 men whom he recognized. He went to a Native Officer and complained, but he said he could do nothing for him. On this the Inspector proceeded to the station staff Officer and with him to Captain O'Neal commanding the Detachment 6th N.I. The latter returned with him and the station staff Officer to the Lines and had the men paraded, when the Inspector pointed out the 3 men Captain O'Neil declined to punish his men as there was only the Inspector's word for it. Mr Matcher was under the impression that the Dresser probably witnessed the assault and sent a Constable named Adeemoolum for him. This Constable was waylaid by the sepoys and beaten. Unfortunately no one but sepoys witnessed the assault. After this at Mr Matcher's request the Police at No 2 station were strengthened from the school.

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Saint Thomas' Mount
18th May 1866.

I have &c.
Sgd R. Beatty Captain
Acting Superintt of Police.

P.S. I should mention that at the time of the occurrence on the evening of the 11th the Inspector Mr D. F. Matcher had gone to visit the Guindy Jail and Sydapett Treasury Guards of which he has the supervision.

1866 Dept.

Enclosures

In a letter from the Inspector General of Police, Neddivata dated 23d May 1866 No 829

From The Dept of Police Madras District

To The Inspector General of Police

Dated 23d

Recd 28 May

No 829 Ans 1150

Enclosures.

Copy of report from the Dept of Police Madras District on the result of the disturbances at the Mount

Print 4 June 1866 Ln 28.

In Lett Ro 1150/66.