M.R.O. 1—2,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 911 Press

91-93

Dated 7—6—1866

5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 91. From the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 19th February 1866, No. 1608.

I beg to enclose a letter from Major Morgan, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mudumullay range, intimating that grain carts are frequently robbed on the high road between Bandipore and Tippakadoo, and suggesting that a strong Police Station be formed at the boundary (Kakanullah), and that the Mysore authorities be requested to double their patrols.

No. 435, dated 14th February 1866.

2. I may remark that, in former years, this little frequented tract of forest was famous for gang robberies on both sides of the boundary, but of late they have not been brought to my notice.

From Major H. R. MORGAN, Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Conservator of Forests, Madras; dated Ootacamund, 14th February 1866, No. 485.

I have the honor to request you will bring to the notice of Government, the state of the high road between Bandipore and Tippakadoo. Not a day passes that two or more highway robberies do not take place; sometimes the carts and people are robbed near Bandipore, sometimes near Kakanullah.

2. The matter has now become most serious, and, as grain has lately risen greatly in price, the robberies are likely to increase, and the Forest Returns will, in consequence, be seriously affected.

3. Grain carts in coming to the Mudumullay Karkanah and Ootacamund are robbed, and timber carts in going away are attacked; way-farers are also waylaid, robbed, and beaten.

4. The only remedy I can suggest is to have a strong Police Station on the boundary at Kakanullah, and for the Mysore Authorities to double their present patrols.

Transferred to the Judicial Department.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

20*th February* 1866.

Referred to the Inspector General of Police, for report.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
1*st March* 1866.

No. 92. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 26th May 1866, No. 839.

I have the honor to report on the Deputy Conservator's letter, on the subject of the robberies occurring on the road between Tippakadoo and Bandipore, dated 14th February 1866.

2. The line of road thus infested by thieves is eight miles in length, of which three miles, from Tippakadoo to Kakanullah, are within the British frontier; the rest is within the Mysore territory. The whole line passes through unhealthy and uninhabited, save by wild forest races, jungle. But, as far as my information goes, these robberies occur as far up the Mysore road as Gundelpet, 13 miles beyond Bandipore. The whole road from Gundelpet to Tippakadoo requires effective Police arrangements.

3. The thieves are forest Kurumbers—chiefly the wildest race of these, the Thán (honey and wax collecting) Kurumbers.

4. Crime is committed, as a rule, without violence. A few of these savages collect on sides of the road along which they observe small parties of travellers carrying grain, &c., passing; they shout and imitate the cries of elephants and other wild beasts. The terrified travellers throw down their loads, which are at once carried off by the thieves into the inaccessible jungles they inhabit. Occasionally a bolder attack is made, and carts are robbed, but very rarely.

5. Major Morgan exaggerates the frequency of these offences, and he fails to specify the parts of the line which are most dangerous. Still the robberies are by no means uncommon. Timid Native travellers are terrified in a degree which the character of the offences themselves does not perhaps justify by their frequency and the circumstances under which they are committed; and they too make the most of them, with a view to urging arrangements to protect the road more effectually.

6. It is unnecessary to remind Government that this road has always had the worst of names. Robbery of this kind has ever been a regular means of livelihood amongst these wretched forest Kurumbers.

7. The circumstances under which these crimes occur, render detection exceptionally difficult. Identification by the sufferers, such as Courts of Justice can accept, is almost impossible. Suspected offenders are followed up by the Police with great difficulty, and the percentage of sick in every party that has returned from hunting them up in those pestiferous jungles has always been very heavy. Still detection has not failed. A large gang of thieving Kurumbers was convicted last year before the Sessions at Calicut; and another gang, arrested by the Police and committed before the Session Court at Calicut, narrowly escaped conviction for want of identification to the satisfaction of the Judge.

8. Preventive measures alone can be depended upon. These on the comparatively short portion of the line within British Territory are fairly good, and are sufficiently effective to keep crime almost entirely out of our borders. Comparatively few (five in all, of a petty character) offences were committed within the Police District in 1865. Not one has occurred as yet in 1866. The forests have been frequently hunted up by the Goodalore and Masnakovil Police, and the Superintendent of South Malabar will scour these jungles in person, as soon as the change of season admits of it being done with reasonable safety.

9. The Police arrangements within the Madras Territories consist of a strong station at Goodalore (Malabar) and one at Masnakovil (Coimbatore). From these the road is regularly patrolled. There was a station at Tippakadoo some years back, but the exceeding unhealthiness of the place forced its discontinuance.

10. The only measure for further safety which suggests itself is to place a permanent Police station at Kakanullah on the border between Mysore and the Coimbatore District. This is, I think, indispensable and should be done at once; but the post should be furnished by the Mysore Police. The part of the road most infested by these thieves which falls within the Mysore Territory is very considerably longer than that which passes through the Police District. There is, I believe, no permanent Station of Mysore Police nearer than Bandipore, and a Station of Madras Police at Kakanullah would inadequately provide for that portion of the road

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 7th June 1866.

on which it is believed robbery is most frequent, viz., between the Mysore frontier and Bandipore.

No. 93. To the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, dated Fort Saint George, 7th June 1866, No. 911.

The Conservator of Forests having brought to the notice of Government the frequent occurrence of robberies on the road between Tippakadoo, within the British frontier, and Bandipore, in the Mysore territory, the Inspector General of Police was called upon to report on the matter.

2. From Mr. Robinson's report, a copy of which is annexed, it will be seen that he considers the location of a permanent Police Station at Kakanullah, on the border between Mysore and the Coimbatore District, indispensable for the safety of the line of road in question, and he is of opinion, for reasons stated, that the post should be furnished by the Mysore Police. Should you concur in this view, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to cause such measures to be taken as may appear to you to be requisite to remedy the state of things complained of.

26th May 1866, No. 839.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Extd. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

No. 911.

To

The Commissioner for the Government
of the Territories of H.H. the Rajah
of Mysore.

Sir,

The Conservator of
Forests having brought to
the notice of Government
the frequent occurrence
of robberies on the road
between Sippahadoo within
the British frontier and
Bandipore in the Mysore
territory, the Inspector General
of Police was called upon
to report on the matter.

2. From his Report, a copy of which is annexed, it will be seen that he considers the

location

16 May 1856. No 839.

Judicial 1866 Dept

No. 911.

To the Commissioner
for the Govt. of the
Territories of H. H.
the Rajah of Mysore.
Dated 7th June 1866.
Rec'd 11th. 1734-

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