M.R.O.—No. 16-10-38.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 989 Press Misc.

Dated 22.6.1916

3/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 209. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of Police, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Kotagherry, 12th June 1866, No. 955.

With reference to the Government Order noted marginally, I have the honor to report on the conduct of Inspector Potts at Tranquebar, on the occasion of the disturbance on board the Steamer *Jaffna*, to which it refers.

23rd May 1866, No. 801, Judicial Department.

2. The Captain of the Steamer and Inspector Potts were on terms of intimacy. On the day in question, the Captain had been on shore, preparatory to going to sea, and had spent the time in company with Inspector Potts, and Mr. Melson, the Sea Custom Officer of the port. They had no doubt been drinking. In the afternoon, all three proceeded on boardship, where they dined. The drunken Captain commenced a wrangle with, and perhaps even assaulted, his Chief Officer. There is no doubt that when Inspector Potts and the Sea Custom Officer, shortly after, left the ship for the shore, they left matters on board in a very unsatisfactory state indeed; as between the Captain and his officers, and the condition of the Captain himself, things were evidently tending towards what actually did take place.

3. Shortly after the Inspector and Sea Custom Officer left, the anchor seems to have been got up; but from the beach it was observed that the vessel was coming ashore; and through a telescope the drunken Captain was seen, in a state of nudity, chasing his Chief Officer over the ship.

4. Inspector Potts went off with Mr. Melson, the Sea Custom Officer, and found things on board in a most dangerous state. The Chief Officer had concealed himself in the hold from the murderous attacks of the infuriated Captain; but was induced to leave his place of concealment by the Inspector and the Sea Custom Officer. The drunken Captain assailed the man again, in the presence of the Inspector of Police, and the Chief Officer took refuge in the boat which had brought the Inspector and the Sea Customs Officer off, with a view to escape on shore. However he was induced to return on board; and these two officials then left the vessel, although earnestly entreated by the 2nd Officer, who was the only man on board who could do anything, to remain by the vessel, to prevent any thing further occurring. The Steamer came ashore as they had foreseen and reported to the European Magistrate.

5. Nothing could have been more futile and imbecile than the conduct of Inspector Potts. It is probably not too much to say that had he and the Sea Custom Officer done their duty, the catastrophe would not have occurred. Inspector Potts had no doubt been drinking, though he was not drunk. He behaved badly after the business was over, failed in his duty in every respect, and was quite useless. The Magistrate and District Officers have justly formed the worst opinion of him.

6. I regret to find myself forced to admit that Inspector Potts has been marked as an unreliable Officer. He was on his last trial accorded to him after a series of disappointments. Inspector Potts is an European who left the Army, and joined the Police Service, in its early organization, with good Army characters, and, I regret to say, has been a failure from the beginning. He has been tolerated by myself and the District Officers merely through reluctance to cast him adrift. In 1863

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd June 1866.

Inspector Potts was removed from Madura for incompetency. He was tried again in Negapatam, where, in November 1864, he failed to do his duty under circumstances which cast discredit on his character for courage, energy, and judgment. Inspector Potts should then have left the Service; but I was induced to give him a further trial, and removed him to Tranquebar, an easy charge at a very quiet station, where no difficulty or emergency was likely to occur, and where he would be under the immediate eye of the Assistant Superintendent. Here, however, he has persistently failed to do his duty in every respect; he has got into bad company, and even, had this most discreditable business not occurred, Inspector Potts must have been required to leave the Service for which he is quite unfit. He has latterly been becoming less and less careful to endeavour to do his best.

7. I have directed the local Officers to dispense with Mr. Potts' services at once.

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1866, No. 984.
To be recorded.
(True Extract).
J. D. SIM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Extd. J. H. Burns.

Pros 2 Dy May 1866 n 1245-1245
" 14th June 1866 n 1101-1132

Judl 1866 Department
From
The Inspector General
of Police
To
The offg Chief Secy to Govt
Fort St. Geo
Dated 12 June 1866
Read 18 June 1866
No 955.
Pro 1302.
Reports on the Conduct of Inspector Potts at Tranquebar
Order
22d June 1866 No 984.

C 18 June 209 210.
R 21.