

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1696	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	24-10-1918	5/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
24th October 1867.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 222. From the Magistrate of Bellary, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Bellary, 28th August 1867.

With reference to the remark of the Inspector General of the Madras Police in Proceedings of Madras Government, dated 31st July 1867, No. 1221, that he does not consider the Police Mortuary Returns for Bellary District for 1866 correct, in regard to the deaths registered from starvation, which are recorded by the Police to have been 1030, but that he thinks 15,094, reported for Ganjam, to be correct, "and that practically, it is exceedingly difficult to ascertain these facts: as numbers die out of sight of the Police, infant mortality is scarcely heard of or noted, and reports are confined in the main to deaths which occur in the bazaars or public roads, when the Police are called on to assist in the interment of the corpse on account of poverty or other reasons," I have the honor to observe that the Police Return quoted is apparently derived from other than the daily Occurrence reports which are forwarded to me, because no such intelligence was ever given to me by the Police since I arrived in the District, that the Police found or saw 1030 people dead in bazaars or public roads, or anywhere else.

2. In the daily Occurrence reports, forwarded to me by the Superintendent of Police, there are not 30 entries of death by starvation during 1866, and either this information has been withheld from me, or did not exist, and has been obtained, or supplemented, from other sources than Police reports.

3. I observe that the number of persons reported to have died of starvation, exactly corresponds with the Mortuary Returns prepared by the heads of villages, which are compiled in my office for the information of the Board of Revenue, and as the Police have not reported to me that they have seen 1030 persons dead of starvation, there is a probability that the information given in the Police Report may have been derived from other sources than their own observation.

4. It is very possible and likely that many persons die unnatural deaths which are not registered by the Police, and so far I agree with the Inspector General in his remark, that the report of unnatural deaths from Police observation cannot be accepted as a true test of mortality, but such arguments, founded in returns obtained otherwise than from Police observation, lose their relevancy.

5. As the correct account of unnatural deaths is of such public importance, I trust I am not out of place in respectfully suggesting to Government to direct that unnatural deaths, in their full entirety be daily, communicated to the District Magistrate by the Police, so far as they have been recorded by that omnipresent channel of intelligence and communication, and that if they derive their statistics, furnished at the close of the year from other than their own observation, the same may be noted, that true deductions may be derived therefrom.

6. The facilities at the command of the new Police for acquiring and communicating correct and early intelligence of all occurrences, are very great. Every village is visited daily, and each road traversed twice a day. Communication is perfect and rapid, and far superior to that now at the command of the Revenue Department. At home the Police are looked to for correct intelligence, and here also they are educated and disciplined far above the other classes of the agricultural community. Consequently, the returns of unnatural deaths by the Police should

Magistrate of Bellary 28/8/67

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
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be such as to afford some sort of check on the returns of Village Officers, but if, instead of being independent, their returns are a mere copy of, or supplemented from, the Revenue Mortuary Register at the end of the year, they lose much of their value, and relevant deductions cannot be made from them.

Referred to the Inspector General of Police for any observations which he may desire to offer.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
5th September 1867.

No. 223. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Gooty, 21st September 1867, No. 1699.

General Department.

With reference to your endorsement, dated 5th instant, on a letter of the Magistrate of Bellary, dated 28th August 1867, I have the honor to state that the Mortuary Returns alluded to were obtained from the Magistrate's office. My remarks on them have reference to my knowledge of the circumstance of the District during the year.

2. I do not think that the Police can aid the Magistrate in regard to Mortuary Returns, which it has, I think very properly, been decided are to be obtained through the village authorities. The Police in those respects are guided by the law, Section 161, Code of Criminal Procedure, and I should not recommend further interference on their part in this matter.

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 24th October 1867, No. 1696.

The Governor in Council concurs with the Inspector General of Police in considering that the Police should not interfere in the matter of Mortuary Returns, beyond making the report required by Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

2. Deaths from starvation cannot be regarded as "unnatural deaths" within the scope of the Section and Code referred to, and it is clear that the course therein prescribed could not be followed in regard to them.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of Police.

" Magistrate of Bellary.

" Magistrate of

Exd J. Tulloch.

DEPARTMENT.

No. 1890-2564-

From The Magistrate of Bellary - 28th Aug - 1867 -
The Inspector General of Police
Dated 21st September 1867.

FOR ORDERS.

I think that the Inspector General of Police is correct - and that Police should not interfere with matters of mortuary returns - except in so far as they may take action under S 161 C.P. Code -

Deaths from starvation in a time of famine cannot be regarded as "unnatural deaths" within the scope of S 161 and the

cannot be regarded as "unnatural deaths" within the scope of the Section and Code referred to, and the course therein prescribed accordingly could not be followed in regard to them.

of Police dep 29/10
of Bellary } dep 1/11/67.

Com & then presented clearly
considered & followed in regard
to them

WOL

Chief Secy

To the Inspector General of Police.
" Magistrate of Bellary.
" Magistrate of
Ed. J. Tulloch.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

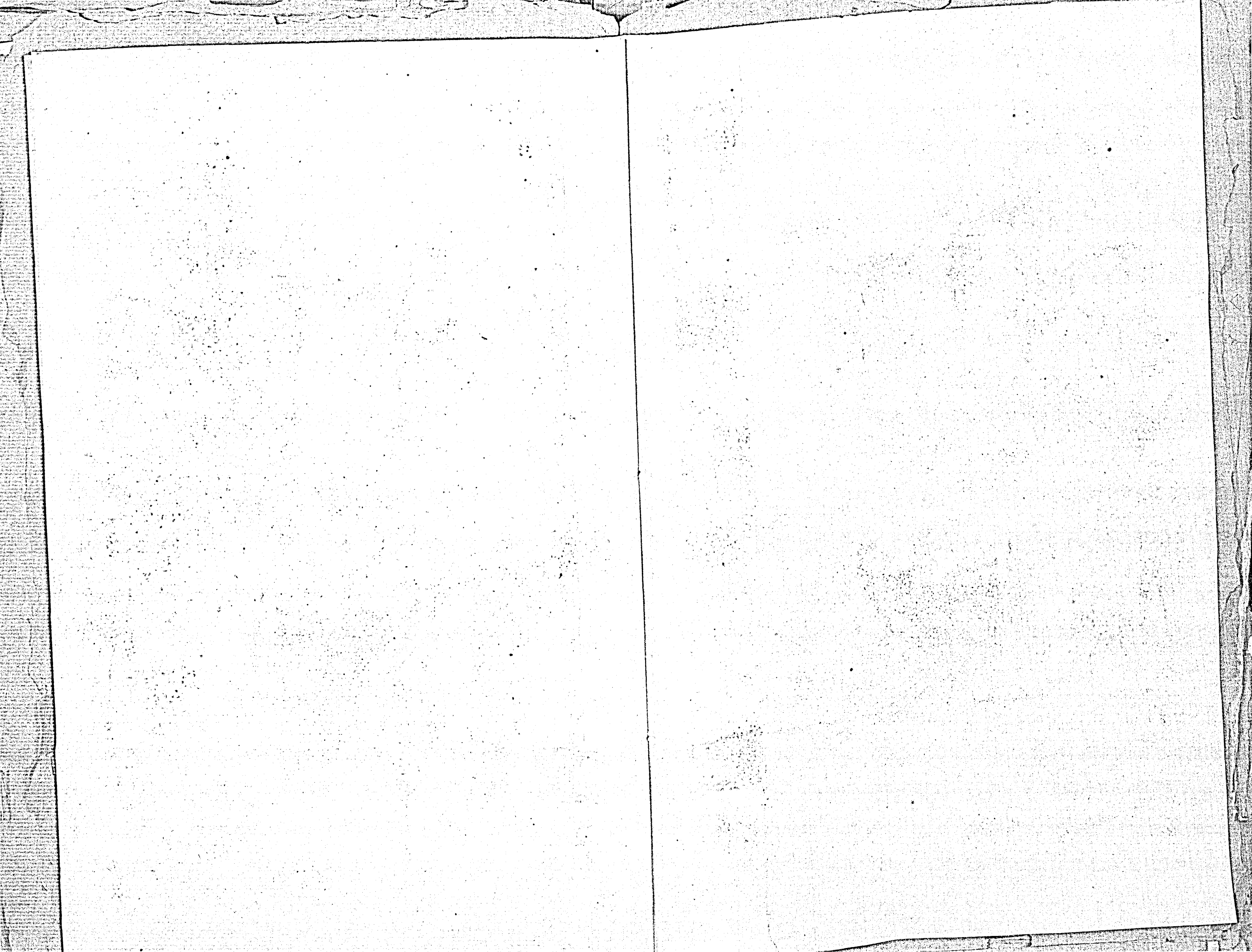
Read the following letters
from the Magistrate of Bellary dated 28th August 1867. N^o 15.
" " Inspector Genl of Police " 21st Sept 1867. N^o 1699.

Order 24th Oct 1867 N^o 1696.

The Governor in Council
concurs with the Inspector Genl
of Police in considering that
the Police should not interfere
in the matter of Mortuary
Returns, beyond making the
report required by Section 161
of the Code of Criminal
Procedure.

2. Deaths from starvation
cannot be regarded as
"unnatural deaths" within
the scope of the Section
and Code referred to, and
the course therein prescribed
clearly could not be followed
in regard to them.

To the
Insp: Genl of Police dtd 29/10
Magistrate of Bellary } dtd 1/11/67.
all Magistrates



Matthew Perry

Wilcoffe No.

222 @ 224

Charles
1867 Department.

No. 1698

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 24. *14 October*

Levi