

Government of Madras.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1891.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O. No. 1337, 7th July 1891.

Karur riot.

Recording pending further report on —.

Government of Madras.

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G.O. No. 1337, 7th July 1891.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Letter—from W. J. TATE, Esq., I.C.S., Acting District Magistrate, Coimbatore.
To—the Chief Secretary to Government.
Dated—the 28th June 1891.
No.—Ref. 837-Magte. of 1891.

I have the honour to inform Government that a serious disturbance took place between the Hindus and Muhammadans at Karūr on the afternoon of the 23rd instant. It arose out of the following circumstances: on the last day but one of the Mariyamma temple festival (22nd), some of the Hindus desired to dress themselves like tigers (*Pulivēsham*), and the Muhammadans at first objected. The Taluk Magistrate, as he says, but I am inclined to doubt, with the subsequent concurrence of the Muhammadans, permitted them to do so. On further objections being made, the Taluk Magistrate on the 23rd morning published a notice that the *vēsham* would be disallowed. He went to the temple at 4 p.m. and found his orders disobeyed, whereupon he took to the river those who were already painted up, and had the paint washed off. This caused a mob to assemble which at once began to commit acts of violence. Houses and shops were broken into, the two mosques in the town injured, and the masonry of certain Mussalman tombs destroyed.

2. It appears that the Taluk Magistrate was struck by a couple of stones and that he then retired from the scene to the shelter of a neighbouring house. The Police Inspector was ill, the Police (as the Taluk Magistrate informed the Joint Magistrate) refused to charge, and for nearly two hours the mob had it pretty much their own way.

3. Mr. Manavedan Raja, the Acting Joint Magistrate, arrived at 6, having received a note from the Taluk Magistrate, warning him of a possible breach of the peace, at 1-30 p.m., where he was encamped nearly 20 miles distant. He telegraphed to Coimbatore for additional police, and these were at once sent him from the reserve. Since then, as I learn from Colonel Cox, an additional force has been procured from Tanjore. The riot appears to have subsided about the time when the Joint Magistrate arrived; and there has been no attempt at retaliation or subsequent disturbance, although property of considerable value (Mr. Manavedan Raja says of "several thousands of rupees" value) has been damaged or destroyed. The police force now in the town is amply sufficient to preserve order, and will be kept there for the present. The Assistant Superintendent of Police is also on the spot.

4. Several charges of dacoity and rioting have arisen out of the disturbance and these are now under inquiry.

5. I have ordered the Joint Magistrate to make immediate inquiry into the conduct of the Taluk Magistrate first in allowing the *Pulivēsham* to be worn at all, and second in cancelling his order when the Inspector was ill and he had, as would seem, only a small and scattered police force at his disposal. It was this action of his which, apparently, first led to a breach of the peace. I think he must also explain why he left the scene of the occurrence in the way he did. Government will be informed of the result of this inquiry.

6. Mr. Manavedan Raja suggests that, as he fears there may be retaliation on the part of the Muhammadans, the present police force may be retained at Karūr for, say, two months. I think it best to see what the next week will bring forth, and how the trials of the offenders captured result, before making any recommendation on this point, or considering whether the provisions of Act III of 1882 should be applied.

7. In case of any further disturbance, I shall go at once to the place. I received the first intimation of the riot from the Deputy Inspector-General of Police in the shape of the Acting Joint Magistrate's telegram to him for aid. The whole affair was then over.

8. I have waited, before reporting to Government, for the Joint Magistrate's detailed account of the riot. This was received in my office on the 26th but did not reach me till last night on my return from inspecting the coolies on the Pollachi-Palladam relief work. Hence the delay.

Order—No. 1337, Judicial, dated 7th July 1891.

Recorded.

2. Further report on the conduct of the Taluk Magistrate and of the Police is awaited.

3. The Joint Magistrate, Mr. Manavedan Raja, appears to have acted with promptitude and discretion.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the District Magistrate, Coimbatore.

13
CHIEF SECRETARY
26 JUN 91
W

My dear Price -

I send herewith copy of a
report just received about a
riot on the 23rd inst. at Karur
in the Combatne District -
Col (Detty. Sub. Genl) who is in
charge of the Combatne District
until Arbutlun can come down
from Vijay. writes on 25 (yesterday)
that by a telegram received at
Combatne on the 24. Every thing
was reported quiet at Karur -
but further re-inforcements were
182

applied for - [consequently] a
telegram was sent to Tanguet to
send 3 Headings and 23- [matt.]

[on further reports that, as he
thinks that knowledge is quite
competent to deal with the matter,
he does not propose to go to Paris

himself -
Yr. Servant
[M. J. Bostwick]

June 26. 91

I suppose you have heard of poor George
Lawrence's death -

3
26

196

Karur, 24 June 1891.

To The Superintendent of Police,
Coimbatore.

Respected Sir,

The Hindus at the Town of Karur celebrated Mariamman feast yesterday and prepared to put on the appearance of tiger on the occasion but the Muhammadans objected, as the appearance of tiger was appropriated to Mahomedans alone and further the Mahomedans added that although they had allowed the Hindus to put that appearance, yet they have withdrawn that permission in consequence of some dispute between them.

The Tahildar Magistrate to whom report was made issued an order yesterday 23rd June 1891 by means of town crier and town-tom, that the Hindus should not put on the appearance of tiger, but the Hindus disobeyed the orders and had a serious rioting with Mahomedans, looted a shop belonged to the latter and damaged the Musjid as they outnumbered the Mahomedans and the Taluk Magistrate and Police were forced to retreat, I was laid up with fever from the 12th instant and so I was unable to go out.

Joint Magistrate also arrived here yesterday

yesterday by chance and steps are being
taken to prevent further disturbances.

I beg to remain,
Respectfully Sir,

Your most obedt Servt

Signed J. K. Sankaralingam
Inspector Police.

(True Copy)

Signed H. W. H. Cox, Esq.

Deputy Inspector of Police,
Southern Range

in charge of Coimbatore Dist.

To

The Inspector General of Police,

Copacacumund.

(True Copy)

H. W. H. Cox, Esq.

Inspector of Police.

Copacacumund
26 June 1891

26 June 91

W. H. H. Cox
J. K. Sankaralingam

Forwarded, at once, by
the Post Office to
the Inspector General
in Coimbatore

CURRENT No.

[9]

DEPARTMENT.

70

From

The S. G. Police

No.

Dated 29-6

Received 29-6

Enclosures one

SUBJECT.

Rest at Kavar

Judicial DEPARTMENT

9
No. 311

From

S. G. Police

Dated

26. VI

1891.

FOR ORDERS.

A DO & balance relative to a lot
of Kavar Combatoe & N. between
Mikam Kavar and Kavar, is
submitted for perusal

26 June

L
H

27/6/91

J.P. 28.6.91

29 June

226

Code
Class.

J.P.

INDIAN



TELEGRAPHS.

Monthly
Number.6725
15To
(Office)

Ootacamund

From
(Office)

Karni

Words.

82.6

Date.

27

Hour.

15

Minute.

40

Official
Instructions.

Dep. Secy to Govt.

To
(Person)His Excellency the
Governor in CouncilFrom
(Person)Sd/- Ibrahim
Said
and other
Mahomedans.

a riot occurred here 23rd
June as that of Salem
representing facts fully afterwards
jointly magistrate personally seen
our sufferings that day
pray the same joint
magistrate may be ordered
to Enquire although he
is granted leave from
4th July if another
joint magistrate comes we
will get justice but
this joint magistrate being
seen our sufferings we
will get good justice
from him.

64 Word Form.

F.C.2.

Recd. from

LN.

Sent to

LN.

At

Hrs.

Mts. by

At

Hrs.

Mts. by

23d

See Journal

Telegraph Master.

C.W. Allen & Co. - No. 109 T. - 20-11-1918

OOTACAMUND 27-6-91

Telegram

From

Syeds Ibrahim Saheli & others
Karni.

No.

Dated 27th June 1891

Received 28th — 20 —

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

States that a riot occurred
in Karni on the 23rd Tishah as
that of Salem and that the
Joint Magistrate personally
seen may be ordered to inquire
into.

Ref 29.6
1901

C 117

15

42^h

10

Reference

Copy of telegram despatched
to the District Magistrate
Coimbatore on the 2nd July 1891.

No. 412 * Your report regarding
riot at Karni. Were urgent
whether it is advisable to
detain Mamedan Rajah
for short time to complete
enquiry.

(Sd) J. F. Price

25-6

Submitted with reference to C.A. 2925
(input of Dr. Singh in letter at
Karni)

Mr. Mamedan Rajah has
been granted his leave for
the 4th day.

1/July

Request
Wine to his Magt asking whether it
is advisable to detain Mamedan
Rajah for a short time to complete
the enquiry. 1/11
2 July.

17 Cochin, 40

June 29. 1891.



My dear Price,

The right of "Duli Veshum" {that is, to don the appearance of tigers} was the origin of the riot at Karur. This right is in the Coimbatore District jealously guarded by the Mahomedans and as eagerly coveted by the Hindus - but the Karur Mahomedans have on previous occasion or occasions named their

On the present occasion the Taluk Magistrate appears to have at first issued an order allowing the Hindus to assume the disguise - and then, on the protest of the Mahomedans, to have issued another order prohibiting it. This indecision had the usual consequences.

I understand that the exclusive

26 to right

right of Mahomedans to assume "Pulo Kesham"
or tiger-disguise has been recognized by
orders passed by the Magistrate at Palladium
and Pollachi.

I am told that the immediate cause
of the disturbance at Harur was the Taluk
Magistrate having had some of the Hindu
"tigers" caught and washed!! It was, it is
said, while this operation was being performed
that the first blow was struck.

Yours sincerely

[H. P. Fortescue]

right of Mahomedans to assume "Pulo Vescha"
or tiger-disguise has been recognized by
the British Government.

Received
20/June 29 June

24/5
20/6

1/7.91

CURRENT No. 34

DEPARTMENT.

[9]

From

L. J. of Police

No.

Dated 26-6

Received 26-6

Enclosures 1

SUBJECT.

*Rest at Karur officers Muhammadans
of Karur*

Reference No. 837
Magle

23
Coimbatore District
Magistrate's Office
28th June 1891

14
From, *14*
W. J. Lake Esquire,
Ag District Magistrate

of Coimbatore
The Chief Secretary
to Government Judicial Department
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform Government that a serious disturbance took place between the Hindus and Mahomedans at Karur on the afternoon of the 23rd Instant. It arose out of the following circumstances: On the last day but one of the Mariamma temple festival (22nd) some of the Hindus desired to dress themselves like tigers' skin (Pulivesham), and the Mahomedans at first objected. The Taluk Magistrate, as he says, but I am inclined to doubt with the

Subsequent concurrence of the Mahomedans, permitted them to do so. On further objections being made, the Taluk Magistrate on the 23rd morning published a notice that the vesham would be disallowed. He went to the Temple ^{at 4 P.M.} and found his orders disobeyed, whereupon he took to the river, those who were already painted up, and had the paint washed off. This caused a mob to assemble which at once began to commit acts of violence. Houses and Shops were broken into, the two mosques in the Town injured, and the masonry of certain Mahomedan tombs destroyed.

2. It appears that the Taluk Magistrate was struck by a couple of stones and that he then retired from the scene to the shelter of a neighbouring house. The Police Inspector was ill, the Police (as the Taluk Magistrate informed the Joint Magistrate) refused to charge, and for nearly

two hours the mob had ^{it} pretty much their own way. ^{23rd}

3. Mr. Manavedan Raja, the Acting Joint Magistrate, arrived at 6, having received a note from the Taluk Magistrate, warning him of a possible breach of the peace, at 1.30 P.M., where he was encamped nearly 20 miles distant. He telegraphed to Coimbatore for additional Police, and these were at once sent him from the Reserve. Since then, as I learn from Colonel Cox, an additional force has been procured from Tanjore. The riot appears to have subsided about the time when the Joint Magistrate arrived, and there has been no attempt at retaliation or subsequent disturbance, although property of considerable value (Mr. Manavedan Raja says of "several thousands of Rupees" value) has been damaged or destroyed. The Police force now in the Town is amply sufficient to preserve order, and

will be kept there for the present.
The Assistant Superintendent of
Police is also on the spot.

4. Several charges of Dacoity
and rioting have arisen out of the
disturbance and these are now under
enquiry.

5. I have ordered the Joint Magistrate
to make immediate enquiry into the
conduct of the Taluk Magistrate
first in allowing the Pulivicham
to be worn at all, and second. in
cancelling his order when the Inspector
was ill and he had, as it would seem,
only a small and scattered Police force
at his disposal. It was this action of
his which, apparently, first led
to a breach of the peace. I think
he must also explain why he left
the scene of the occurrence in the way
he did. Government will be informed
of the result of this enquiry.

6. Mr Manavedan Raja suggests
that, as he fears there may be re-
-taliation on the part of the Mahomedans,
the present Police force may be
retained

21 retained an ^{two months} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~say~~ ^{say}
I think it best to see what the next
week will bring forth, and how the
trials of the offenders captured result,
before making any recommendation
on this point, or considering whether
the provisions of Act 3 of 1882 should
be applied.

7. In case of ~~any~~ further disturbance,
I shall go at once to the place. I received
the first intimation of the riot from
the Deputy Inspector General of Police
in the shape of the Jt Magistrate's
telegram to him for aid. The whole
affair was then over.

8. I have waited, before reporting
to Government, for the Joint Magistrate's
detailed account of the riot. This was
received in my office on the 26th but
did not reach me till last night
on my return from inspecting the
Coolies on the Pollachi-Palladam
relief work. Hence the delay.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
your most obedient Servant
31st ~~encl.~~ ^{encl.}
D. S. S. S.

CURRENT 2925

CHIEF SECRETARY
30 JUN 91

1891 Judicial

From
The District Magistrate
Coimbatore
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government,
Judicial Department
Madras

Reference on No 937
Magis 1891

Dated 28th }
Despatched } June 1891
Received 30th

Enclosure nil

Subject

Reporting of the
occurrence of a riot
at Karur on the
23rd instant.

29

16/8
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 2925

1891
26

From The Comptroller

Dated 29th June 1891.

FOR ORDERS.

Submitted for perusal.
In transaction Report appears to be
well very prompt and sensible
X
30 June

Yes. I would say so, adding that
further report on the conduct of
the police may be sent to the
Government.

JH 8 July 1891
11/7/91 W
3 July

Copy of the July 91 No 1337
received.

1. Further report on the conduct
of the police by: & of the
Police is awaited.

2. The 1st Regt. Lt. Commander
Hijer, appears to have acted
with promptitude & discretion.

(P. M. G. 1891)

X 1st Regt.

Copy despatched
11/7/91

BACK PAPER, No

OF 18

31

2/2

FURTHER PAPER, No. 3116/Transp. to the Committee

DO 370/1

207-91

1002952/91 207-91

1003141/91

1003527/91

42860/91 2873

5015/91

90 442-91 2481

1458/92

[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

Turcia DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED *7 July 91*
No. *1337*

INDEXED.

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

Report on Karmur rich

20-5-12-32
27-11-12 I

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Printed
in 1913

720/8