

Judicial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 455

DATED / 4 March 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

REWARDS.

According sanction for the grant of the ---recommended by the
Inspector - General of Police for tracing out the dacoity and
murders committed in the temple at Ramgiri, Dindigul taluk,
Madura district.

met

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
80	2142		1894				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	2651		1895				

jud (1895) DEPARTMENT. 553

FROM

M. Hammick Esq J.C.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL

OF POLICE,

To

Chief Secretary
to Government.
Fort St. George.

80 2617 14 Dec 1893
1614/894c No. 620

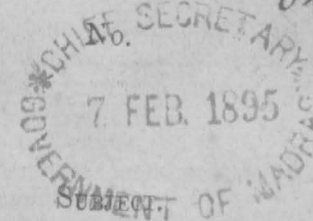
Dated 6th

Received 7

Reg 8

February 1895.

Sub 2



Recommending rewards
to the Police connected with
tracing out the dacoity and
murders committed in
the temple at Ramgiri,
Dindigul Taluk, Madras
District.

ns 14/1/95

80 2142-3-9-94 } mi
2067-28-8-94 }
728R-25-11-94
60-13-1-94 } mi
2617-14-12-93 }
80 1614/894c

For order

As to whether the 2nd proposal
might be approved? He thinks that Rs 100
would do for the Chief Inspector. The
total sum thus is Rs 349,
apportioned among 2 Inspectors,
10 Head Constables & 15 ordinary
Constables. - The particulars of
case are set forth in the appellate
judgt. of the High Court enclosed; but
the 1st letter gives a more
concise account of it.

Cs.
Order 1st March 1895 No 455

Sanction is accorded for the grant
of the rewards recommended by the
J.G. of Police

(from order)

25-2-95

The J.G. Police (J.G.)
The Sect. General (J.G.)
amended by J.G. P.

over

21/2
22/2
18/1/95

23 JAN 95

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS.

Tuesday, the tenth day of April,

One thousand eight hundred and ninety-four.

PRESENT :—

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE SIR T. MUTTUSAMI AIYAR, K. C. I. E.,

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BEST.

CRIMINAL APPEAL No. 608 of 1893.

1. Arumuga Goundan,
2. Pethanan alias Molayan,
3. Kali,
4. Sadayan,
5. Karuppanan,
6. Appachi Goundan and
7. Sundram.

Prisoners.

Reference under Section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the Sessions Judge of the Madura Division in Session Case No. 64 of 1893 on the 1st Count.

Criminal Appeal No. 22 of 1894.

The Public Prosecutor ... Appellant.

1. Arumuga Goundan,
2. Pethanan alias Molayan,
3. Kali,
4. Sadayan,
5. Karuppanan,
6. Appachi Goundan and
7. Sundram.

Prisoners.

Appeal under Section 417 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against the Judgment of acquittal passed on the accused by the Sessions Judge of the Madura Division in Sessions Case No. 64 of 1893 on the 2nd and 3rd Counts.

This reference and the appeal coming on for hearing on Thursday and Friday, the 22nd and 23rd days of February 1894, and the case having stood over for consideration till this day, the Court delivered the following

JUDGMENTS.

Sir T. Muttusami Aiyar, J:—There is no doubt that on the night of the 17th April 1893, a dacoity was committed in the temple of Kalliyana Narasimha Swami at Ramgiri, Dindigul Taluk, District of Madura. Property of considerable value consisting of gold and silver jewels, jewels set with precious stones, gold and silver vessels and cloths &c. was stolen from that temple and in order to facilitate the commission of the dacoity, two persons named Mari Nayak and Marndai Nayakam Pillai who were sleeping there on that night were murdered. On these points, there is no disagreement between the Judge and the Jury or the Assessors. As to the fact of the murder, the evidence of the Hospital Assistant the 15th witness for the prosecution is conclusive and, as to that of the dacoity, the evidence of witnesses 1, 15, 62, 65 and 70 is clear.

The accused seven in number were charged first, with dacoity, 2ndly, with dacoity with murder and 3rdly, with murder. For the offence of dacoity, they were tried by a jury and for the other offences, they were tried by the Judge, the jurors assisting him as assessors. The

jury found all the seven accused guilty of dacoity but the Judge differing from them has referred the case to this Court for disposal under Section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As assessors they found all the accused guilty of dacoity with murder and all but the 2nd guilty also of murder. The Judge, however, has refused to attach weight to the evidence so far as it criminales the accused and acquitted them of those offences. Against the acquittal the Government has preferred an appeal.

The main evidence for the prosecution criminative of the accused is that of the approver, viz., 14th witness. It shows that all the accused took part in the dacoity, and that save the 2nd who stood outside the temple, the others went into it, perpetrated the murder and plundered the temple. It proves further that the dacoits went to Ramgiri and returned from it in two carts which were left by them at the cartstand at Guzilamparai whence they proceeded to the temple on foot. The approver deposed also that 7th accused's wife and 1st accused's brother were among the party and that the latter drove one of the carts and the former accompanied the gang in order that it might not raise suspicion. The real question is whether the approver's evidence is sufficiently corroborated as against each of the accused. The corroboratory evidence relied on for the prosecution may in this case be considered under the following heads; viz., (I) the evidence of those who went with the accused to Ramgiri, (II) the general evidence of those who saw the carts and bullocks on their way to and from Ramgiri, first described them to the Police and ultimately identified the accused after they had been arrested and the carts and bullocks after they had been seized, (III) the evidence of persons who knew the carts and bullocks before and pointed them out to the Police, (IV) the evidence of those who sold or supplied things to the dacoits when they were on their way to Ramgiri, (V) original confessional statements of some of the accused and (VI) possession of or dealing with the property obtained by the dacoity.

The 12th witness is the 7th accused's wife and the 13th witness is the first accused's brother. Their evidence is that some of the gang started from the village of Tandoni, that others joined them, 4th and 5th accused from Dalavaypatnam and the sixth from Mulanur in the Darapuram Taluk of the Coimbatore District, that the party travelled in two carts from Tandoni as far as Guzilamparai near the scene of the offence, that the carts and bullocks belonged to the 1st accused, that they were left at the cartstand at Guzilamparai during the time of the dacoity, that the seven accused then proceeded to the temple on foot, and, returning with plunder, got back into the carts, which reached Dalavaypatnam next night and Tandoni on the following morning. This evidence, if true, traces all the seven accused to the scene of the offence from their villages and back to their homes with stolen property; and in this view, it corroborates the approver's evidence to a material extent.

It is open, however, to the remark that one of the witnesses gives evidence against her husband and the other deposes against his brother. But it must be borne in mind that the 13th witness was examined by the Udumalpet Magistrate on the 2nd May and by the Committing Magistrate on the 13th June and on both those occasions he made the same statements. The probable explanation is that the witness is a boy of 18 years of age, that the carts were seized and himself was taken to the special Inspector of Police on the 27th April on the pretext that his carts were required for travelling and that, when he was examined by the Inspector on a sudden regarding the trip to Ramgiri, he had no time nor facilities to concoct a false story and mentioned the names of the dacoits. As regards the 12th witness, she states that her husband was arrested on the 5th May and she was taken to the Guntamanayakanur Tahsildar. In Exhibit I dated 10th May 1893 she gave similar evidence before the Udumalpet Magistrate. The Judge dwells at some length on the question whether the 12th witness is really the wife or mistress of the 7th accused but it is not material to the present enquiry. There is further the fact that the relatives whom the two witnesses criminated among others made confessional statements on the 1st and 17th May 1893. There is reason to think that, owing to their unexpected arrest and sudden examination first by the Police and then by the Magistrate, they deposed to what really took place.

The 13th witness speaks to his ill-treatment by the Police but he did not refer to it in any of his earlier statements. There is no evidence at all in support of his allegation nor was a complaint made to the Magistrate at any time. It appears to me to be the result of after-thought.

The next description of corroboratory evidence is the general evidence of persons who saw the carts and bullocks on their way to Ramgiri and from it and who identified them and the accused after they had been secured.

The 11th witness is the person who slept in the cartstand at Guzilamparai on the night of the dacoity. He says that the carts and bullocks stood at night in the petta which he watched and that the 13th witness drove one cart away and the first prisoner drove the other away from the cartstand about 3 A. M. on the morning of the 18th April.

The evidence of this witness is open to the remark that in the occurrence report of the 18th April it is stated that one Palani Koravan, the Pettai Kavalgar and others were examined and that it appeared that the carts did not stand in the Petta at Guzilamparai. Even dismissing his evidence from our consideration, the other evidence shows that the carts must have remained somewhere near Guzilamparai. It is also noteworthy that the 12th and 13th witnesses depose that the carts and bullocks stopped in the Petta at Guzilamparai on the night of the dacoity.

The 10th witness Periyannan is a native of Guzilamparai and he deposes that on the evening of the 17th April when he was on his way to his village, he saw the two carts being driven from Sarukai Goundan's garden, that a woman was seated in the front cart, that two men were driving the carts, that eight men got into them on the road, that both those carts went in front as far as the odei near Guzilamparai and that they stopped there. He identifies the accused and the 12th and 13th witnesses among the persons he then saw and the carts and bullocks as those he saw. He gave information to the Police the day after the dacoity, the 18th April and there is nothing to show that his evidence is not true. He was one of those who accompanied the 70th witness to point out the carts and bullocks.

The 9th witness Sarukai Goundan owns a garden at Poliem on the road going to Dindigul and there is a well in that garden. He states that on the 17th April the two carts and bullocks were brought to his garden, that there were ten men, that they cooked in his garden, that there were a young woman and a boy amongst them, that one of them said he was a paraya, that they halted in his garden till three nalgais to sunset and that they then went south along the Dindigul road. The witness identifies the accused and 12th and 13th witnesses as being among the persons he saw. He states also that it was the 2nd accused who said that he was a paraya and did not therefore bathe in the well with others. This witness gave information to the Police on the 19th April and there is no ground for saying that it is not *bona fide*. The evidence of the three witnesses 8, 9 and 10 is important as showing that, as stated by witnesses 12 and 13, it was the men who went in the carts that committed the dacoity.

The 8th witness is the person in charge of the cartstand at Pachai Patti. He gives similar evidence as to the carts and bullocks having stayed in his stand on the night of the 16th April and to a party of about 10 or 11 persons, one woman and 10 men, having accompanied them. He identifies the seven prisoners and the 12th and 13th witnesses as among the persons he saw and also the carts and the bullocks.

This witness gave information to the Police on the 19th April when the 70th witness questioned him. The 5th and 6th witnesses depose to having seen the party and the carts and bullocks at Venganapalle near Karur on the 16th April. The former deposes also to the carts having returned on the 18th and to the robbers having told him on the first occasion that they were going to a marriage at Dindigul. These witnesses gave information to the Police on the 20th April and the fact that they did not at first name the accused shows that they swear only to what they really saw.

The above-mentioned evidence conveys the impression that the witnesses probably saw and described the carts and bullocks as they allege but their evidence as to identification of the accused should be received with caution as they had not previously known the accused

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although it was not impossible for them to have identified the accused when they were since shown.

The 5th witness Subramanian, a cooly, states that he shod one of the bullocks at Karur, that the 1st accused was the owner who paid him and that there were 10 or 11 persons, one woman and 10 men in the carts. He also professes to identify the accused. I may here mention that the Head Constable 70th witness went from Karur to Salem in search of the carts and bullocks. This again shows that at this stage of the case the action of the Police was *bona fide*.

There are three more witnesses who saw the carts and bullocks and some of the accused to the south of Karur on the Darapuram road. The 2nd witness is a person who keeps a bazaar at Darmapuram on the road from Dalvayapatnam to Karur. His evidence is that he had known the 1st accused for two or three years before, that about the time of the dacoity the first accused and the 13th witness happened to take the carts from Dalvayapatnam in the direction of Karur and that the former woke him up at 5 or 5-30 in the morning and bought cottonseed from him for Rupees 2.

The 4th witness is the person who heaps tobacco in the cartstand at Chinna Darapuram and he had known before the 1st accused and his brother and their carts. His evidence is that about the time of the dacoity the two carts halted in the petta on their way to Karur, and 4 days later, on their way back from Karur and that there was one woman and there were 10 men in the carts. He states further that he and the woman in charge of the cartstand named Kakkachi since deceased pointed out to the Police the carts and bullocks and the 13th witness at Udumalai pettai. The 12th witness corroborates him. The 4th witness and the Palli woman Kakkachi now dead gave information to the Police on the 25th April. This evidence shows how the carts and bullocks were traced to Udumalpet and Tandoni and how the names of the dacoits who went in the carts were first discovered by the 13th witness.

The next description of corroborative evidence is that which relates to the crowbar used during the dacoity and to the purchase of candles at Karur and of a book called the story of Madurai Veeran.

As regards the crowbar, the 43rd witness saw it near the temple at Ramgiri the day after the dacoity and showed it to the Police under the impression that it might have been thrown away or left behind by the dacoits. The 41st witness deposes that it belonged to him, that he lent it to his brother-in law, the 42nd witness and that the latter paid him Rupees 2 saying that he had lost it. The 42nd witness deposes that he lent the crowbar to the 7th accused and that the latter never returned it but that he paid Rupees 2 saying that he had lost it. The approver also states that the 7th accused had a crowbar with him when he came to the dacoity and forced open certain double-doors with it. It must be observed that the crowbar has the name Palani inscribed on it but who Palani is, is not clear from the evidence.

There were also traces of candles having been used during the dacoity. There is evidence as to their purchase and to the purchase of the story book. But the accounts produced in its support are not satisfactory and I do not desire to press this evidence against the accused.

The next corroborative evidence on which reliance is placed for the prosecution consists of the confessional statements of first, second, third and seventh prisoners. The first accused was arrested on the 28th April last and his first statement was taken by the Udumalpet Sub-Magistrate on the 1st May. In that statement, DD, he confessed that he was one of the gang of dacoits and that he took part in the commission of the dacoity and the murder. It is true, however, that in his statement DD1 which was taken by the Committing Magistrate the day before the commitment, he confessed only that he was one of the gang that proceeded to Ramgiri and returned from it and received a share but retracted the remainder of his previous confessional statement, adding that he stayed at Guzilamparai where the two carts which admittedly belonged to him were left by the dacoits. In his last statement dated 25th July he said simply that he heard the charge read to him and that he had no witnesses to call. At the trial however, he pleaded not guilty and during his examination by the Judge on the 29th September said that he made the confes-

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sional statement owing to ill-treatment by the Special Inspector of Police and the Head Constable. This prisoner is a native of Tandoni, a village in the Darapuram Taluq of the Coimbatore District.

The 2nd accused is a chuckler of the same village and he was also arrested on the 28th April. In his first confessional statement EE, dated 1st May 1893, he admitted that he was one of the gang that proceeded to the temple and returned from it and received some gold after returning to his village but added that he did not go into the temple and take part either in looting it or in killing the two watchmen. He also stated that the 7th accused owed him Rupees 2 for a pair of shoes procured for him and that the 2nd accused first proceeded with the gang to Karur as the 7th accused promised to pay him there. He did not, however, explain, if so, why he went with the gang beyond Karur. In his 2nd statement EE1, dated 24th July, he said he returned from Karur to his village. At the trial he stated on the 29th September 1893 that the Special Inspector of Police and the Head Constable beat and ill-treated him and tutored him.

The third accused Kossa Kali is a potter in the village of Tandoni. He was arrested on 29th April and made a statement on the 2nd May last (Exhibit FF). In this he admitted that he was one of the gang and proceeded to the temple at Ramgiri. Referring to the murder he said "three men pressed down a man lying on the east. I saw this and was afraid and ran to Sakkili (2nd accused) and stood near him. I again went in and saw the two men dead. I saw them in the light. I did not go near but ran back to Sakkili Molayan (2nd accused). I said to him 'They have thus killed. This will not go unpunished'." He said, however, that after returning to his village the 7th accused gave him a small bar of gold, which he identified as the one shown to him during his examination. In his 2nd statement dated 24th July he retracted his previous statement and said he knew nothing about the matter and that the witnesses who deposed against him were instigated to give false evidence. At the trial he also complained of ill-treatment by the Special Inspector and the Head Constable.

The 7th accused made a confessional statement on the 17th May to the 2nd Class Magistrate of Vadasundur. In that statement KK he confessed that he took part in the dacoity and in murdering one of the two persons killed and in plundering the temple. In his 2nd statement dated 24th July and subsequent statements he retracted his previous statement and denied his connection with the dacoity or murder.

As urged for the prosecution there is reason to think that in each case the first confessional statement was *bona fide* and voluntary and has a special probative value. Not only is it certified by the Magistrate that it was made voluntarily but it was not recorded by him before each prisoner was duly warned twice that it would be used against him, that he was not bound to make it and that it was not intended to make him an approver. The Magistrate also took care that the Police were not present when he recorded the confessional statements and remanded the 1st, 2nd and 3rd accused for a day to consider whether they would make the confession.

The next corroborative evidence relates to possession and disposal of portions of the stolen property by several of the accused. In the first place the confessional statements of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 7th accused (DD, EE, FF and KK), contain detailed acknowledgments of possession of portions of the stolen property. Again, according to the evidence of the village Munsif of Tungavi, the 18th witness for prosecution, the 2nd prisoner gave up to the Police the bag and bar of gold marked Nos. 77 and 78, and the 1st accused gave up a number of specific jewels, viz., 3 silver crowns, or Nos. 20, 21 and 22, one silver ear No. 26, one silver breast No. 29, one piece of silver waist cord No. 25, one silver stirrup No. 24, a piece of a silver crown No. 23, two fragments of silver Nos. 27 and 28, and 86 pearls. The witness states in his evidence that, at the instance of the 1st accused, his mother took the Police to a garden and going to the side of a prickly pear bush close to a hedge pointed it out as the place where she had secured the property; and that she scraped the ground to the depth of 1½ span, took out a knotted cloth and put it before the Police and that when the cloth was untied it contained the jewels already mentioned. As regards the 2nd prisoner, the witness deposes that the prisoner went up to a

hedge in front of his house, scraped the ground 5 or 6 fingers deep and took out a bag which contained the bar of gold given up by him. The witness adds that when the first prisoner was questioned about the gold which he had for his share he said he had sold it for Rupees 75 and adding that he had spent Rupees 25 gave up Rupees 50 as the balance of the sale proceeds in his possession together with three cloths, which, he said, had fallen to his share. Exhibit J which is his attakshi dated the 29th April 1893 bears out his statement. The Judge refuses weight to this evidence on two grounds, viz., no property was found in the prisoners' houses when they were searched and the places of concealment were places to which others might have access. But there is this explanation of the facts viz., that the knowledge that the Policemen were in the village might have induced the accused or their mothers to remove the property from their houses and for a time secrete it in a distant garden in the one case and in the hedge opposite to the house in the other. In my judgment the theory that the Police introduced the property is inadmissible in the circumstances of this case. There is nothing in the evidence to warrant the supposition. The jewels given up by the 1st Prisoner were not all entire most of them being fragments and it is any thing but likely that the Police would have broken the entire jewels up or procured gold bars and put them in out-of-the-way-places where they would not ordinarily be looked for. Seeing that the jewels and the gold were given up on the 29th April there was no opportunity for the Police either to communicate with the temple servants or to procure and break up the jewels. I see no reason to think that the evidence is otherwise than true so far as it relates to the giving up of property by the 1st and 2nd accused.

As regards the 3rd accused, there is his confessional statement FF in which he says that he took out the gold bar which the 7th accused had given him for his share and gave it up to the Police on the 1st May 1893. The 25th witness, a respectable ryot at Tandoni, states that he saw it given up and that the 3rd accused and his mother went to a dust heap near a wall in front of his house, that they scraped the rubbish and took out a knotted cloth which contained a round bar of gold and gave it to the Dindigul Inspector. The Judge refuses credit to this evidence and he considers that a rubbish heap is not the place where stolen jewels are likely to be buried. But I am unable to concur in this view as there is nothing improbable in its being used temporarily as a place of concealment to prevent its discovery in the house which, it would be apprehended, might be searched by the Police. If the Police introduced it why was a gold bar preferred to an entire jewel and I am of opinion that the 3rd prisoner's admission in his first confessional statement that he gave up the gold bar is true.

Against the 1st prisoner there is further the evidence of the 16th and 17th witnesses for the prosecution. The former is a goldsmith of Kanjampetta and the latter a goldsmith of Udumalpetta. The 16th witness states that by the desire of the 1st accused's maternal uncle he melted some gold, that it had formed the setting of precious stones and been beaten, that he melted also some beaten gold beads and some powdered gold dust that he melted all these into two round lumps and some silver into a round lump and that he bought the gold he melted for Rupees 77. He further states that he sold it for profit, viz., for 86½ Rupees to the 17th witness who confirms his statement. But this evidence is open to the remark that the 1st accused's mother and maternal uncle were not examined and that the goldsmiths who melt or deal in stolen property may possibly be open to Police influence. On the other hand, there is the fact that the 1st accused said that he received Rupees 75 for the gold he had got and sold and surrendered Rupees 50 as the unexpended portion of the sale proceeds. It is perhaps best not to press the evidence against the 1st accused so far as it relates to the melting of gold jewels.

Another part of the case for the prosecution is that the 19th witness melted some stolen ornaments in a garden belonging to the Tandoni Moniyagar in the presence of his son, the 2nd, 3rd and 7th prisoners and the approver. Two other witnesses (20 and 21) were also examined on the subject and the 20th witness deposes that the Police ill-treated and tutored him. On reading the evidence it appears to me improbable and I think it is unsafe to rely on it.

As regards the 4th accused, his house was searched by the Police on the 29th April and the 28th witness states that a silver anklet No. 85 was found in a box. But in the attakshi XIII a neck ornament called karai is entered as the property found and on the witness being called on to explain this discrepancy he deposes that karai is the same as kappu. However this is not so, the one being a leg ornament and the other a neck ornament.

Again in the attakshi some jewels appear to have been first entered and then scored out. The Village Munsif denies that those entries were not in the list when he signed it and this circumstance excites a suspicion that subsequently the Police desired to tamper with the list but gave up the attempt. Under these circumstances I do not think that any portion of the stolen property can be treated as found in the 4th prisoner's house when it was searched.

There is, however, the evidence of the 26th witness for the prosecution who deposes that at the request of the 4th prisoner and his brother he melted some beads of gold, some octagonal beads, a broken up Padakam, some scales and dusts of gold and 4 or 5 sheets of silver on which there was some workmanship and that he melted the gold into three round bars and the silver into one round bar. The witness states that for the 4th prisoner he then made two silver anklets, one for 16 Rupees and the other for Rupees 10, and bought the gold from the prisoner for Rupees 76. The witness is a goldsmith and his evidence is open to the remark that his master by whose orders he states that he melted the gold and silver was not examined as a witness. The 27th witness, however, supports the 26th witness and swears that he bought the gold from the latter for 8½ Rs. and gave up to the Police the two pieces of gold so bought which he had not since disposed of, Nos. 86 and 87. I see no sufficient reason to discredit this witness. As for the 5th prisoner, no property was found when his house was searched. There is, however, the evidence of witnesses 30 to 32 for the prosecution. The 30th witness is one Perumal Ashari who deposes that with the aid of one Chinna Tambi the 5th accused sold to him four fragments of silver some pearls and rubies and emeralds. The evidence of witnesses 33 and 34 is to the effect that, accompanied by the 5th accused, he sold some gold and silver to them. The 32nd witness states only that he showed the goldsmith's house to the 5th prisoner who said that he had some gold but contradicts himself as to what took place afterwards, probably from fear that he may say something to his own prejudice.

As regards the 6th prisoner his house was searched on the 2nd May and two pairs of a new laced cloth and a knife were found at the search. The 35th witness, the Village Munsif, states that those cloths were returned and in the Attakshi, Exhibit XVIII, there is an entry to the effect that no stolen property was found at the search. On that occasion the witness adds that the 6th accused's brother was wearing some silk bordered cloths and they were seized and that afterwards the Police obtained possession of the knife and silk cloths, Nos. 33, 34 and 98 which had been returned. It is not clearly explained how cloths which were originally not considered to be stolen property came since to be seized as stolen property and I do not think it is safe to press this portion of the evidence against the 6th accused.

As to the 7th accused, the 44th witness states that the former sold him a lump of silver. The 45th witness swears that a diamond No. 63 was sold by the accused to him for Rupees 20 and the 46th witness corroborates the 45th. Exhibit CC shows also that the 7th accused sold a number of rubies to the Moneyagar of Ayakudi. The 47th witness speaks to the purchase of 8 brass vessels from his shop at Dindigul. The 48th witness deposes to the 7th accused having given a gold bar and ordered him to make two pairs of Tandatti and one pair of Meledu.

The 49th witness confirms the evidence of the 48th witness. The 50th witness speaks to the search of 7th accused's house on the 8th May and to the preparation of the search list S and the discovery of the properties mentioned in it. At the search a Railway bag was found containing 2 woman's silk cloths, one laced urumal and one laced shawl. A wooden box was also found containing a string of japamalai beads and corals and a string of coral japamalai beads. The 51st and 52nd witnesses speak to loans of Rupees 40 and Rupees 25 made to them.

The result of this evidence is that so far as the 1st and 7th accused are concerned, a number of jewels and cloths stolen from the Ramgiri temple are traced to them. So far as the 2nd and 3rd accused are concerned, gold bars are traced to them and far from offering any satisfactory explanation they admitted in EE and FF that the 7th accused gave them for their share of the plunder. The Judge sufficiently states the evidence relating to stolen property in paragraphs 12 to 27 of his judgment and comments upon it unfavourably to the prosecution. Before proceeding to consider the weight due to his remarks I shall state how, apart from such evidence, the case for the prosecution stands as against each accused. As against the first accused there is first the evidence of the approver; there is next his first confessional statement DD; thirdly, there is the evidence of the 12th and 13th witnesses for the prosecution; fourthly, there is the general evidence of the witnesses 2 to 10 who saw the dacoits on their way to and from the Ramgiri temple; fifthly, there is the fact that the carts and bullocks used by the gang belong to his family; and sixthly, there is his own admission that he gave up the specific jewels mentioned by the Judge. Against this evidence his omission to give up the property when his house was first searched ought not to be allowed to prevail. The garden from which the property given up was scraped by his mother belongs to him and it is not clear how his mother was aware that the property was there if she had not secreted it in the garden.

As against the second accused there is (I) the evidence of the approver; (II) there is his first confessional statement; (III) there is the evidence of the 12th and 13th witnesses; (IV) there is the special evidence of witness, Sarukkai Goundan; and (V) there is the admission in his confessional statement EE that the gold bar given up by him was really given to him by the 7th accused and (VI) there is further the fact that the confessional statement discloses feeble traces of a desire to disconnect himself with the dacoity and that it is therefore *bona fide*.

As against the 3rd accused we have first the evidence of the approver; next his confessional statement FF; thirdly the evidence of the 12th and 13th witnesses and the general evidence of the first ten witnesses for the prosecution. There is also the admission that the gold bar given up by him was given to him by the 7th accused.

As regards accused 4, 5 and 6, there is the approver's evidence corroborated by that of the 12th and 13th witnesses and the general evidence of the first ten witnesses for the prosecution.

As for the 7th accused there is besides the approver's evidence corroborated by the 12th and 13th witnesses and the general evidence of the first 10 witnesses for the prosecution his own confessional statement KK; and there is also the admission of possession and disposal of stolen property in his confessional statement.

As for the specific objections taken to the evidence by the Judge, my learned colleague has discussed them in detail and come to the conclusion in which I agree that the Judge attaches undue weight to unimportant discrepancies and to certain improbabilities. They do not appear to me to be conclusive and the Judge appears not to have sufficiently distinguished between questionable evidence and other evidence which there is no sound reason to question and to have rejected the whole evidence *en masse* because the evidence in part seemed questionable.

Upon the whole evidence I see no sufficient reason to doubt that the accused were all concerned in the dacoity at Ramgiri and took more or less active part in its perpetration. I see also no reason to doubt that they are all guilty of dacoity with murder. As regards the murder there is only the evidence of the approver and there are the first confessional statements of accused 1 and 7 which were since retracted. The evidence is corroborated by the fact that the murder was committed to facilitate the commission of the dacoity and that such of the dacoits as went into the temple and looted it must have taken part in it or assisted in its commission. All the accused except the 2nd who was outside the temple must therefore be found guilty of murder. There is however no sufficient or independent evidence to indicate the part taken by each accused in the crime. As to the part taken by each accused, it is unsafe to rely on the approver. I do not think that I should pass sentences of death upon them. I am of opinion that all the accused must be convicted of dacoity and dacoity with murder and all but the 2nd

accused also of murder. I would sentence them all but the 2nd accused to transportation for life and the second accused to transportation for ten years.

Best, J.—In this case seven persons were tried on charges of dacoity and murder punishable under Sections 395, 396, and 302 of the Penal Code—the offence under Section 395 (dacoity) being tried by a Jury and the other two offences murder in dacoity (Section 396) and murder (Section 302) by the Judge with the aid of the same jurymen as Assessors.

The Jury was unanimous in finding all the accused guilty of dacoity and as Assessors all agreed in the opinion that all the accused are also guilty under Section 396 and that all except the 2nd accused are guilty under Section 302.

The Judge has differed from the Jury with regard to the dacoity and referred the case under Section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As to the other offences he has differed from the Assessors and acquitted all the accused—and from the order of acquittal the Appeal No. 22 of 1894 is preferred by Government.

That the two watchmen in Ramgiri temple were murdered and robbery committed of property kept in the temple on the night of 17th April last, there is no room to doubt nor does the Judge entertain any doubt as to these two facts (see paragraph 5 of his letter referring the case). It is as to the persons tried in this case being the murderers and robbers that he is not satisfied, because the evidence (he says) "is so full of irreconcilable contradictions and of palpable falsehood on material points."

The first of the supposed contradictions noticed by the Judge in his charge to the jury is that "according to the approver the dancing girl gave information regarding the temple property." (See the end of paragraph 5 of the charge). The dancing girl in question is the 39th witness Rukmani and on referring to her evidence (at page 138-9 of the printed book of evidence) it is seen that her evidence corroborates that of the approver (at page 57). See also the statement made by the 7th accused Sundaram before the Vedaundur Magistrate on the 17th May last which is filed as Exhibit KK (at p. 394).

The next unsatisfactory circumstance noticed by the Judge is a statement supposed to have been made by the approver that 7th Prisoner had left the rest of the gang at an Odei and gone to the temple and "returned with the information" that two men were sleeping in it—as to which the Judge remarks "it has not been explained how he obtained the information." But on referring to page 62 the statement "Sundaram had told us there were two men sleeping in the temple" is found to come after the account of how Sundaram had got into temple by climbing over the wall and opened the door to enable the others to enter—and there appears no ground for the assumption that the statement as to two men sleeping in the temple was made at the Odei.

The next discrepancy noticed is that whereas 6th witness Subban Chetty now says he was going to the Servaigarampatty fair when he met the two carts with the Prisoners and others on the morning of Tuesday the 18th April, his statement to the Special Inspector was that he was at the time going to Kovilur "where the market is held on Saturdays." As to this the Special Inspector Abdul Jaffar Sahib examined as 77th witness has explained that he made a mistake when writing his diary of 23rd April in mentioning Kovilur as the place to which Subban Chetty said he was going when he met the carts a second time, that this mistake was due to his not knowing the locality and that he ought to have written Servaigarampatty. In this connection it is to be noticed that Subban Chetty's evidence is to the effect that he saw the carts on two occasions, the first being on Sunday evening at Vangalpatti four miles from Karur when the carts were proceeding south on the road to Dindigul and the second time on the morning of the following Tuesday nearer to Karur as they were returning from the south. In Exhibit LII which is the memorandum of crimes and other occurrences dated 29th April (p. 519) Kovilur is stated as the place from which Subban Chetty stated he was returning when he saw the carts on the Sunday evening while the place to which he was going when he saw the carts again on the following Tuesday morning is given as Servaigarampatty. To the same effect is the evidence of Saminadha Pillai, Head Constable (retired on pension when he

gave his evidence) who was examined as 70th witness for the prosecution. See his deposition on being recalled and examined by the Court on the 28th September (at pages 236-7). See also the extract of the note-book of this last mentioned witness which is filed as Exhibit XII on behalf of the Defendants and printed at pages 484 & ca. His note of Subban Chetti's evidence is at page 487—and Servaigarampatty is there also mentioned as the place to which the witness said he was going when he met the carts on Tuesday. It is thus clear that the mention of Kovilur in the diary of the Special Inspector was a mistake merely, as explained by him.

The next discrepancy noticed by the Judge is that whereas 28th witness deposes that one silver anklet or kapu was found at the search of 4th Prisoner's house, "in the original search list as well as in the diary of the Darapuram Police Inspector the article is described *not* as kapu but as *Karai* which is totally a different thing"—see paragraph 18 of the charge. No doubt in the original search list—Exhibit XIII—the only article in the shape of jewellery found in 4th Prisoner's house is described as a silver karai "of 15 rupees weight, quite new, the chunam thereon being not washed off"—and Karai appears to be a neck ornament, while Kapu is an anklet. The search of 4th Prisoner's house took place on the 29th April. On the very next day the occurrence report BB was sent in which the article found in 4th Prisoner's house is stated to be "a large silver Kapu weighing 15 rupees." Head Constable Narayanasami Naidu who has signed both XIII and BB has been examined as 73rd witness and states that it was a *kapu* that was found and he is supported by the entry in his note book Exhibit XLIV. The description of the jewel as Karai in Exhibit XIII may therefore fairly be held to have been owing to a mistake on the part of the writer.

The Judge is in error in saying (in paragraph 20 of the charge) that the cloths found in 6th Prisoner's house are not identified as parts of the stolen property. The cloths were items 33 and 34 before the Court (see the evidence of 5th witness) and both of them are identified as his by the 1st witness—see page 7 lines 30 and 31. As to the alleged discrepancy pointed out in paragraph 34 of the charge it is to be observed that the rope is said to have been used for the purpose of getting into the temple from the top of the wall. 1st Prisoner's statement as to the use of a bamboo appears to have reference to the means by which the top of the wall was reached from the outside. It is true that there is no mention of a rope in the occurrence report LII but in the very first statement made by the 1st Prisoner to the Magistrate at Udumalpet—Exhibit DD—the fact of a rope having been used for getting into the temple is expressly mentioned (see p. 370 lines 37 to 39). This statement was, it is observed, made on the 1st May, the 1st Prisoner having been remanded to that day (Monday) from the previous Saturday (29th April) in order that he should have time to consider before making a confessional statement, for which he was produced before the Magistrate by the Police on the 29th April—which is also the date of Exhibit LII.

As to the fact of 2nd accused having mentioned 4th Prisoner Sadayan (and neither 6th nor 7th Prisoner) as the man who climbed over the wall into the temple,—it is to be observed that 2nd accused is a chuckler who appears to have been kept aloof from the rest of the gang. Moreover it is unlikely that this discrepancy would have occurred if the confessions made by 1st and 2nd Prisoners were the result of tuition.

As to the readiness of the accused to give up the property without any real attempt at concealment (on which the Judge has dwelt in paragraph 36 of his charge) this appears to be natural enough if the evidence as to the method of discovery of the thieves is true. This evidence is to the effect that suspicion having fallen on the people who had come in two carts and halted at Guziliamparai on the night on which the dacoity took place the two carts were traced to Karur in the Coimbatore District and thence via Chinna Darapuram, Darapuram and Dalavayapatnam to Tandoni (all in the Coimbatore District), that it was ascertained at Tandoni that the carts had gone on to Pollachi, and the Police thereupon proceeded to Udumalpetta (which is between Tandoni and Pollachi) and there awaited the return of the carts, that immediately on the return of the carts to Udumalpetta the 13th witness, the driver of one of them, was identified by witnesses taken from Chinna Darapuram as the driver of one of the two carts that had passed through that place. 13th witness Kandasami Gounden (who is the younger brother of 1st Prisoner) was at once questioned and gave information which led to the arrest of 1st and 2nd accused the same

evening and of the 3rd accused on the following day. Under these circumstances it is not at all unnatural that the Prisoners should think concealment was of no use and therefore readily gave up property.

As appears from the evidence of the 77th witness Abdul Jaffar Sahib (the Special Inspector) it was on the 28th April that the carts and bullocks were seen at Udumalpetta and the boy Kandasami questioned and in consequence of the statement made by him, Head Constable Mamudiah Pillai (75th witness) and Narayanasami Naidu (73rd witness) were sent with the boy Kandasami to Tandoni to secure the houses of those who had been mentioned by the boy. 75th witness followed the same afternoon with the Karur Inspector, arrested 1st and 2nd Prisoners the same evening and had them placed the next day before the Udumalpetta Magistrate who remanded them both till Monday (1st May) before recording their statements which are filed as Exhibits DD and EE respectively. In these statements 1st and 2nd Prisoners admit having gone to the Ramgiri temple with the other Prisoners and the approver and one Muthan Chetti (who has not been arrested) and there robbed the temple—1st Prisoner and the others having gone inside while 2nd Prisoner was made to stand outside the gate. 1st Prisoner further described how he with the others who entered the temple killed the two watchmen (whom they found sleeping) by strangling them.

3rd Prisoner Kali Koravan was also arrested and produced before the same Magistrate on the 1st May, but after being warned that any statement made by him would be used against him and that it was not intended to make him an approver (as was also done in the case of 1st and 2nd Prisoners) he was remanded till the next day when he made the statement FF corroborating what had been said by the first two Prisoners—with this exception, however, that he attempted to mitigate his own offence by saying that on seeing the men being killed he "became afraid and ran to Sakkiliyan (2nd Prisoner who was outside) and stood" adding that on subsequently going in again, he "saw the two men dead." 7th Prisoner Sundaram who made a similar confessional statement (KK) before the Vidasundur Magistrate on the 17th May admitted that the murders were committed by himself and 1st and 3rd to 6th accused and the approver and the absconded Muttan Chetti, while 2nd accused stood outside the temple gate.

These confessions of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 7th accused are not only corroborated by the evidence of the approver, but also by that of the boy Kandasami (13th witness) and by 12th witness Sinnammal (wife of 7th accused) who also accompanied the party from Tandoni to Guziliamparai and back—the object being (as stated by the approver) to "*prevent suspicion*." The evidence of the approver and 12th and 13th witnesses is further corroborated by witnesses 2 to 11 who identify the accused and the witnesses 12, 13 and 14 as persons who travelled in the carts drawn by the bullocks before the Court at different parts of the road, either as they were going to, or returning from, the scene of the offences.

In paragraphs 53 and 59 of his charge to the jury, the judge has stated certain reasons for thinking that the 12th witness Chinna Pillai (or Chinnakkal) is not in fact the wife of 7th Prisoner. But in coming to this conclusion he has overlooked the statement KK1 made by the 7th Prisoner on being questioned by the Committing Magistrate after the witnesses for the prosecution had been examined—when, though retracting his former statement KK, it did not occur to him to deny the fact of Chinna Pillai being his wife. On the contrary he expressly states that he married the girl (Thirumurthi Tevan's daughter) "at the end of the month Masi"; again he said "they beat my wife, took her inside and told her something (p. 403 line 10); and again, "the Udumalpetta Constable who was keeping my wife's elder sister tutored my wife and she accordingly made a statement" (Id. lines 14 and 15); again at line 30, "I wanted to prepare jewels for this wife."

The Judge is also mistaken in his statement that the Special Inspector in his diary of 28th April "has written that Chinnapillai and her sister are prostitutes". On referring to Exhibit LV, which is the diary here referred to it is seen that only the sister is stated to be a prostitute, whereas Virayi alias Chinna Pillai is expressly stated to be the wife of Maravan Sundara Tevan i. e., 7th prisoner.

Another circumstance pointed out by the Judge (in paragraph 53 of his charge) is an entry in the Dindigul Inspector's diary that the woman who accompanied the men in the carts was stated by the witnesses to be "very young and tall" whereas, the Judge observes, "12th witness is short, not tall." The Inspector has been examined as 78th witness and declares that, though it is so written in his diary, the witnesses did not in fact make any such statement, but that it was merely his own idea, and in support of this explanation of his he refers to his note-book, which contains the statements made by the witnesses; and on reference to the occurrence report Exhibit XLII which is dated 19th April 1893 and initialled by the Magistrate on the 21st idem, the woman is stated as being, according to Sarukka Goundan's description of her, a "short and red female".

The Judge has attached undue weight to the circumstance that the witnesses originally mentioned the party as consisting of 11 men and a girl. As is seen from Exhibit XL what the witnesses stated from the beginning was that there were two carts with "10 or 12 persons" one of whom was a female.

As to the Judge's observation that one of the party was stated by some of the witnesses to be a Pallan, whereas "none of the prisoners is a Pallan, nor is the approver, nor is Muthan Chetty a Pallan"—it is to be observed that 2nd prisoner is a chuckler who might well be taken to be a Pallan or a Pariah.

The Judge's next observation is that it is "remarkable that none of the witnesses who profess to identify the prisoners as the men they saw travelling mentions that one of them was lame, as the 2nd prisoner is; yet this is a fact that could hardly have escaped notice." In making this remark the Judge has overlooked the evidence of 8th witness Vairamuthu Chetty who in his cross-examination on behalf of prisoners 2 to 7 has stated "one man was a little lame." (see page 26 line 42.)

The Judge's remark in paragraph 54 of the charge that the "gang supposed to have committed the robbery and murder in the temple at Ramgiri was at first proved by enquiries made at the time never to have gone to Guziliamparai at all, but to have halted a mile from the village" is founded on an entry in the diary of the Special Inspector which, however, the Special Inspector (examined as 75th witness) has explained. The entry is as follows "nobody saw those 2 carts pass by Guziliamparai that night. The bazaar and bandy pettah at Gugiliamparai are open till 10 P. M., every night and if those 2 carts with so many men passed by, some one would have seen them." The Special Inspector's explanation is that he "had received no information that the carts had passed that way, and so drew the above conclusion." As a matter of fact, if the evidence of witnesses 12, 13 and 14 be true, the carts when they went to the l'ettah were accompanied only by the two drivers (1st prisoner and his brother the 13th witness) Chinna Pillai (12th witness) and 3rd accused, and not by "so many men" as to attract attention.

As to the Judge's remarks (in paragraph 54) anent the empty paper packet labelled "Belmont Sperrn" alleged to have been found by the 73rd witness in the Ardhmantapam of the temple, it is true that it was not a whole packet of candles the 23rd witness says he sold to 3rd prisoner but only 6 candles. But if the 6 happened to be the last of a packet it is not unreasonable to suppose that they might have been handed over in the paper in which they were. The witness does not appear to have been asked any question as to this and, in the absence of any statement by him on the subject, it is not right to found an argument on it. Moreover, if the story of the purchase of candles by 3rd prisoner and of the discovery of the paper packet in the temple is a fiction, it is not likely that the witness would not have been tutored to mention the paper cover as having been given by him to the prisoner with the candles.

It seems unnecessary to notice all the other points taken by the Judge as indicating the falsity of the evidence adduced to prove the identity of these prisoners with the persons who committed the dacoity and murder in question. All the objections have been shown by the public prosecutor to rest on a onesided view of the evidence—as if the Judge had noted all the arguments of the Vakil for the defence without testing the same by what might be said on the other side. When so tested, it is found that in every material point the inconsistencies and contradictions relied on by the Judge do not in fact exist.

Having carefully considered the whole evidence, I see no reason to doubt the correctness of the Jury's verdict that these prisoners are all guilty of the dacoity in question and as there can be no doubt that the two watchmen were murdered by those who committed the dacoity, I find all the prisoners also guilty of the offence punishable under Section 396 of the Penal Code. I find prisoners 1 and 3 to 7 also guilty of murder punishable under Section 302 of the same Code.

2nd prisoner Molayan was not tried for this last offence and from the evidence it is seen that he did not enter the temple and was therefore not a participator in the murder and can only be held liable so far as it is concerned under Section 396 of the Code. I concur in transporting him for ten years.

As to the other accused my own opinion is that they should all be hanged, but in deference to the opinion of my learned colleague, I concur in sentencing them to transportation for life.

By the Court.

Exd. by T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar.

Dy. Registrar,
Appellate Side.

MADRAS.



IN

and

(From Session Case No. 64 of 1893,
on the file of the Sessions Judge, Madura
Division.)

Sent

Forwarded to the
Superintendent of Police

By Dist. Master.

From

23 JAN 95

MADRAS

Office of the Superintendent of Police.
Madura, dated 18 January 95.

G. E. Bandy Esqr.,
Ag. Superintendent of Police,
Madurai.

The Inspector-General of Police,
My Dearly General
Southern Range.

I have the honor to submit my report on the Successful working and detection of a Dacoity Case with double murder which was Committed in the Village of Ramaghiri attached to Gurilam - parai Police Station, Dindigul Talug on the night of 17th April 1893 and in which the prisoners were Convicted and Sentenced by the High Court to various terms of imprisonment as Shewn in the accompanying Judgment.

The following is a brief narrative of the Case which I hope will prove interesting.—

On the night of 14th April 1893 a gang
consisting of 9 men entered the Ramaghiri
Temple,

Temple, Situated at a distance of a mile and a half to East of Gurilamparai on the Dindigul-Karur road, by Climbing over the Compound wall of the temple, murdered the two watchmen, broke open the double doors of the temple and Carried off Gold & Silver jewels, ~~re~~ estimated at Rs 2,000, Secured in a vault in the Karmvelam of the temple.

Next morning the information of the murder & dacoity reached the Police Station at Gurilamparai, and the Police promptly proceeded to the Scene of the offence and made enquiries.

No Clue was got in the Case till 23rd April, when the Special dacoity Inspector, whom I had ordered to meet me at Gurilamparai in connection with the Case, received the following information.

Witness Subban Chetti of Karur said that on Sunday evening he had seen 2 Carts with the prisoners & others at Bengakalpathi four miles from Karur, on his return to Karur from Kovilur and that on the morning of the following Tuesday he again saw the Carts near Karur.

A party of Head Constables and Constables was sent out to verify the truth of this information. The party which had been sent to Karur reported that the gang belonged to Dharapuram. Inspector at once went to Karur and on his way picked up,

up a great deal of useful information.

On the 26th April 1893, Inspector reached Chinna Dharapuram where he obtained reliable information that the gang had come to the Petta on its way to, and from, Karur and he further ascertained that the carts in which the gang travelled belonged to Sandoni Village near Udu-mulpet. Enquiry made about the Carts at Sandoni, showed that they had gone to the Pollachi Weekly Market. On the morning of 28th April the Police discovered the boy and the two Carts wanted.

Kanthen the driver on being asked to give the particulars of his movements on the night of 14th April made a clean breast of everything mentioning the names of the accused and furthermore gave information which lead to the recovery of most of the property.

On receipt of this information Inspector arrested the 1st & 2nd prisoners, and on the following day the 3rd, 4th & 5th prisoners were also in custody. ~~Next day of whom~~ The 3rd prisoner Confessed his guilt and delivered his share of the loot.

Prisoners 6th & 7th were arrested on 1. 5. 93 and 7. 5. 93 respectively.

Witness Saraka Gounden who owns a garden at Polliem Village on the road leading to Dindigul Stated that on the 14th April the,

* At dcl Subban
Sabit
Fis

the two carts and bullocks, referred to above, were brought to his garden, that there were ten men with them & that the gang cooked in his garden. On the accused & carts being shown to him he identified the carts and the members of the gang as well as a woman named Chinna Pillai who accompanied it.

Witness Vyrarnuthu Chetty the owner of the Cartstand of Patchaipatti on Karur road, stated that the carts & bullocks halted in the stand on the night of the 16th April and that he saw a party of about 10 or 11 persons accompanying them.

Witness Subramaniam a cooly stated that he shed one of the bullocks at Karur that the 1st accused paid him for the job. and There were about 10 men altogether as well as a woman - witness identified them.

A Shop-keeper of Karur deposed to selling some Candles to the accused. The paper wrapper of which was found in the temple.

Koolian stated that about the 15th April the two carts in question with the accused and a woman put up in Chinna Dharapuram Cart Stand on their way to Karur and that 4 days later on their return from Karur they again made use of the Cartstand.

The 1st accused as stated above was arrested on the 28th April 1893 and his first,

first Statement was taken by the Vidumelpet Magistrate on the 1st May. In that Statement he Confessed that he was one of the gang of dacoits and that he took part in the Commission of the dacoity and the murder.

The 2nd accused is a Chikkar of the same Village & he was also arrested on the same date. In his Confessional Statement, he admitted that he was one of the gang that proceeded to the temple and returned from it and received some gold after returning to his village, but added that he did not go into the temple and take part either in looting or in killing the two watchmen.

Most of the property disposed of by the accused before they were arrested was recovered from the purchasers who deposed to their having bought same from the accused.

In this Case some 90 witnesses were examined, the majority of whom were influential and wealthy men belonging to the Villages attached to Salem, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Madura Districts. Some of the witnesses who purchased jewels from the 7th prisoner and the approver belonged to Palni, Dindigul, Periakolam, ^{and Tirunelveli} Taluqs in the Madura District.

From the Confessions recorded, it was not,

Ag: Supdt of Police.

From

The Superintendent of Police
Madras

To

The Inspector General of Police
Madras

Per. Deputy Insp. Genl.

Date 18
Dep 19 } January 95
No -

No 101

Recommending certain Police
officers for reward for having
detected Ramchri Dacoty in
the double murders -

5
Jan

553

No. 1,000-10-94.
49

DEPARTMENT.

No. 620

CHIEF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,
Madras, 6th February 1895.

FROM

M. Hammick Esq., I.C.S.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,

TO

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George.

SIR,

Enclosures.
2.

I have the honor to submit a letter from
the Superintendent of Police, Madras,
dated 18 January 1895, No 101 asking that
rewards amounting to a total of Rs 399
may be granted to the Police connected
with tracing out the dacoity and murders
committed in the temple at Ramgiri, in
Orudigal Taluk, Madras District, on
the 14th April 1893. I request that the Govern-
ment may sanction the grant of the
amount.

2. A perusal of the judgment of the late
Sir J. Mathewswami Aiyar in the Criminal
appeal No 22, 1894, will best show the
Government the work the Police did in the
case, and I think it will agree with the
Superintendent.

553

Superintendent that the Police deserve great credit for the work they did. There were some 90 witnesses examined, and it must have required considerable intelligence, promptness and industry to secure and piece together all the various bits of evidence gathered from so many sources. This was done and a complete history obtained of the doings of the prisoners from the time they set out from a distant point in Coimbatore District to the actual committal of the dacoity and the brutal murder of the temple watchmen in Ramgiri in Madara.

3. The Deputy Inspector General considers a grant of Rs 300 would suffice. I think however, that the rewards recommended by the Superintendent should be granted except that the proposed reward for the Chief Inspector Abdul Subhan Sahib Khan Bahadur might be reduced from Rs 150 to Rs 100.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedt. Servt.

Mammick

Inspector General of Police.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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Q = Copy heading only

JMC