Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 728 E

DATED 1st March 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Subgail at Manjeri. Ros: Judicial Dept passing orders on the report of the Dt Magistrate Malabar on the escape of certain Mappilla prisoners from the — in August 1897 Comm[d]r S.E. IV Circle with direction to submit an estimate for certain work.

Dr 17.3.98

[P. W. 25. 1,000—30-11-97]

Indexed. 26/3

BACK PAPERS.

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Public works (1898) department

Consult No: 2/3/

Government {1898} of Madras.

JUDICIAL.

Recd. 7. 3. } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. 7. 3. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 247, 11th February 1898.

N 728 dg 17.3.98

FEBRUARY.

Communicate to the Supt Gen IV circle who will submit an estimate for the work mentioned in para 5 of the G.O.

1 Reminder issued 12.7.98

Cons 14/3/98.

Escape of Mappilla Prisoners from the Manjeri Sub-jail.

Passing orders on the report of the District Magistrate, Malabar, on the escape of certain Mappilla prisoners from the sub-jail at Manjéri in August 1897.

S.S. IV circle 1873/98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

From G. W. DANCE, Esq., I.C.S., Acting District Magistrate of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 30th September 1897, No. 1446-Magl.

I have the honour to report on the recent escape of prisoners from the sub-jail at Manjéri.

2. On the evening of the 31st August, there were 59 prisoners in the Manjéri sub-jail. It is built to contain 21. They were given their evening meal and put back into their cells for the night. The jail-guard consisted of the in-charge officer and the sentry. The total strength of the guard consists of one head constable and six men who relieve each other in turn. The sentry was only armed with a bayonet, as there is a rule that only side arms should be worn by sub-jail sentries during the day. The night is considered to last from 6 P.M. to 6 A.M.

3. I enclose a plan of the Manjéri sub-jail and cutcherry prepared by the Special Assistant Collector, Mr. Vibert. In No. 2 cell there were confined the following prisoners :—

—	Convicted for	Under trial for
1. Katungoth Cheria Viran ..	....	Dacoity, section 395, Indian Penal Code.
2. Kalladithodi Kutti Rayan Haji.	Offences under sections 333, 457, 380 and 75, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to eleven and a half years' rigorous imprisonment.	Do. do.
3. Kozhisheri Moidin Kutti 4. Palayan Pulakal Kunhamad	Offence under section 395, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to eight years' rigorous imprisonment each.	Do. do.
5. M. Esuf Haji	Offences under sections 399 and 402, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to nine years' rigorous imprisonment.	Do. do.
6. Elayathodi Moidin Kutti ..	Offence under section 395, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to eight years' rigorous imprisonment.	Do. do.
7. Cholakara Mammad	House-breaking and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.	Do. do.
8. Melemannil Kunhi Moidin Kutti.	Theft and sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.	Theft or receiving stolen property, section 379 or 411, Indian Penal Code.

4. Shortly before 6 P.M. Cholakara Mammad asked to be let out of No. 2 cell in order to get his chamber pot. The warder let him out. As he was putting him back, all the prisoners in the cell made a rush and prevented the door from being shut. Two of them—Katungoth Cheria Viran and Palayan Pulakal Kunhamad—got out and made for the police arms. The remaining occupants of the cell soon overpowered the warder and the sentry and joined their companions.

5. In addition to the arms of the jail and treasury guard, there were five rifles and three swords belonging to a party of reserve constables who had come to Manjéri as an escort for M. Esuf Haji, Kozhisheri Moidin Kutti, Elayathodi Moidin Kutti and Pulayan Pulakal Kunhamad concerned in the Devála dacoity case. These were stacked in the passage between the jail and the cutcherry, and in each of the

five pouches there were ten rounds of ammunition. As soon as the prisoners got arms they commenced firing in all directions. Mr. Wood, the Executive Engineer, who was in the adjoining travellers' bungalow, came out hearing the noise. He was fired on and had no means of retaliating. He was therefore assisted by Inspector, Rahiman Khan, to escape to the house of M.R.Ry. Kunjayan, the Acting Tahsildar.

6. The prisoners then broke open with a pick-axe, which was lying handy, the locks of cells Nos. 1 and 3. The occupants of No. 1 were all Thiyas, who lost no time in escaping from their liberators, and returned to their cells as soon as order was restored. In No. 3 cell there was only one prisoner, a Mappilla. He had been given a room to himself because he was suffering from syphilis in a very advanced stage. It was doubtless for this reason that he did not try to escape. No. 4 cell was not opened. No. 5 cell was opened by wrenching asunder the lower part of the door. This cell contained 22 prisoners, of whom the following joined the prisoners from No. 2 :—

(1) Kizhakkepadathil Moidin Kutti.
(2) Cheruman Kariathan.
(3) Naipadath Parathi.
(4) Thalappil Koya Kutti Kurikal.
(5) Allipra Pottemal Tharuvi Kutti.
(6) Kazhukunnummal Ahamad.

7. As soon as the door of No. 2 cell was forced the warder ran away and got hold of the taluk duffadar's gun which was lying loaded in the cutcherry. He waited his time and, when the prisoners were standing at the western entrance to the jail, he fired into them from the opposite verandah. He says that he did not aim at any one in particular, but he was so fortunate as to hit Esuf Haji in the legs. This man, on account of his family influence and reputation as a dacoit leader, would doubtless have otherwise taken command of the runaways. Two of the prisoners immediately rushed at the warder with swords, but he succeeded in escaping. Esuf Haji was taken back to his cell by his friends, and the remaining thirteen prisoners, named in paragraphs 3 and 6, made off with the following arms and ammunition.—(From the list of ammunition some deduction must be made for the cartridges fired) :—

	Number.
(*a*) Cartridges, ball, carbine (half year's supply for the division, just received from Calicut *plus* a few from the station)	1,430
(*b*) Cartridges, ball, snider rifle	50
(*c*) ,, carbine blank	1,192
(*d*) ,, revolver	32
(*e*) Pouches	8
(*f*) Swords (including one Inspector's)	12
(*g*) Carbines	10
(*h*) Snider rifles	5
(*i*) Bayonets carbine	3
(*j*) Sword scabbard	1
(*k*) Bayonet	1
(*l*) Haversacks	2

8. No time was lost in sending news of the outbreak to Malappuram, and, half an hour after its receipt, the special force under Inspector Wiggins, closely followed by forty men of the South Staffords under Captain Chads, were marching to Manjéri. Mr. Wilkinson, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, was at Angádipuram and came in next morning. I was at Nilambúr and received the news shortly before daylight. I lost no time in marching into Edavanna with my guard and orderlies, and Mr. Jackson, the District Forest-officer, Mr. VanHaeften, the Forest Ranger, and Mr. Matthews, the Forester at Nilambúr. When we reached Edavanna we heard that the troops had arrived at Manjéri and that the gang had made off in the direction of Pandalur. Mr. Jackson and I then rode on to Manjéri where we learnt that Captain Chads and Mr. Wilkinson had gone in pursuit of the gang. I joined them later in the afternoon at the Udambath Nayar's house—I would request a reference to the map illustrating the outbreak of 1896—and Mr. Fawcett arrived there shortly afterwards.

9. The gang at this time were on Thekkambath, one of the spurs of Pandalur. To attack them in fastnesses of their own choosing in this range of hills would have necessitated heavy losses on our side. This I was anxious to avoid. I naturally did not wish to throw away the lives of our men. Moreover, any casualties on our side would have been made the most of by the disaffected section of the Mappillas, and incited the fanatically disposed to fresh outbreaks. I therefore proposed to prevent the gang, if possible, from getting food or adherents, and to force them to take to more open country. To this end the special force and 20 of the South Staffords were posted at Udambath, Captain Chads and 30 men at Pandicad, 20 South Staffords at Manjéri, and 40 at Angádipuram under Lieutenant Loder-Symonds. Malapuram was reinforced by 50 of the South Staffords from Calicut under Captain Davidson. I also telegraphed for two companies of sepoys from Trichinopoly—the Officer Commanding at Cannanore, to whom I first applied, could not send men up in time for want of transport—and they arrived at Angádipuram on the 4th September. I had intended to move out a detachment to Nenmini as soon as the sepoys arrived, but this move was rendered unnecessary by the dispersion of the gang. A glance at the map will show that, if the gang had taken to the open country for the purpose of carrying out the ordinary programme of rapine and murder, they must have speedily been caught by troops or police advancing on them from different directions.

10. On the 2nd September we got no definite information about the whereabouts of the gang, except that they were on Pandalur. On the 3rd I returned to Manjéri, our information still being very vague. But hearing that the gang were likely to force the Cherpalchéri sub-jail and release Kunhalikutti, the celebrated dacoit, and a brother of Esuf Haji and Kunhi Moidin Haji, I sent down 20 men of the South Staffords to bring him into Angádipuram. On the 4th Messrs. Fawcett and Wilkinson moved up to Ottupara with the special force and it was arranged that, on the following day, we should beat out the Pandalur hill, the population of the adjoining amsams acting as beaters, for I was afraid that, if the gang continued to defy us from Pandalur, they might be joined by others. Shortly after midnight, however, we were aroused by the news that the gang had been seen near the Pallipuram mosque. Captain Chads and 40 men together with 40 of the reserve under Inspector Walter accompanied me in pursuit. I telegraphed also to the sepoys at Angádipuram to move down to Kadanamanna. After a fruitless hunt we returned to our respective camps on the evening of the 5th under the impression that the gang had broken back to Pandalur. I telegraphed to Government at once, asking that a reward of Rs. 2,000 might be offered for their capture, my experience of the day having caused me to doubt whether it would be possible to find them on Pandalur. My request was kindly granted. Next morning, however, news arrived of the arrest of Naipadath Parathi, Thalappil Koya Kutti Kurikal and Kazhukunnummal Ahamad by Inspector Cheykutti's brother. On the 7th we heard that Kozhisheri Moidin Kutti had shot himself, and we got certain information that the gang had broken up and dispersed in different directions.

11. I now thought the trouble was over. But on the night of the 8th September I received a report from Inspector Rahiman Khan who was in the neighbourhood of Kondotti, saying that he had definite information of the whereabouts of Cholakara Mammad and Cheria Viran. Inspector Wiggins with 40 of the special force was therefore sent to his assistance. About 9-30 on the following morning we heard firing. We accordingly went in the direction of the noise with 40 sepoys under Captain Sterling and a party of the special force. It transpired that the police and a party of Mappillas sent by the Kondotti Thangal had surprised Cholakara Mammad and Cheria Viran, as well as Martabara Viran, a noted dacoit, for whose arrest a reward of Rs. 100 had been offered, in a house belonging to Cheria Viran's father-in-law. The Thangal's men went down to the house while the police occupied the rising ground behind. When the runaways saw what had happened they bolted out at the door across a small paddy flat in front of the house with their carbines in one hand and cartridge bags in the other. They took shelter among the broken ground on the opposite hill-side and opened fire on the police. The fire was returned and several shots were exchanged before Cheria Viran was wounded. Martabara Viran then picked up the wounded man's carbine and ran away firing wildly. He only succeeded in hitting a Mappilla woman who was not in the line of fire. The wound was fortunately

not serious. He eventually threw away his carbine and made good his escape. He told some people, who asked him why he was running so fast, that he was taking the news to the Collector. Cheria Viran also ran away but was eventually discovered crouching in the scrub jungle with his carbine loaded and cocked. Before he could bring it to his shoulder however he was seized by the Kondotti Thangal's men.

12. Having detailed our movements I proceed to give a summary of the movements of the gang as elicited by the police from the recaptured prisoners. "They left the cutcherry", I quote from a note kindly furnished by Mr. Fawcett, "and went by the Manjéri temple hill (where their members were counted by M. K. Haji or Kutti Rayan) across the river to Pallipuram, to the house of a blacksmith Kunyan, who was told to sharpen the swords. One was partially sharpened; the gang left taking with them the whetstone, and went to Udambath house in Pandalur, stowing away 8 * swords on the way.

* These were afterwards found buried near the Udambath Nayar's house.
(Intld.) G. W. D.

13. "They arrived at Udambath early on the 1st September and asked for Kunju Nair whose death was determined † on. He was not in the house. The gang partook of food at his house and went south-east through Thekkambath to the eastern slopes of Pandalur hill. On their way they broke into the house of one Andengat Shankaran, carried away property worth about Rs. 263, and destroyed some documents. While Cholakara Mammad was being shown by Parithi how to load and fire the sniders, one was fired accidentally. The gang were given food by (it seems tolerably certain: the case is under investigation) one Mammi Musaliar, and slept in a forsaken hut in the forest close to this man's house.

† It was proposed by Parithi to murder Kunju Nair because it was on information given by him that Parithi had been arrested in connection with the Pandalur dacoity.
(Intld.) G. W. D.

14. "Early on the 2nd September the gang went to the top of Pandalur hill and over to the southern slope, and hid. In the evening at dusk they descended, tried to get food in the house of one Parakal Moidin and failed; crossed the Manjéri-Angádipuram road near Kadanamanna (it was dark and raining hard) and hid in the jungle Kalladakkadavu in Vellila Desam. Two or three of the gang bought beaten rice in a shop on the roadside. It was divided.

15. "Sometime during this night Cheria Viran and Cholakara Mammad left the gang secretly.

16. "3rd September. Before daybreak Nos. (11), (12) and (14) Parathi, Koya Kutti and Ahamad sneaked off and hid by themselves. These three belong to Pandalur.

17. "Thus by daylight on the 3rd September the gang was split into three parties:—

Cheria Viran, Cholakara Mammad	in one	.. .. C.
Parathi, Koya Kutti, K. Ahamad	in another	.. .. B.
The remaining eight formed the main gang		.. .. A.

18. "The sub-gang B hid in the jungle not far from where they left A and C until dark on the 4th when they crossed the river to the north. Two say they had food in the house of one Kummattiadi Hydross in Anakayam. One denies it. On the 5th September, gang B stayed in the jungle in Anakayam and during the night gave themselves up at Inspector Cheykutti's house. *N.B.*—The two who mention Hydross broke into his house not long ago. Their statement is unreliable. Probably they went home.

"So much for gang B. Next morning they were brought to Manjéri.

19. "Gang C met Martabara Viran, who joined them. The three crossed the river to the north on the 3rd or 4th, hid in the jungle, recrossed the river to the south for the purpose of shooting one Potayil Chek, a man moderately rich, a Mappilla,

and the approver in the Cherpalchéri dacoity case. Martabara Viran seems to have instigated this murder. They were baulked. Lying in wait near the house by night they could not get a fair shot at Chek, his wife being in the way. M. Viran took Mammad's gun for doing the murder. They left at once and went to the house of Mammad's brother-in-law (Rayankutti) in Pulliakod, in a wild unfrequented tract. On the 7th, Rayankutti was caught by the police, and it was discovered from him that he had as guests the gang C. In the morning of the 8th September the police surprised Rayankutti's house as already narrated. *N.B.*—M. Viran was caught subsequently by Police Inspector Vasava Menon and Head Constable Ahmad Kutti. There was a reward of Rs. 100 for his arrest. He had just returned to Malabar.

Thus C was disposed of and the original gang now minus B and C was reduced by five.

20. "Now to trace the main gang A from the night of 2nd September when the original gang of thirteen split into three of which one (A) contained eight. On the 3rd September this gang hid in the jungle on the southern bank of the river. The night also.

"4th September. In the same place or thereabouts the whole day, hiding. After dark visited the Madasheri Illom and got Rs. 25 from the Nambudiri. Crossed the river northwards and hid in an old temple in Vengalur until the evening of the 5th.

"On the evening of the 5th they went to Paperipura hill where they remained until the evening of the 6th. Kutti Rayan Haji's house is near this.

"It was on the evening of the 6th this gang split up.

(4) Elayathodi Moidin Kutti, (5) Kozhisheri Moidin Kutti, (10) Kariathan and (13) Tharikutti went northwards for the purpose of occupying Naragara temple (near the third mile—Manjéri road) and making a stand. Halted a while on a rock near the road. Here again there was a split. (10) and (13) went off to buy beaten rice in a shop on the roadside. They bought the stuff and never returned. Kariathan was caught near his house subsequently on the 8th near Areacode. Tharikutti is still missing. Soon after (4) and (5) were left alone, (5) exchanged the rifle he carried for the carbine left behind by (10); taking this to a distance of 300 yards he shot himself with it.

"(4) went south and joined (2) and (9) Kutt Rayan Haji and Kizhapadathil Moidin Kutti. On the night of the 12th he gave himself up to the Malapuram Thangal.

"Thus this section of gang A is accounted for. Four men remain.

21. (3) and (6) Kunhi Moidin Kutti Haji and Pulampalakal Ahmad left the other two, *i.e.*, (2) and (9), and going to Tirur took train for Erode. On the 8th they were caught by our police at Olavakode.

22. "There remain two of this sub-gang A, Kutti Rayan Haji and Kizhapadathil Moidin Kutti * to be caught.

* Since caught.

23. "Ten police carbines, three rifles, most of the ammunition, &c., have been recovered from places in the jungle pointed out by the prisoners. For this Mr. Walter, the Reserve Inspector, deserves much credit. I (the Superintendent of Police) was present at several searches".

24. "There are still missing—

Cartridges, ball (but of these several have been fired)	469
" blank	111
Revolver	18
Pouches	2
Belts	4
Rifles	2*
Bayonets	3
Scabbard	1"

* One has since been recovered from Kizhapadathil Moidin Kutti.

25. Having placed the Government in possession of the facts, I proceed to draw the moral. The warder was of course the immediate cause of the escape. All the prisoners in No. 2 cell were desperate characters. It was on this account that Mr. Wilkinson, the Assistant Superintendent, had arranged to have them distributed over different cells. Unfortunately, as soon as his back was turned, his orders were ignored. Knowing the character of the men he had to deal with, the warder acted very foolishly in letting Cholakara Mammad out of his cell. He made what amends he could, however, by shooting Esuf Haji. He not only ran great personal risk by firing on the prisoners but he took upon himself a great responsibility. If his action had not met with the approval of the authorities, the consequences to himself would have been most serious. I therefore propose to condone his want of judgment, and to reward his pluck by a present of Rs. 20.

26. The warder should not have opened the door of the cell, but I greatly doubt whether any advantage would have been taken of this opportunity by the prisoners if there had been a stronger guard. When I went to Manjéri early in January last in order to commence the campaign against rascality, the details of which have already been reported to Government, I was astounded to find that the treasury, which was at its fullest on account of the kist season, and the sub-jail should have been placed under so inadequate a guard. I immediately arranged with the Superintendent of Police to have the guard strengthened, and I requested Government in a marginal note to one of Mr. Fawcett's confidential reports to sanction the increase permanently. Mr. Fawcett reported officially on the subject, and I again supported his recommendation. The Inspector-General of Police however was opposed to the proposal—I do not know on what grounds—so the Government refused to sanction it.

27. But Mr. Fawcett had applied not only for an increase of the jail and treasury guards at Manjéri and Angádipuram, he had also asked to have the reserve strengthened by 50 men. This proposal too had my strongest support, as will be evidenced by my remarks on the Police administration report for last year, and my endorsement on Mr. Fawcett's separate letter on the subject. Mr. Fawcett has already in my opinion made out such a good case that I need not recapitulate his arguments. I need only point out that the reserve is now found to be unable to discharge the duties which it formerly carried out without difficulty, because of an important and most necessary reform which was introduced by Mr. Fawcett. Formerly it was the custom to comply with all demands for escorts, &c., as a matter of course. In order to do this it was necessary to impress newly joined recruits, who should have been learning their drill, and to denude the head-quarters of men. Mr. Fawcett considers it essential, and so do I, that a strong party should always be available at head-quarters in case of emergency, and that recruits should be taught their duties before they are asked to perform them. In order to effect these objects Mr. Fawcett has had to refuse escorts time without number. I consider that he was perfectly right, but it has caused the greatest inconvenience. The Vayittiri treasury was on two occasions unable to meet the demands made upon it for some days, and the Calicut sub-jail was crowded with prisoners who should have been at Cannanore. With all this, I am in a position to state from my personal experience, that there are so-called trained constables in the reserve, who, owing to their ignorance of drill, are not fit to be trusted with fire-arms.

28. I was at Manjéri from the 24th to the 26th August. I inspected the sub-jail and saw that it was overcrowded. The Sub-Magistrate suggested that he should send away his short sentence prisoners to Calicut and I agreed. On the 30th August, however, the Sub-Magistrate reported that he had 26 prisoners to send away, but could not get an escort. His report reached me on the 2nd September. In the meantime the surplus population of the jail had been reduced in an unexpected manner. I submit that, but for the inadequacy of the reserve, the jail would not have been so overcrowded, and, but for the weakness of the guard, the prisoners would not have attempted to break out.

29. Mappillas are very apt to follow precedents. I may mention, as a good instance, that till the outbreak of 1884, it was customary for fanatics to charge the troops. In that outbreak, the fanatics held the Trikolur temple, and the troops had to take it by storm. Since then every gang of fanatics has made a stand in some strong place. The outbreak of 1894 is no exception, for the fanatics did not quit

their stronghold until a shell had burst among them. The idea of rushing a sub-jail and seizing the arms having thus been suggested to them—it was indeed talked of early in the year—it is quite possible that the attempt may be repeated. I would therefore earnestly beg that no time may be lost in raising the jail and treasury guards at Manjéri and Angádipuram to two head constables and twelve men each. Both these places are the scenes of several outbreaks, and the jail at Manjéri has for some time past been suffering from a chronic plethora of prisoners. I would also recommend that the sentries at these jails should be armed with carbines and have bayonets fixed both day and night.

30. The fact that the doors of No. 5 cell were forced without breaking the locks shows that they are not strong enough. I would ask that the Public Works Department may be directed to have the doors strengthened without delay at Manjéri and at the other sub-jails in the district where the doors are of the same pattern. No. 4 cell is so dark that it is difficult to see into its recesses even in the day time. The Public Works Department may be asked to let some skylights into the roof.

31. This is the first instance in the history of Mappilla outbreaks in which an entire gang of would-be martyrs has dispersed without facing the troops. Yet, there never has been an outbreak which threatened to be so formidable, both on account of the number and quality of the arms possessed by the gang and the daring character of its members. All of them, with the exception, perhaps, of Kunhi Moidin Haji, have been accustomed to lead a life of lawlessness and violence. That their original intention was to die as martyrs, there can be no doubt. The evidence recorded by Mr. Vibert shows that the "Bānk" was repeated in the orthodox martyr fashion. (I am informed that this prayer is the ordinary "five times" prayer which is said every day in every mosque in the district. The difference between the ordinary "Bānk" and the "Bānk" of the martyr is that the former is repeated only by the Mullah or other minister before the listening congregation. The latter is repeated by the destined martyrs in chorus). They converted the Cheruman Kariathan; when he was brought before me afterwards, he told me that his name was Ahamad. The fact of their taking away with them such a large quantity of ammunition and more arms than they could conveniently carry also points to the intention to fight and the hope that they would get adherents. (If they had merely wanted to disarm the guard until they had effected their escape they would have thrown away their arms when they were no longer required). Moreover, they buried the surplus swords in a place where it would have been very convenient for them to get them in the night, if they had been joined by others on Pandalur.

32. I have endeavoured to ascertain the causes of the fiasco. The gang must have been discouraged in the first instance by the loss of their leader, Esuf Haji. Then they failed to murder Mr. Wilkinson. We have ascertained from the prisoners that the escape had been plotted for some days. They were waiting for a favourable opportunity. On the morning of the 31st August Kutti Rayan Haji, when he was taken out to the latrine, saw a tall European gentleman in the bungalow and Mr. Wilkinson's circuit writer. He therefore reported that Mr. Wilkinson was in the bungalow, and that if they wanted to murder him they should break out that evening. It was not until after they had broken out that they discovered the tall gentleman to be Mr. Wood.

33. Their next intended victim also escaped them. So they had nothing for it but to betake themselves to Pandalur and wait for the troops to attack them. The troops did not attack, and no one joined them. They even had difficulty in getting food. Dissensions therefore soon arose in the camp. The nearer the martyr's crown seemed to be, the less attractive did it appear. Would it not be better to make a bolt for it? At the most they would only be caught and deported. (For all the runaways were under the impression that they would be treated as State prisoners). So two of them slipped off, and then three, until in a few days the whole gang had melted away.

34. The failure of the gang to get any recruits is a most satisfactory feature of this outbreak. It shows that the martyr's crown is not so fashionable as it was. The prisoners say that all the people whom they asked to join replied that they did not want to be "shot like dogs." This reference to the destruction of the gang at the

Manjéri temple last year shows how important it is that we should use every advantage which improved weapons give us over fanatics, and that we should not needlessly risk the lives of our men. To die killing is one thing. To be shot at a distance of 500 yards without the chance of retaliating is another, the prospect of which can hardly be pleasing to even the most bigoted fanatic.

35. I also believe that the bloodless campaign which we undertook against lawlessness in the beginning of the year contributed towards keeping people quiet. I am at least certain that, if the same unrest had existed as at the beginning of the year, and if the chief scoundrels had not been under lock and key, the gang would not have lacked adherents. The three runaways from Pandalur were begged by their relations when they visited their homes not to do anything desperate "because of the trouble which would fall on their families." The rest of the gang entertained similar fears, which accounts for the little damage they did. The fear of consequences to relations must have originated in part with the warnings that I gave in the beginning of the year that Mappilla fines had not by any means been abolished—as was thought by many— but that on the contrary they would be imposed freely on all who gave the smallest encouragement to fanatics.

36. Finally, I think it is probable that the overwhelming forces of troops and police which made their appearance on the scene with such promptitude contributed to restrain the evil-disposed—which must be my excuse for summoning them. When the news first reached me, indeed, I thought that we should have to deal with an outbreak of unprecedented magnitude. In any case, however, I should have thought it better to take too many precautions than too few, as I informed the Government at the time.

37. It now remains for me to place on record my appreciation of the aid rendered to me in suppressing the outbreak. I am very grateful to Captain Chads and his officers, and to Captain Sterling, for the willing help which they never failed to give. Mr. Fawcett's ability and untiring energy are already well known to the Government. Among other feats he and Mr. Wilkinson with the special force spent two nights on Ottupara, an extremely cold spot on the Pandalur hill. The first night they lay on the ground without any shelter. The second night was passed under an unfinished shed which afforded small protection against one of the worst storms which we have had during an exceptionally stormy year.

38. I respectfully ask the Government to give Mr. Wilkinson a small recompense for his excellent work. He is the terror of evil-doers, and many are the clever arrests which he has effected. He has thereby become obnoxious to the criminal classes, and one of the objects of the outbreak was to take his life. He is, however, not skilled in translating leading articles into Malayalam. He can, indeed, speak Malayalam with the utmost fluency. I do not know any European, now residing in the district, who speaks it better. He can write it well and read the written character with ease. Yet he failed to pass in Malayalam at the last examination in Madras, because he could not translate an article on the Chino-Japanese war. He was not allowed to display his proficiency in speaking or reading manuscript. I would respectfully ask that Mr. Wilkinson may be excused from attempting any further intellectual gymnastics of this nature, and that he may be exempted as a special case from passing in Malayalam.

39. Inspectors Wiggins and Rahiman Khan deserve credit for their arrest of Cheria Viran and Cholakara Mammad. We have to thank Inspector Walter for the recovery of the greater part of the stolen arms and ammunition. In other ways also he did very good work. Inspector Cheykutti succeeded in inducing three of the runaways to surrender themselves to him at a most opportune moment. Inspector Vasava Menon again distinguished himself by his clever arrest of Martabara Viran who had been absconding for nearly a year. The good work done by Inspectors Cheykutti and Vasava Menon has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government, and I would respectfully ask that the titular honours, which they have been led to expect, may be denied them no longer. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick. I would therefore recommend that, if the Inspector-General approves, Cheykutti may be made a Khan Bahadur on New Year's Day, and Vasava Menon a Row Bahadur.

40. Loyalty to the British Government is hereditary in the family of the Kondotti Thangal, and I would ask that the Government may be pleased to grant him a special mark of its appreciation of the assistance he rendered in arresting the two runaways who were taken in arms, by presenting him with four silver peons' badges.

41. The Malapuram Thangal did good service in making Elayathodiyil Moidin Kutti surrender himself with his rifle and ammunition. I recommend that he should receive the thanks of Government.

42. In conclusion, I think the Mappilla prisoners in No. 5 cell, who might have escaped but did not, should receive some consideration. They were mostly under trial. If any of them have been since convicted for the offences with which they stood charged, I think that a part of their sentences should be remitted. I will ascertain what orders have been passed in their cases.

From M. HAMMICK, Esq., I.C.S., Inspector-General of Police, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 9th December 1897, No. 4542.

I have the honour to reply to endorsement, No. 2448, Judicial, dated 19th November 1897, made on a letter from the Acting District Magistrate, Malabar, dated 30th September 1897, No. 4211.

2. I regret the delay in replying. I have waited, first, in the hope that I might, before replying, have received Mr. Stevenson's further report on the necessity of increasing the reserve in Calicut, which I called for some time ago, and also because I wished to find out the facts regarding the refusal of the escorts referred to in paragraph 28 of the District Magistrate's letter. I have only just got information regarding the latter, and as regards the increase to the reserve, I have not yet received Mr. Stevenson's report as he has been delayed at Mangalore. I wish to have his views after looking into the matter on the spot before addressing Government.

3. The District Magistrate's report contains complaints against the police. These are, first, that the sub-jail guard which the District Magistrate and the Superintendent considered should have been strengthened was not strong enough to prevent the escape of the prisoners from the Manjéri sub-jail, and, secondly, that the reserve in Calicut was not strong enough to furnish an escort to enable the Manjéri Jail to be emptied of some of the numerous prisoners incarcerated there on the 31st August last.

4. As regards the sub-jail guard at Manjéri, it is as well to state clearly what the rules are and what the situation was at Manjéri on the 31st August 1897. The guard of a sub-jail and treasury consists of one head constable and six constables, and when the head constable is away he is re-placed by a first-class constable, who takes charge of the guard. The rules on the subject will be found clearly set out in Police Orders 78, 79 and 80 of the Police Orders, pages 57—59, New Edition. These rules are supplemented in each district by further rules to meet particular circumstances and the rules are hung up in the police station—*vide* page 336, Police Orders, Volume I. Besides this guard, there was in the Manjéri sub-jail on the 31st August a special guard of one head constable and six constables of the reserve. This guard was in special charge of the accused in what is known as the Devala dacoity case, who were in the sub-jail. The guard watched their prisoners while outside the sub-jail at food, but were not on duty when the prisoners were locked into the cells. They had, however, orders to be present during the night. Under the rules, during the day four constables of the regular guard furnish sentries, while two are allowed to be away. All are present at night. This escape took place just about 6 o'clock, and at the time according to the rules four constables were present at the jail—one man was doing sentry and three men were sitting not far off. The prisoners, who admitted that they thought it hopeless to try and escape when they were out of the cells with the full guard present, waited their opportunity for the one hour or one hour and a half when only four men would be present and it was dusk. They then tempted the warder, who so foolishly opened the door. The warder should most certainly have known that just at 6 o'clock, when the guard was away at food, was the very time in the whole day when he should not have opened the cell door. The men had just been locked up for

the night and it was a most foolish and negligent act to open the door of the cell before the full guard had returned for the night. If the warder had only waited an hour, the full guard would have been present.

5. Mr. Dance remarks that, when he was at Manjéri in January last, he was astounded at the inadequate guard. Had Mr. Dance, as district magistrate, looked at the police orders, he would have seen that the guard was the regular sanctioned guard which exists at every sub-jail and treasury in the Presidency. My reasons for not supporting the recommendation to increase the police guards in Manjéri and Angadipuram were set out at length in my letter read in G.O., No. 860, Judicial, dated 17th June 1897. I see no reason to go back from that letter. Certainly, when writing then, I did not consider the contingency which occurred. I did not take into consideration that the jail would be overcrowded, nor did it occur to me that a warder would open a cell full of dangerous dacoits just at the moment when the guard was in its weakest condition. As to the overcrowded state of the jail, I cannot see why the divisional magistrate could not have arranged to have the cases in which these dangerous dacoits were concerned either tried elsewhere or postponed until the jail had room for the convicts. The police are not responsible and cannot be held responsible for the overcrowded state of the jail; that is a matter over which the police have no control. Had we had a guard at Manjéri of two head constables and twelve constables, no doubt there would probably have been six constables present at 6 P.M. instead of four, but this does not alter the fact that, had the jail not been over full and had the warder not committed an act of reckless carelessness, the existing guard would have been amply sufficient. For my part, I still see no reason from what has occurred to urge any permanent increase of the guard. I consider, however, that orders should be issued that the greatest care should be taken in future to prevent Manjéri sub-jail and, in fact, all the sub-jails in Malabar, being overcrowded, and that distinct printed orders should be issued to the warder of every sub-jail laying down clearly his duties, amongst others, that he is not to open any cell without the consent of the sentry in charge. As far as I can judge, had it been clearly understood that the Manjéri sub-jail should not be allowed to contain more prisoners than those allowed by its registered capacity, and had the warder in charge there been properly aware of his duties, the escape never would have taken place. I am, in a separate communication, addressing Government asking it to sanction an increase to the force at Manjéri, not because the guard requires strengthening, but because the station strength is not sufficient for the duties which now fall upon it. I shall probably also have to ask for an increase of the reserve. I am therefore very anxious not to increase the guards at the sub-jails at Manjéri and Angadipuram unless it is absolutely necessary to do so, and I cannot see that the circumstances of the escape from the jail justify or necessitate any change.

6. I quite agree with Mr. Dance in considering that the Public Works Department should at once be asked to strengthen the doors of the sub-jails in Malabar, where they are weak. I examined the doors at Manjéri and they are very unsatisfactory.

7. Mr. Dance in paragraph 28 says that, on the 24th August, he expressed his agreement with the Manjéri sub-magistrate in thinking that he should send away the short-sentenced prisoners in the jail to Calicut. He says that the sub-magistrate on the 30th August reported that he had 26 prisoners to send away, but could not get an escort. Mr. Dance on this submits that, had it not been for the inadequacy of the reserve, the jail would not have been so overcrowded.

8. Now, on this matter, I asked the Superintendent of Police for full information. In reply he states that no requisition was made on the Superintendent of Police at this time for any escort to bring prisoners from Manjéri to Calicut. The Sub-magistrate states that the District Magistrate ordered him to order the station-house officer of Manjéri station to furnish an escort for 15 prisoners on the 26th August, but that the Assistant Superintendent told him on the 29th August that such a large escort could not be spared from the division and that he would write to the District Superintendent to get an escort from the reserve. No letter, however, was received from the Assistant Superintendent by the Superintendent on the subject. He, probably not realizing the pressing necessity of the case, omitted to write before the 31st August, when the escape occurred. There is, therefore, nothing whatever to show that the reserve at

the time failed to supply an escort when requisitioned and no argument whatever as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the reserve can be drawn from the facts. Had the Sub-magistrate or the District Magistrate wired to Calicut for an escort for the prisoners, as far as is known there is no reason why an escort should not have been sent.

9. Mr. Dance says he has strongly supported Mr. Fawcett's request that the reserve at Calicut may be increased; he also supports Mr. Fawcett in having refused more than once to allow recruits to do duty in the town at Calicut in order that a party of reserve men or town men might be sent with treasure or prisoners. I may say that Mr. Fawcett's request for an increase to his reserve has not been neglected by me. Mr. Fawcett addressed me direct in July last and I sent his letter for careful examination by the Deputy Inspector-General. Mr. Stevenson returned it with a memorandum from which it seemed most probable that Mr. Fawcett had, at all events, very much over-estimated his real requirements. As Mr. Stevenson was visiting Malabar this year and would be able to furnish a better report after looking into matters carefully himself at Calicut, the papers are waiting for him there and he will report again fully when he has again considered the matter after personal conference with the Superintendent. It will be remembered that, at my request, the reserve in Calicut was increased in 1895 by two head constables and twenty constables and I was particularly anxious not to come up to Government for a further increase without the strongest possible case. I can assure Government that these matters give me considerable anxiety.

10. As to Mr. Dance's support of Mr. Fawcett in having refused escorts, because he would not use his recruits, I entirely disagree on the matter. Mr. Fawcett knew perfectly well that escorts of treasure and prisoners are matters of most urgent importance. He knew that, in every district almost in this year, when escort work has been most abnormally heavy, Superintendents were using every available man to help their reserves. He knows that it always has been the custom to give this assistance when pressure necessitated it and yet he refused escorts which the Accountant-General most urgently required, while he had on his drill ground every morning 60 or 70 recruits perfectly sufficiently trained to do the ordinary beat duty of a Calicut town constable. In fact, so unreasonable was Mr. Fawcett in this matter that he kept some of the Salem reserve to do his escort work for him, while the Salem Superintendent was using every man he could lay his hands upon, and the Calicut drill ground was every day covered with men whom Mr. Fawcett could perfectly well have used. As I told Mr. Fawcett in my order, dated 20th August 1897, he had, in my opinion, acted very wrongly. As to Mr. Dance's remarks that there are so-called trained constables in the reserve who are not fit to be trusted with fire-arms, all I can say is that the Calicut reserve is the best trained and smartest reserve in the Presidency and can hold its own well against any native regiment for drill—a fact which Mr. Fawcett himself is very proud of. One or two useless men there must be in every reserve, but I am perfectly certain that Mr. Dance has no reason whatever to complain of the inefficiency of the reserve. As I told Mr. Fawcett, if the same rule as he wished to apply to his police were to be applied in every district of the Presidency, I should have to ask Government to add at least a thousand men to our reserve force.

11. The weakness of the reserve had nothing whatever to do with the over full state of the sub-jail at Manjéri and any proposed increase to the reserve must be justified on other grounds than this. I myself do believe that it is advisable to add to the Calicut reserve, and I shall address Government on the subject as soon as I have received the report from Mr. Stevenson. He, however, I believe, agrees with me that Mr. Fawcett has not made out a case for the increase of 50 constables, which he asks for. I have made these remarks because Mr. Dance appears to have been mistaken in thinking that the strength of the reserve had anything to do with the escape at Manjéri and because he appears to consider that I am to blame for not having obtained an increase to the reserve. On the other hand, I blame Mr. Fawcett for having, without authority, given up a practice which existed everywhere, under which recruits, after some training, are taken and placed on duty on emergent occasions to fill the places of men sent on escort, and by doing so caused very great inconvenience. It was Mr. Fawcett's duty, especially in this year when every district force has been

strained to the uttermost, to do all he could to carry out the duties thrown on the police in consequence of increased crime and abnormal distress. Instead of this, he went out of his way, without authority, to refuse escorts on the ground that he had no men, when his parade ground contained several recruits quite sufficiently trained to do the duties required of them.

12. I sum up my views as regards the escape. I consider that, in the first place, the fault lay in overcrowding the jail. For this the police cannot be held responsible. If the Sub-Magistrate had done his duty he would, long before August, have drawn the District Magistrate's attention to the matter as the overcrowding of this jail was frequent. The District Magistrate could then have ordered the transfer of cases from the Manjéri Sub-Magistrate to some other Sub-Magistrate and avoided the contingency which occurred. The Divisional Magistrate in inspecting the sub-jail might have noticed the same matter.

I am of opinion, in the second place, that had the ordinary precaution of dividing up the worst batch of prisoners in the way Mr. Wilkinson suggested been taken, the escape would not have occurred.

In the third place, I do not consider that the case in itself shows any reason for increasing the police guard at the sub-jail.

In the fourth place, I do not think that this escape gives any reason for increasing the reserve.

In the fifth place, I think stricter and more definite rules should be issued regarding the duties of sub-jail warders. Certainly no warder should be allowed to open a jail cell without the consent of the constable in charge of the guard.

13. As regards the rest of Mr. Dance's letter, I strongly support his recommendation that Mr. Wilkinson should be exempted from passing in Malayalam according to the higher standard. Mr. Wilkinson, I know, speaks Malayalam fluently and he has had very little time, and will have very little time, to study with a munshi at writing the language. He has done such exceptionally good work during the last three years and more in Malabar, that, in my opinion, he thoroughly deserves some reward. He is not an officer to whom reading and writing a native language is any pleasure. His best work is done out of doors, and almost every officer in the police in Malabar who has had to do with the Mappilla disturbances during the past four years has been rewarded. Mr. Wilkinson has worked as hard as, or harder than, any of them and he has not received any reward beyond thanks. I think he has fairly earned something more substantial, and I should be very pleased if Government would grant him the exemption Mr. Dance asks for.

14. I have already addressed Government on the matter referred to in paragraph 29 of Mr. Dance's letter.

15. Mr. Fawcett and his men, as usual, worked with the greatest energy in hunting down the escaped prisoners. Their efforts were eminently successful. While I do not agree with Mr. Dance in thinking that there is any sufficient ground for supposing that the escaped prisoners wished at the time to "go out" in the sense that fanatics break out, yet, had these men been left a few hours unhunted, they would undoubtedly have done their best to get adherents and probably with success. It may be taken as fairly certain that it was only the activity and smartness of the police which prevented this escape from becoming a very much more serious affair than it turned out to be. I went to Malabar as soon as I heard of the outbreak, and I was able to be of assistance to Mr. Fawcett by carrying on his office work at Calicut for several days while he was after the escaped prisoners. I went to Manjéri before I returned and saw Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Wilkinson there and had much talk with them about the occurrence. Both these officers worked with their accustomed good sense and admirable energy.

Order—No. 247, Judicial, dated 11th February 1898.

In the first of the foregoing papers, the District Magistrate, Malabar, reports on the escape from the Manjéri sub-jail in August last of certain Mappilla prisoners. The circumstances under which a large number of notorious criminals were collected

at the same time in the jail, the method of escape, and the details of the subsequent hunting down and recapture of the gang, are related at length. Of the fourteen prisoners who escaped, one committed suicide, one is still at large and twelve have been retaken and convicted of various offences. Of the arms carried away from the sub-jail, the greater portion has been recovered.

2. With regard to the recaptured prisoners, the District Magistrate will be requested to submit to Government a statement showing the total amount of imprisonment awarded to each, and to report whether, on the expiry of the sentence in each case, it will be safe to permit the convict to return to the district, or whether steps should be taken to deport him.

3. The immediate responsibility for the escape is clearly shown to rest with the warder. Government, however, agrees with the District Magistrate that the courage which this man subsequently displayed may be considered to atone for the original error. He should therefore be granted the reward proposed by Mr. Dance, being at the same time reprimanded for his folly in opening the cell door in the absence of the police guard.

4. The District Magistrate and the Inspector-General of Police differ in their opinions as to the ultimate responsibility for the condition of affairs which rendered escape from the jail so easy. The District Magistrate lays the blame upon the inadequacy of the jail guard, which he again recommends should be increased. The Inspector-General of Police, however, points out that the guard at Manjéri is of the same strength as is provided at other similar stations, and states his opinion—in which the Government concurs—that in this instance the strength or weakness of the jail guard had no connection with the escape Mr. Hammick, on the other hand, considers that the overcrowding in the jail contributed to some extent to the occurrence. It appears that in the sub-jail, which was built to contain only 21 prisoners, 59 persons were actually confined on the 31st of August. Mr. Dance attributes the overcrowding to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a police escort for the removal of prisoners, and therefore strongly supports the recommendation of the Superintendent of Police that the Malabar reserve should be strengthened. The Inspector-General, however, shows that in the present case no requisition for reserve constables to act as escorts was received at Calicut. It appears that, owing to delays on the part of the Sub-Magistrate and the Assistant Superintendent, the application for an escort, which should have been made at latest by the 24th or 25th of August, had not been made at the time the escape took place. The grounds on which the District Magistrate bases his recommendation thus disappear; the question of increasing the reserve will, however, be separately considered.

5. The Public Works department will be requested to take measures for strengthening the bars of the cells. With regard to the skylight, which the District Magistrate desires, it is to be observed that such openings in jails afford considerable opportunities for escape; great care should therefore be taken to see that the skylight is strongly constructed and closely barred. In connection with the general security of this jail the District Magistrate should consider whether a line of palisading, such as is used in regular jails, might not with advantage be provided. It could be arranged so as to form with the cell doors a second fence, the doors of which should not be opened at the same time as the doors of the cells.

6. It remains to congratulate the District Magistrate upon his success in dealing with what might easily have developed into a serious fanatical outbreak, and to record the approval of Government of the excellent arrangements made by Mr. Dance and the expedition with which they were carried out. His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to concur with the District Magistrate in his appreciation of the services rendered by the detachment of the South Stafford Regiment, and of the ability and untiring energy of Messrs. Fawcett and Wilkinson. The District Magistrate recommends that the latter officer, in recognition of the excellent work which he has done on this and on former occasions, should be exempted from the necessity of passing in Malayalam according to the Higher standard. The President of the Board of Examiners agrees with the Inspector-General and the District Magistrate in their estimate of Mr. Wilkinson's practical acquaintance with the vernacular, and the Government will therefore accept the District Magistrate's recommendation.

7. The Government notes with satisfaction the good work done by Inspectors Wiggins, Walter, Rahiman Khan, Cheykutti and Vasava Menon.

8. The District Magistrate will be requested to convey to the Malapuram Tangal the thanks of Government for his valuable assistance in causing the surrender of Elayathodiyil Moidin Kutti.

9. The Kondotti Tangal rendered important service to the authorities in arresting two of the escaped prisoners who were taken under arms. In recognition of this and of his constant loyalty, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to present the Tangal with four silver badges to be worn by his followers. The District Magistrate will be requested to arrange for the supply and presentation of these badges. The directions as to presentation, &c., given in G.O., No. 2837, Judicial, dated 23rd November 1894, should again be followed.

10. The District Magistrate suggests that the Mappilla prisoners in No. 5 cell, who might have escaped but did not do so, should receive some consideration at the hands of Government. Before deciding this matter the Government desires to see, in the case of those prisoners who have since been convicted, the judgments of the courts convicting them.

11. The attention of the District Magistrate will be drawn to the remarks in G.O., No. 2186, Judicial, dated 8th September 1894, regarding uniformity in the spelling of proper names. In the present report considerable confusion is caused by the appearance in two or three different forms of what is evidently intended to be the same name.

(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To the District Magistrate, Malabar.
" Inspector-General of Police.
" Public Works Department.
" Accountant-General.
" President, Board of Examiners, Madras.
" Inspector-General of Prisons.
" Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command, for the information of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces.

Ext. Md. Pahilvan.