M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1064 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 19-12-~~19~~ 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 33. From A. PURVIS, Esq., Magistrate of Rajahmundry; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 3rd December 1857, No. 357.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 25th Ultimo, calling on me to explain, with reference to a letter from Captain Hodson, lately in command of a Detachment of the 7th and 9th Regiments N. I.; First, why I omitted to send out a Dresser to Captain Hodson's Detachment, and, secondly, why I permitted the Troops to be left out in the Jungles at an unhealthy season without any Civil Officer to direct their movements.

2. The first intimation I received from Captain Hodson that he wished a Dresser sent to the party he had at my request detached to the Village named by him, Boottayagoodem, was a demi-official letter, dated the 20th, which reached me on the 22nd October. The only Dresser I could possibly send was the one attached to my Cutcherry, for under the Zillah Surgeon of Rajahmundry there was but one for all the duties of the Station, the usual complement being two. I should have sent off the former at once but he was just at the time in close attendance on my Head Assistant, Mr. Molony, who had returned from the Hills in a bad state of health, and from Captain Hodson's letter I had no reason to conclude that the delay for a day or two would be attended with any serious inconvenience. I had determined however that he should start on the 25th.

3. About daylight of the 25th, I received an express from Captain Hodson bringing to my notice, the state to which his detachment was unhappily reduced from fever, which seems to have broken out very suddenly, and urging it might be withdrawn, in which proposition, as reported in my letter of the 28th October, I had no alternative but at once to acquiesce. He added that the Dresser with his detachment was laid up. On receipt of the letter last referred to the Dresser was sent off to join Captain Hodson forthwith.

4. I cannot but think that Captain Hodson must be under some misapprehension when stating that he delayed sending the party to Bootayagoodem in hopes a Dresser might be sent. The first application I received* from him on the subject was that already alluded to of the 20th October, and, in a letter of the 18th Idem, Captain Hodson informed me that he had not yet sent out the party to the place named, as the men had been lately subject to hard work, saying nothing at all about a Dresser. In my reply of the 22nd to Captain Hodson's letter of the 20th October, I stated, I would, if possible, arrange to send a Dresser to the detachment at Bootayagoodem. The only Dresser available was sent off on the 25th. I respectfully submit that the circumstances of the case are not such as to justify the language used by Captain Hodson in the 3rd para: of his letter, though no one can regret more than myself, the state to which the detachment under his command was for the time reduced.

* *22nd October.*

5. It was originally intended that Captain Hodson's detachment should co-operate with the Company of Sappers and Miners in their endeavours to seize the Marauders, but owing to the delay† in the former reaching its destination the Joint Magistrate, as reported in my letter of the 7th October, thought it inexpedient to wait longer for it. He subsequently made a halt in the Hills for 2 days in the hope of the detachment joining; but this not being the case he advanced still further. Captain Hodson was naturally perhaps disappointed at not finding the party where he expected. Meantime I heard though not from himself, of Captain Hodson's arrival in the Talook. I requested him so to post the detachment under his command as to prevent any attempts of the Hill men to come down into the low country, or towards the line of high road, and begged him to send a party to Boottayagoodem. The Sappers had by this time done all they could and shortly afterwards returned to Dowlaishwarum. No active operations were required of Captain Hodson's detachment and it did not appear to me to be requisite to send either of my European Subordinates to remain with him, though I assured him, if active operations were contemplated, one would join him. I named two places, at either of which I thought his detach-

† NOTE.—*I do not wish to be supposed to attach any blame to the Officer in Command. The roads in the Masulipatam District, where much heavier rain than in this part of the country had fallen, were, I believe, in a sad state.*

ment might conveniently be located, and shortly afterwards told him, that if any place a few miles further South, that is, further from the Hills, seemed to him better suited for the detachment, he was free to move to it. It was not at the time supposed that the climate would be found to be so pestilential, it being generally considered that the cold weather after the rains is the worst season, but the result has unfortunately shown that Troops cannot with impunity be exposed to it. It was the two nights the detachment spent in the Hills, whither it had proceeded in hope of falling in with the party in advance, that, I fear, engendered the fever from which it suffered so much.

(Signed) A. PURVIS,
Magistrate.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, No. 1064; dated 19th December 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Department, in reference to the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in that Department, 10th November 1857, No. 3963.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

No 1064

Ordered to be communicated to the Military Dept in reference to the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in that Dept. 10 Nov/57 No 3963.

Fort St George
19th December 1857

To the Military Department Dated 23d

C12 Dec
1858

Political-1857. Sept. 4
to Dec. 23

To the Magistrate
of
Napanee

To the Secretary of State
for Canada
Ottawa

Kingston 3 December
Rec'd 10 " 1857

No. 355

No 1170. Police

Inclosing Report
of Constables
Cahill, Low and Sabiel
Reports of Constabulary
duties for the 25th
ult. Inclosure No 994

With an order

31—34

Police Reports 1857 No 994