

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	424	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis.~~
Dated	2. 6	~~19~~ 1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 2nd June 1857.

No. 27. Read the following letter from Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 30th May 1857, No. 142.

SIR,

Para: 1. In Extract Minutes of Consultation dated the 15th Instant, No. 382, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council fully concurs in the opinion of the Chief Commissioner of Police as to the non-necessity of forming a Police Station within the ground of the Chepauk Palace, and inquires of me why I recommended the same. I regret that I have not been favored with the views of the Chief Commissioner of Police which have been satisfactory to Government against a compliance with the suggestion in my letter of the 2nd Instant, but I would mention that, when, in the communication just referred to, I applied for a Police Station, I made a wrong request, and my application should have been for Constables to keep the Peace.

2. The Palace grounds are in the very centre of this city ; and of a part of it requiring watching. They are very extensive, being 589 yards from East to West, and 1033 yards from North to South. 443 Houses, valued at Rupees 70,000, are built within the grounds, and the number of Residents there is 2,200. Notwithstanding all this the Chepauk Palace grounds have never yet been regularly visited by the Police ; and, from the long exemption from their inspections, there was an evident impression abroad that the Police could not enter there.

3. On the 2nd and 4th Instant, the following scene occurred, and I am authorized by the Dewan of the Durbar to state that he considers he would have been grievously maltreated, if he had ventured amongst these men, without protection : for, even with the protection of 8 or 9 Constables, the men jumped upon and kicked his palanquin. I go more than that ; I think that his life would have been sacrificed, had he, at any time between the hours of 3 and 5 p. m. of the 4th Instant, ventured amongst these excited men, who, with the intention of only perhaps ill-treating him, would have failed to remember the effects of ill-treatment on a person of the advanced years of this aged man. Their anger against him continues, because of the prevailing belief that it was he who led to their being disarmed on the 27th October last, and nothing that I can tell them, and I have done so repeatedly, will disabuse them of this idea. So late as the 2nd Instant, they asked me in a body, if I had been the cause. I told them all, openly, while all were near me, what I did on the 25th, 26th, and 27th October last ; that I still thought that it was a very proper act ; but whether a good or a bad one, I alone was the person for them to praise or blame.

4. At 2 p. m. of Saturday the 2nd Instant, a small body of the discharged Soldiery of His Highness the late Nabob, presented themselves at the Agency, and demanded of me to hear them as a body, through Talib Beg their Agent. This I declined doing, but intimated that any individual might come forward with his own representation, and a few did present themselves with matters so trivial as to be clearly mere pretence for the advance of some other object. The body shortly became boisterous, and after being repeatedly informed that any individual's representation would be listened to, the Agency doors were, by my orders, closed, in order to allow the work within to be carried on without their interruptions. As this course only rendered them more clamorous, and seemed to convey to them the notion that they were inspiring alarm. I re-opened, wide, the door close to my own desk, which they immediately blocked up, and loudly clamoured for arrears due to their Ancestors ; for their own wages from date of dismissal till now ; for pensions ; and other extravagant demands. There was amongst them an excitement and excitability which the slightest accident or incident might awake into activity of some kind and one such occurred in the following manner. There was one Ex-soldier at the door who ventured to assert that arrears were still due to himself : I immediately ordered him to advance, and gave instant instructions to Rajah Futteh Chund, the Mooshreef of the Bukshee Gheeree, to produce this individual's Accounts. While these were being searched out this Ex-soldier stood, alone, in front, neither speaking nor being spoken to. And at an interval of about four minutes, apparently appalled by the solemn stillness of the office, he, with a scream indicative of intense emotion, and exclaiming that he would not stand alone, rushed amongst his comrades, outside, who as suddenly caught up his excitement and threw themselves and each other into the Agency, with loud tumultuous cries. It was a scene similar to such as I have often witnessed and

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controlled in a Lunatic Asylum, and arose from entirely similar causes, and was in this case overcome similarly, and the men were returned to their position outside.

5. The leaders of this body were the two individuals Ex-gunner Talib Beg, and Ex-lance Naiguc Gholam Khadir, styled Sambur, whose names have been repeatedly mentioned to the Chief Commissioner of Police and to the Government.

The first named repeatedly during that day urging on the men by saying, we shall have pay; what can they do to us; have we stolen any thing, we are few now wait till hundreds more collect in the Evening; we will not leave this without food, and other similar remarks, while of the door way, employing the words of Command "Dress back" as he gave them this military array; and, throughout the whole, this individual continued gesticulating violently, and loudly demanding his pay; stating that he would not leave that day until he got it; and invoking that I should not eat food again until he were first satisfied. All this was easy of control, and with patience it was controlled.

6. On Monday the 4th Instant at 2 p. m., nearly the same small body, with the same two leaders, presented themselves within the Agency Office, Talib Beg bearing in his hand from them a short petition signed "Talib Beg and others" asking for their pay since discharged on the 27th

No. 520 of 1857.
* From Talib Beg, &c.,
Asking for salary from date
they were relieved from
duty.

No. 520 of 1857.
The Right Honorable
the Governor in Council has
not issued an Order for the
same.

(Signed) E. G. BALFOUR,
Government Agent,
Government Agent's Office,
4th May 1857.

them kept from entering by the Sircar Servants and the Guard of Native Soldiers. There was much excitement, gesticulation and clamour, for some time, and at length Gholam Mohamed, an Orderly of the Dewan of the Durbar, appeared before me, and stated from his master that there was great commotion, and that he was prevented going and coming by the body of men collected there. I directed the Orderly to Summon the Police, but before they arrived the noise became greater, a section of the body assembled apart outside the portico and tightened their clothes in he manner customary amongst Eastern Nations when preparing for a great effort. They were evidently preparing for a rush, and not knowing what direction it would take, I considered it advisable to order the Guard of Soldiers over the Records to stand to their Arms.

7. In the meantime, two Police Officers arrived, by whom the turbulent body were induced to move aside from under the Portico; and, considering the Dewan's safety secured for that day, I proceeded to the Police Office where I gave, as my opinion, to the Chief Commissioner, that it would not be safe longer to defer acting, as I believed that the excitement under which Talib Beg and Gholam Cawder labored and were inducing in others, was such as would, without fail, lead to some breach of the peace and to dangerous consequences to some one.

8. I furnished an affidavit on oath to that effect.

9. The Chief Commissioner retained these two men till the third day, and then released them, impressed, as he mentioned to me, with the belief that they had become sufficiently alive to the position in which they had placed themselves, and what had been done was sufficient. Perhaps it was: but I would not have acted so. It is just to bear to the last, with a body of excited men, but the most merciful plan is that which soonest suppresses a commotion.

10. Since then the body have two or three times appealed to His Lordship the Chief Justice; on two occasions advancing in a body within the Hall of Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature, and once presented to His Lordship a petition bearing the names of 196 individuals, all in one hand writing) in which they asked for what they style their arrears of wages, from date of dismissal till now. The same subject as was contained in their petition to me, of the 4th Instant

11. Many of these Ex-soldiers live within the Chepauk Palace grounds, in which the Dewan of the Durbar has daily to come to his duties. When I wrote on the 2nd Instant, I saw that the excitement would increase; it had greatly increased by the 4th Instant, and, so far as I can judge, but from the prompt measures taken then, it would have continued to gather strength. All is perfectly quiet again. The people are very civil and respectful to me, and I hope this state may be permanent; but I know what excitement is, and know to what length to forbear, and I can act as a citizen should the Dewan's safety demand my interference.

(Signed) EDWARD BALFOUR
Government Agent

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, No. 424; dated 2nd June 1857.

Resolved that a copy of this letter be sent to the Commissioner of Police, who, after communication with the Chepauk Agent, will take such measures as appear to him necessary for preserving order and preventing disturbances of the Peace.

(Signed) E. MAUTBY,
Chief of Police

End. J. A. Wilson

Political Dept

1455

From the Government Agent at the point
Carter 30th May 1857

To Orders

a copy of Dr. Hoffman's letter should
be communicated to the Comdr
of the ^{with duty} who ~~the~~ take his temporary
precautions especially to prevent
any similar ebullitions

H
G
1857

108
N^o 424

Resolved that a copy of
the letter be sent to the
Commissioner of Police, who,
after communication with the
Deputy Agent, will take such
measures as appear to him
necessary for preserving order
and preventing disturbances
of the peace.

Y^{rs}

Copy to the Deputy Agent
at Belfast } Sept 2^d

to the Commissioner
of the City } Sept 2^d
of London

perfectly quiet again. The people are ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~respectful~~ and I hope this state may
~~be~~ ^{be} ~~permanently~~ but I know what expec-
~~ta-~~ ^{ta-} ~~tion~~ ^{tion} is and know to what lengths to go
bear. and I can act as a citizen should.
The Dewan's safety demand my inter-
ference.

Govt Agents Office
30th May 1857

I have the honor to

Sir,

Your ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~obedient~~ ^{obedient} ~~servant~~ ^{servant}

J. W. B. a Govt
Government Agent

To

C. Malby Esquire

Actg. Chief Secretary to Government

Fort Saint George