

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 192

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated 10 - 4 - 1861

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
10th April 1861.*

No. 28. Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Government Agent, Tanjore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 3rd April 1861, No. 121.

Paragraph 1. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that, on my return to Tanjore, I received a communication from the Superintendent of Police to the effect that some pieces of gold, a sword presumed to be the property of the Raj and a large sum of money in cash had been found on the persons, and in the houses of certain Sepoys belonging to the Detachment of the 13th Regiment N. I., now at Tanjore. The circumstance was first brought before the Police by Captain Boardman, Commanding the Detachment, and at whose request the houses of the suspected parties were immediately searched and the property above specified discovered.

2. I proceeded at day-break to Tanjore yesterday morning and, on examining the seals of the apartments sealed by the late Commissioner, I found that the lock of the apartment known as the Eswant Mahal (and where a large part of the valuable State property belonging to the late Raja had been deposited by Mr. Phillips) had been tampered with, though the seal remained unbroken. One or two holes had also been burnt in the door and, from the unusual amount of light within the apartment, it was clear that something unusual had occurred. I accordingly opened the door, and on going inside, I found that the gold sheets of the State Haudas had been almost entirely stripped off and also a box containing the State saddlery broken open and the greater part of the gold trappings cut off. As far as I have been able hitherto to ascertain, the loss of property cannot be less than 20,000 Rupees, and as there were 2 sentries within 10 feet of the door both night and day there cannot be a doubt but that the robbery has been effected by the Sepoys and very recently. This is further established by the fact that property amounting to Rupees 1,000 has been already found in the houses of 8 Sepoys, some of which can be identified as State property, and the cash already mentioned there can be little doubt, is the proceeds of the property plundered.

3. I may add that, before quitting Tanjore on leave, I examined, on the 7th March, the whole of the seals placed by Mr. Phillips in the Palace Mahals and found them all as he had left them. I observed particularly the seals of the Eswant Mahal and the Dástán Mahal (where the jewels, &c., are secured) and from the marks on the property destroyed and the holes burnt in the doors of the Eswant Mahal, there can be no doubt but that the robbery has been effected very recently and probably during my absence at Madras.

4. I may also observe, for the information of Government, that I yesterday examined the Dástán Mahal and found the whole of the boxes untouched and as sealed by Mr. Phillips.

5. Eight Sepoys are already in custody and the property recovered amounts, in value, to nearly 1,000 Rupees. I am in great hopes that, with the assistance of the Police, we shall yet be able to recover more.

6. The whole of the Detachment are, I fear, more or less mixed up with the robbery, and there is too much reason to believe that the Native Officers were not unaware of what was going on.

No. 29

ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1861, No. 192.

The Government will expect from the Magistrate of Tanjore a full report of all the circumstances of the robbery of the Eswant Mahal, and of the further proceedings which he may take in the case.

2. Mr. Cadell should open the boxes in the Dástán Mahal, compare their contents with the Catalogues and ascertain beyond doubt whether they are all correct. He should also satisfy himself that no property in deposit has been stolen from any other part of the Palace. He should put on good locks, and take every means for the due security of the property.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Political Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter
from the Govt. Agent
at Soujore. —

Received 3^d April 1861
No. 121.

Order thereon 10th April 1861 No. 192.

I think that something should
be done for the security of
what remains — better look
out for a better means of
securing them. *MD*

W M

U M

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pect from the Magis-
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To the Magistrate of Tain

fore

Depo. 10. 1. 61

J.P.

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J.P.

Wm. L. to Engⁿ 10. Oct 1862
72.8 of 1863.

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No. 1729

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Government.

Dated, 10 April 1861

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6th April