

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rubbie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>885</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>20-7</i>	18 <i>57</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department

20th July 1867.

No. 225. Read the following letter from the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Bombay Castle, 9th July 1867, No. 1255.

General Department.

With reference to your letter, No. 492, dated the 1st May last, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of extract from the Proceedings of this Government, No. 1254 of this day's date, relative to the plunder of the Banghy Mail despatched by transit on the 21st February last from Sholapore Post Office towards Hyderabad.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the General Department, dated 9th July 1867, No. 1254.

Read the following papers :—

Letter from the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay ; dated 1st May 1867, No. 492.

I am directed by the Governor in Council to forward to you the accompanying papers, connected with the plunder of the Banghy Mail despatched by transit on the 21st February last from the Sholapore Post Office towards Hyderabad.

Letters from Postmaster General, dated 14th March and 22nd April 1867, Nos. 1973 and 330.

2. It will be seen that the statement of the Talookdar of Nuldroog, in the Nizam's territory, viz., that the robbery occurred in the Sholapore District, is contradicted by the Assistant Superintendent of Police of that District. As it is desirable that this point should be cleared up, I am directed to request that the Government of Bombay will order an inquiry into the matter.

Letter from the Postmaster General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Bellary, 14th March 1867, No. 1973.

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that intelligence has reached me that the Banghy Mail despatched from the Sholapore Post Office towards Hyderabad on the 21st ultimo, was attacked by highway robbers on the same night, while in transit near the villages of Bramanaud and Tandoolwaree, where a portion of it, consisting of two parcels, was carried off.

2. The scene of the occurrence being in Hyderabad territory, notice has been given to the Resident of Hyderabad.

Letter from the Postmaster General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 22nd April 1867, No. 330.

With reference to my letter, No. 1973 of the 14th ultimo, reporting the plunder of the Banghy Mail on the Sholapore and Hyderabad line on the 21st February last, I have the honor to forward a letter from the Resident of Hyderabad, No. 753, dated 9th instant, and its enclosure, from which it will be perceived that the occurrence is stated not to have taken place in the Hyderabad territory, but in the Sholapore District, which is under the Bombay Presidency. I beg, therefore, that Government may be pleased to refer the matter to the Bombay Government.

2. I should state that in a letter to the Inspecting Postmaster, 3rd Division, No. 84, of the 2nd ultimo, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sholapore, maintains that the robbery did not occur in the Sholapore District, but in the Hyderabad territory.

Letter from the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Postmaster General, Madras ; dated Hyderabad Residency, 9th April 1867, No. 753.

In reply to your letters marginally noted, regarding the plunder of the Banghy Mail despatched by transit from Sholapore on the 21st February last, I have the honor to forward, for your information, English translation of a re-

No. 6423, dated 17th March 1867.
No. 7148, dated 1st April 1867.

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port from the Talookdar of Nuldroog, on the subject of the robbery in question, received through His Highness the Nizam's Minister, and to state that the report quite agrees with the information given at first by the Post Office people as to the occurrence having taken place in the Sholapore District.

2. The Inspecting Postmaster, 3rd or Hyderabad Division, was addressed to the above effect in No. 716, of the 4th instant.

Translation of a report from Talookdar of Zillah Nuldroog, No. 71, dated 20th Zikad 1283H.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the Sirkar's Abkam, No. 102, dated 2nd Zikad 1283, Hijree, giving cover to translation of a letter from the Inspecting Postmaster, regarding the occurrence of a transit robbery in my jurisdiction, of which no report has reached the Sirkar, nor the robbers have been apprehended, and directing me, if the alleged robbery occurred in the Sirkar's territory, to apprehend the robbers and report the same. I accordingly addressed the Ameen of Talook Nuldroog on the subject, and received his reply, No. 101, of the 11th Zikad, to the effect that on inquiry from Ragho Punt, Karkoon of Somasoondrum, Transit Proprietor, it has been ascertained that the robbery in question occurred in the jungles of Booramunee of the Sholapore Collectorate; that on the 21st February 1867, at sunset, 25 packages were in a cart despatched to Hyderabad, in charge of Ali Khan, Chupprasee; that at 10 P. M., Somasoondrum's son with him that he had gone to sleep in the cart, and when awoke found the package opened; that, on inquiry being made, it has been elicited that the Chupprasee, having slept in the cart, two of the packages were robbed; that the torn bag having been repaired, and the Chupprasee placed under surveillance were sent on to Hyderabad; and that, had the robbery really taken place in the Sirkar's territory immediate report would have been made. It will be seen then, from the Ameen's report as above given, that the robbery did not occur in the Sirkar's territory, and I submit the same for the Sirkar's information.

Letter from the Officiating Postmaster General; dated 16th May 1867, No. 2353.

As the Bombay Postal Circle terminates at Sholapore, I regret my inability to furnish, with certainty, the information called for in your communication, No. 911, dated 13th instant.

2. The first report which reached this office was dated 24th February from the Postmaster of Sholapore, who heard from the city receiving Clerk at Omergha that the Banghy Mail had been plundered about midnight on the 21st February "between Booramunee and Tandoolwaree," and the subsequent inquiries by the Postmaster General, Madras, would seem, from the enclosure of your docket under reply, to have corroborated this information.

3. I would venture to suggest that the Assistant Magistrate at Sholapore be directed to state the grounds on which he asserts that the robbery took place out of the Sholapore District, and, if His Excellency sees fit, I will ask the Postmaster General of Madras, if he has not done so already, to send an official to the spot to clear up all doubt.

4. Awaiting further directions.

Memorandum by the Commissioner of Police, S. D.; dated 20th June 1867, No. 1193.

The Commissioner of Police, S. D., has the honor to state that, in his Diary for the 25th February last, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sholapore, mentioned the occurrence of this robbery, upon which a reference was made to the Superintendent of Police, Poona, and a report was received, which showed that the robbery was committed within the limits of His Highness the Nizam's territory. The Commissioner of Police, therefore, addressed the Resident at Hyderabad on the 9th April, and forwarded to him, for such notice as he might consider necessary, a copy of the correspondence that passed between the Superintendent of Police, Poona, and this office on the subject.

2. On receipt of the Government reference under reply, finding that the Resident at Hyderabad, in his letter of the 9th April to the Postmaster General, Madras, has expressed his opinion that the robbery in question did not take place within the limits of His Highness the Nizam's ter-

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ritory, but within the Sholapore District, the Commissioner of Police again addressed the Superintendent of Police, Poona, requesting him to make a full and careful inquiry into the matter, and to report the result.

3. The Commissioner of Police has now received from Major Henderson a letter No. 651, dated 15th instant, with a report from Lieutenant Stock, dated 10th idem; and in submitting these in original, for the information of Government, the Commissioner of Police begs to state that he concurs with these Officers in considering that there can be no doubt that the robbery in question did occur in the Hyderabad territory.

Letter from Major J. H. HENDERSON, Acting Superintendent of Police, Poona, to the Commissioner of Police, S. D., dated 15th June 1867, No. 651.

Agreeably to your Memorandum, No. 1006 of the 22nd May 1867, having called on Lieutenant Stock, I do myself the honor to append that Officer's report in original, which seems to me to clear up any doubts there may have been regarding the territory in which the attack on the Mail cart is said to have been committed.

2. The arrangements alluded to in Lieutenant Stock's paragraph for the constant patrolling the road by Policemen, both mounted and on foot, and the careful supervision exercised by the Police Officer in charge of the Sholapore Talook, appear to me to be wanting in no respects, and if an attack, such as is said to have been committed on the Mail cart, had taken place in British territory within the limits where measures as above are in force, a report would have been at once made to the Police by the servants of the Contractor, either at Tandoolwaree or some one of the posts between that place and Sholapore. It will be perceived from Lieutenant Stock's report that no such report was made to the Police.

3. I quite concur with Lieutenant Stock in thinking the statement of Ali Khan, Chupprasee, that the attack was committed by whom ~~whom~~ ^{whom} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~asleep~~ ^{was} ~~totally~~ ^{totally} ~~unreliable~~ ^{unreliable} and strongly suspect that this Chupprasee must be in some way mixed up in the affair, and a party probably to the abstraction of the lost packages from the Mail cart.

Letter from Lieutenant F. T. STOCK, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sholapore, to the Superintendent of Police, Poona; dated 10th June 1867, No. 192.

On receipt of your letter, No. 592 of 1867, together with letter No. 1006 of 1867, from the Commissioner, S. D., requesting that all further doubt as to the question of in whose territory the robbery of the Banghy Mail from Sholapore to Hyderabad occurred, I have the honor to state that, with as little delay as possible, I removed my camp from Munewunchee and Tandoolwaree. On my arrival at the latter place, I commenced and made a most searching investigation into the matter. From the information gleaned I am enabled to reiterate my former statement, that the robbery did not occur in the Sholapore territory. I called up before me the driver of the cart whose stage was from the temple of Bramanaud to the village of Itkal, situated in the Nizam's dominions, and about three miles on the further side of Tandoolwaree; as it was in his stage that the robbery was said to have taken place, I questioned him most closely as to whether Ali Khan, the Chupprasee, slept or not during his stage. He answered my questions in a clear and decided manner, stating that shortly after leaving Bramanaud Ali Khan not only commenced talking to him, but was ~~carelessly~~ ^{carelessly} ~~urging~~ ^{urging} him forward by telling him to drive on faster, and saying "go on," "go on," and using other expressions which indicated that an increased rate of speed was desirable. This was hardly in accordance with the silence maintained by men when in sound slumber. It appears that the Chupprasee kept this up the whole way to Itkal. Therefore, it is clearly shown that the Chupprasee was not asleep during the stage in which the robbery was said to have taken place.

2. Besides this, even allowing that the robbery did occur in the place stated, i. e., between Bramanaud and Tandoolwaree, on arriving at Itkal and stepping down from the cart he would have been able to perceive that something was wrong with the cart, and on discovering that a robbery had taken place, why did he not at once return to Tandoolwaree and inform the Police and Sowars that are stationed there.

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3. In addition to this, how the Mail cart could be opened and robbed when the Chupprasse himself was sitting on the only opening to the cart, or how he would have slept through his being lifted up and taken off the cart, which it would have been necessary to do prior to its being opened and robbed, seems indeed most marvellous.

4. Finally, the precautions taken by me to prevent these attempts being made upon the Mail cart are of such a description that if the Sowars and Police stationed between Sholapore and Tandoolwarce exercise even the most ordinary vigilance, the fact of such robberies occurring is reduced to almost an impossibility.

The precautions are as follow :—

At the village of Molegaon, distant from Sholapore five miles, two Sowars are stationed; these patrol between that village and Sholapore.

At the village of Booramunee, 8 miles from Sholapore, two more Sowars are placed, and one Naique and one Policeman; these patrol between Booramunee and Molegaon. At Tandoolwaree, 12 miles from Sholapore, five Sowars, one Naique, and two Policemen, are stationed; these patrol between Tandoolwaree and Booramunee, and also one mile beyond Tandoolwaree.

With such precautions a robbery cannot well occur, or occurring, as aid can be got from either of these three places, if but common despatch is used by the informers it would be extremely difficult for the perpetrators of the deed to escape detection.

I, therefore, now entertain the hope that these reasons will be considered sufficient, and that no further doubt will remain as to the territory in which the robbery was committed.

RESOLUTION.—Copies of this correspondence to be communicated to the Government of Fort Saint George.

Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded to
The Government of Fort Saint George (by letter).
The Police Commissioner, S. D.
The Postmaster General, Bombay.

(Signed) H. E. JACOMB,
For Acting Chief Secy. to Govt.

No. 226. ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1867, No. 885.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing letter, and of the Proceedings therein referred to, be furnished to the Postmaster General, with reference to his letters dated the 14th March and 22nd April last, Nos. 1973 and 330, and that he be requested to communicate the same to the Resident of Hyderabad.

(True Extract.

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster General.

20th July 1867 H-885.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing letter, and of the Proceedings therein referred to, be furnished to the Postmaster General with reference to his letters dated the 14th March & 22nd April last, Nos. 1973 and 330, and that he be requested to communicate the same to the Resident of Hyderabad.

W.D.
To the Postmaster General
14th March
22nd April
Nos. 1973 and 330