

Public Works (1898) Department

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 201. *Ry*

DATED *4th Feby 1898.*

[Despatch Abstract.]

Negapatam Riots

Pres. Inol Dept. passing orders on the report
relating to the disturbances which took place
at Negapatam in October 1896. Commanded the Agent
S.D. for info & forward of report as the measures
to prevent the recurrence of such a breach
of public peace.

Indexed.

1/3/98

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

} 1898.

Spare copies

to A

JANUARY.

Passing orders on the report relating to the disturbances which took place at Negapatam in October 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From the Public Works Department, Railway Branch, dated 1st April 1897,
No. 1835-C.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding, for favour of disposal, letter from the Agent, South Indian Railway, requesting that, in connection with the judgment in the case of the Negapatam Railway riot, a Government inquiry may be held to investigate the action taken by him and Mr. Bruce in the matter.

From the Acting District Magistrate, Tanjore, dated 13th April 1897, Ref. on
Cur. No. 874-Magl.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting his report on the result of the Negapatam riot cases and recommending fees to Government Pleader, Tanjore, in connection therewith.

ORDER—No. 110, Judicial, dated 19th January 1898.

The papers read above relate to the disturbances which took place at Negapatam in October 1896. In September of that year the employés in the South Indian Railway workshops, dissatisfied with the regulations under which they served, struck work. Negotiations ensued, but without any conclusive result, and events culminated in a serious riot in which a considerable amount of railway property was destroyed. The Head Assistant Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, with a small body of police, were surrounded and attacked by the crowd, and were forced in self-defence and to stop further acts of violence to fire upon the rioters. Troops were subsequently called in from Trichinopoly, and order was restored. The ringleaders of the riot were arrested and charged before the Sessions Judge of Tanjore who, after a careful trial, convicted 84 persons and sentenced them to imprisonment for periods varying from one month to two years and-a-half.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council desires to express his appreciation of the conduct of Mr. Marjoribanks, the Head Assistant Magistrate, and Mr. Agar, the District Superintendent of Police, under somewhat difficult and trying circumstances. The loss of life caused by firing upon the rioters is to be regretted, but the Government entirely agrees with the opinion expressed by the Sessions Judge, in the note appended to his judgment, that the order to fire was fully justified. The Government also notes with satisfaction the manner in which the prosecution of the case was conducted, which was creditable to all concerned.

3. Into the origin of the strike and the action of the local railway officials, the Government does not propose to enter; that is a matter for the consideration of the railway authorities themselves. Looking, however, to the dangerous nature of the disturbance and the still more serious results which would probably have ensued had it not been for the prompt action of the district officers, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers it necessary to inquire what steps the authorities of the South Indian Railway propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such a breach of the public peace.

4. The judgment of the Sessions Court and the letter of the District Magistrate contain certain reflections on the conduct of the Revd. T. E. Darvall in connection with this affair. The Government understands that Mr. Darvall is about to be removed from Negapatam, and it is therefore, under the circumstances, unnecessary to express any opinion as to his behaviour.

5. A fee of Rs. 4,000 will be paid to the Public Prosecutor for his services in the case. The allowance of Rs. 110 proposed by the District Magistrate for M.R.Ry. C. S. Ramasami Aiyar is approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

For Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
" District Magistrate, Tanjore.
" Inspector-General of Police.

Copy to Public Department.
" N. E. Marjoribanks, Esq., I.C.S.
" Accountant-General.

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No. 201. Sd. dated 4/2/98. Ry. Branch

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following.

Progs. of the Madras } Hb. No. 110 of 19 January 1898
 Govt. Judicial Depto. }

Communicated to
 the Agent S. I. Railway with
 reference to his letter No. 326
 dated 22nd March 1897 for information
 + favour of report with reference
 to para 3 of the G. O. read above.

Serial 27

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To
 the Agent S. I. Ry.
 - - - - - Consgrs for Ry.

Despatched 3/2/98