

Revenue Department

No 328

Enter 15 — 3 — 1859

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 72. Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam ; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government Fort St. George ; dated Berhampore 28th February 1859, No. 28.

SIR,

Para. 1. I have lately received through the Board of Revenue an Extract Minutes Consultation dated 25th January 1859, No. 327, communicating to the Board an Extract from a letter addressed to Government by the Quarter Master General of the Army ; in which it is stated that Government approve the withdrawal of the Regiment from Berhampore to the Divisional Head Quarters.

2. I conceive it to be my duty to state that if a Regiment is not maintained at Berhampore, it will be absolutely necessary for the security of the district to station one elsewhere in this neighbourhood.

3. The grounds on which I state this opinion are not of a kind likely to have come under the notice of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, or of the General Commanding the Division, and I much regret that the former found it inconvenient or inexpedient to extend his tour to this district. Had such an occasion afforded me the opportunity of communicating with His Excellency, I should have explained to him the peculiar circumstances to which I now think it right to request the attention of the Government.

4. The Zemindary estates which form so large a portion of this district, maintain a body of armed peons numbering in all some thousands. These men hold lands on feudal tenure under the Zemindars, and are charged with the security of their estates from incursions either by neighbouring Zemindars or the independent hill tribes which surround this district to the North and West.

5. These men are not always entirely under the control of their chiefs, but their conduct is not generally turbulent except in cases of disputes regarding boundaries and water courses, and they are no doubt restrained and kept in order by the consciousness that superior force is at hand if necessary to coerce them.

6. To withdraw the troops from this part of the country however would alter the position of these samustanum peons very much, and cause great apprehension among merchants and householders who still remember the state of disorganization and anarchy which prevailed in this very talook (Moherry) before its annexation.

7. The withdrawal of regular troops from Russelcondah is perhaps of less importance, as irregular troops are on the spot and the removal of the regiment would not leave the station unprotected.

8. If however the Supreme Government are disposed to make trial of a different system in their attempts to put an end to Meriah sacrifices among the Khond tribes within our limits, the two companies of Sebundies at present attached to the Meriah Agency if transferred to the small body already maintained at Russelcondah under command of a Military Assistant, Captain Smith, would render that force sufficiently strong for the security of the province of Goomsur without other aid, while the establishment of one or two additional police stations on the borders of the Khond country supported by detached parties of sebundies would operate with probably as much success as the present system of annual tours, on the hill tribes.

9. I have to apologize for the introduction of this subject, but the importance of avoiding additional expenditure has led me to point out an arrangement which would leave a Regiment at the disposal of Government without risking the security of Goomsur, which from its position and antecedents it is particularly important should remain tranquil.

10. I should have deferred addressing the Government until called upon to express my views were it not that references occupy so long a time at this distance from Madras, and that new arrangements are understood to be at this moment occupying the attention of Government.

No. 73. ORDER THEREON, No. 328 ; dated 15th March 1859.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation in that Department dated 25th January 1859, No. 327.

(Signed) W. C. SIM,
Ag. Dy. Secretary to Government.

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Gajani District
Collectors Circular Office
Berhampore 25th February 1859

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

C. D. J. J.
Collector

Ed.
J. Waramiah
M. J. J. J.

Cons: 8th of Aug 1859 No. 89.

No 328.

Directed to be refer-
red to the Military Depart-
ment with reference to the return
of Gen: in that Department etc.

20th January 1859 et c 327

W. H. C.

Part 328.

15th March 1859

Col: Mac to the Major

Part 328.

Revenue 859 Report
Cons: 15th March 1859 No. 328.

The Collector

To the Secretary

The Secretary to

Government

For the 1859

Dated 28th February

Received 11th March 1859

No 328.

Regarding and arrange

ment in connection with

the removal of the Department

Headquarters at Oorhaugford

Extract from the 1859 Report
Cons: 15th March 1859 No. 328.

Part 328. 15th March 1859

With the order

No 22079.