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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	~~58~~ (5)	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	Sp. 1	1873 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 106. Read the following letter from the Acting Magistrate of Ganjam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Aska, 13th November 1872, No. 1955:—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, copy of a letter, No. 693, dated the 30th September last, received from the Acting Superintendent of Police, and to state that the man Bodro, therein referred to, is a Sowrah residing in the Suranghy Maliahs, who has committed several murders, and for whose apprehension Mr. Master sent a warrant with a furwan to the Suranghy Zemindar so far back as November 1871, to which the Zemindar has sent no reply. He seems to have paid not the slightest attention to Mr. Master's communication, and has not captured Bodro. Bodro lately waylaid, wounded, and robbed a carpenter of all he had because he did work for the Police Guard employed to watch him. The Zemindar is so far from being willing to render any assistance to the Magistracy or Police in the matter, that there are strong reasons to believe that he gives Bodro all the assistance in his power, and especially so fast as the Police capture his muskets the Zemindar supplies him with new ones. The Superintendent of Police thinks that, unless the Zemindar be compelled to pay with arrears, from January last, the expense caused to Government by keeping a Police Guard specially stationed in the Suranghy Maliahs for Bodro's capture, or be temporarily removed from his zemindary to Chetterpore, it will be impossible to capture Bodro. I have, therefore, sent a fresh warrant with a furwan to the Suranghy Zemindar, pointing out to him that, under paragraph 10 of his ~~hukuk~~ instrument of assent and agreement to the Sanad-i-Milkiat Istimrar, he is bound to assist Government officers in apprehending and securing offenders of all descriptions, and to inquire and give notice to Magistrates concerning all robbers or disturbers of the public peace who may be found or may seek refuge in his zemindary, and telling him that, unless he apprehend Bodro within fifteen days from the date of the receipt of my furwan, his conduct will be brought to the notice of Government. He has not answered this letter, or, as far as I can learn, taken the least notice of it, and he has not arrested Bodro. I quite agree with Captain Pickance in thinking that the Suranghy Zemindar could capture Bodro if he wished, and that it is nonsense his pretending to be unable to lay hold of one of his own people. No attempt was made to capture Bodro by the Zemindar's people when he cut a man down in the Suranghy Bazaar because he would not sell his goods at the price offered by Bodro. Captain Pickance has made several raids in person after Bodro, but without success and without the least assistance from the Zemindar. It is not good for the public interests that a man like Bodro should in their way laugh at Government, and that a man in the position of the Suranghy Zemindar should abet him in so doing. I, therefore, request that, under these circumstances, Government will be pleased to authorize me to recover from the Zemindar the pay, &c., of the Police Guard specially detached for Bodro's capture, with arrears from January last, or to order the Zemindar to come into Chetterpore, unless I see fit to proceed against him under Sections 176 and 187 of the Indian Penal Code.

From Captain W. J. PICKANCE, Acting Superintendent of Police, Ganjam District, to the Acting Agent and Collector of Ganjam, dated Chetterpore, 30th September 1872, No. 693.

I regret to have to inform you that my present expedition to arrest the arch murderer Bodro appears to be as unsuccessful as the two former ones undertaken on his behalf. He simply laughs

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th December 1872.*

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19th December 1872.

at us. I have now the honour to submit what appears to me the reason for his immunity from capture.

2. A mistake has been made in for a moment allowing the alleged impotency of the Suranghy Zemindar to effect his capture if he choose. On my arrival here I found on good authority Bodro was (and had been for some time) living quietly within two-and-a-half miles of the Suranghy Fort dividing his time between his mother's plantation on the Palasapore Hill and his own on the opposite one (Hisalapore), where, with his three wives, Jery, Toby, and Jemaonah, he led a happy little life, confident in the power of his patron to shield him from our futile attempts to arrest him.

3. The principle that Zemindars, heads of clans, &c., are unable to arrest any one of their own people who may be wanted is one that never up to this time has been allowed, and is, in fact, scouted by all to whom I have spoken on the subject. My present host, the Bissoyi of Toombah, a fine old specimen of the Ganjam aristocracy (who is aiding me by every means in his power to obtain information of my friend's whereabouts) scorns the idea that he could not lay his hand on any one of the Sowrahs under his sway who might be wanted by the Sirkar. He instances the case of the late Chief of Jaluntra; one of his people was wanted, he was caught and brought to the Zemindar, who, for his own purposes, allowed him to escape; the then Collector of Ganjam invited the Zemindar to Chetterpore; he went and was desired to remain there till this evasive party was again arrested and brought in, which event speedily came off. I am assured the same tactics with Suranghy would promptly lead to the consummation of our desires.

4. Should this not appear feasible, I beg to suggest that the Suranghy Zemindar should be requested to pay monthly with arrears, from 1st January 1872, the cost of the guard which has been specially located at Boduragam to effect this outlaw's capture. Since June last one Inspector and fourteen men have done nothing but hunt this rascal; when they did get information of his whereabouts, it was only to find he had evacuated the spot a few hours previous to their surrounding it, as, thanks to the Zemindar's support, the guard could not move in any direction without the news being at once carried to the gentleman most interested in their movements. Their most trusted spy was found to be also one of Bodro's firmest friends, and invariably communicated what was planned to that wily individual. From the Inspector down to the 2nd Class Constable, they are nearly all out of pocket by him, and are as mad as Hatters. Since writing the above an unfortunate carpenter has appeared before me who did some work for the temporary guard located in Bodro's village; this exciting the wrath of our friend he waylaid the carpenter, robbed him of all he had, broke his head, laid a tuncy across his neck, and threatened him within an inch of his life. The carpenter is now guiding another party in search of this redoubtable individual, but I have no hopes of their success.

5. I may mention I was after him with a large party the other night leaving at 9 p.m. and not getting back to camp till 3 p.m. the following day, well sold and dead beat after a raid over most fearful country.

No. 107.

ORDER THEREON, 19th December 1872, No. 1662.

The Governor in Council resolves to direct the Acting Collector of Ganjam to summon the Suranghy Zemindar to Ganjam, and there notify to him, by order of Government, that, by the terms of the sanad on which he holds his estate, he is bound to aid and assist the Government officers in apprehending and securing offenders of all descriptions on pain of forfeiting his Zemindary, and that, unless he shall render active and efficient assistance to the Police for the capture of the outlaw Bodro, it will be necessary to take action under these conditions.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
19th December 1872.

2. The Collector will report the result, and will at the same time state who the next heir to the estate, supposing the succession to follow the ordinary course.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

to the Collector of Ganjam. ✓
" Revenue Department.
" Inspector-General of Police.

6 To the Board of Revenue, Bangalore

Muzum Dept

Govt. of 1872

JUDICIAL

No. 4093

THE COLLECTOR OF CANAL

Secy.

Dated December, 1871.

Recd.

26

G. O. 19th December 1872, No. 1063.

RECEIVED
Nos. 106-107.

Issuing instructions to the Acting Collector of
Gauhati with the view of causing the Shikhar
Zemindar to render every assistance to the Police
for the capture of the outlaw Bodo.

#5

1-10-73