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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th January 1873.*

No. 147. Read the following letter from the Acting Inspector-General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 30th December 1872, No. 4,420 :—

WITH reference to G. O. No. 1,582 of 19th November 1872, calling for report on the misconduct of the Cuddapah Police in the case of theft of the Sub-Magistrate's Cash Chest, I have the honour to submit the following observations :—

2. A very careful inquiry was at once made on the spot by the Deputy-Inspector-General, Captain Balmer, and Captain Blair temporarily in charge of the district. The latter immediately wrote to the District Magistrate, reporting the occurrence, and a more detailed official report was promised after further inquiry, and should have been sent. Captain Kilgour, the Acting Superintendent, who rejoined from privilege leave a few days after the occurrence, appears responsible for the non-performance of this duty—an omission which, though much to be regretted, no doubt arose from the bad state of that officer's health prior to his departure. Before he (Captain Kilgour) left on sick certificate for England, Captain Balmer, on learning that no further communication had been made to the Magistrate, directed Captain Blair to forward to that officer a copy of the report which had meanwhile been sent to me by Captain Kilgour, and which is published in the Proceedings under reference. This was about the 20th August.

3. Captain Kilgour's further investigation elicited nothing. The conclusions come to by the Deputy-Inspector-General were that Constable 277, Nursiah, had *not* been relieved by Constable 799, Mahomed Cassim, as stated, but that he was certainly asleep on his post between one and two o'clock as stated in paragraph 12 of the report. For this offence he was dismissed the service.

4. He might certainly have been placed before a Magistrate for this neglect of duty, but I am doubtful if a more severe punishment would have been judicially awarded.

5. It being impossible to ascertain when the box was really stolen, the local officers did not deem it advisable to prosecute Constable 799, Mahomed Cassim, against whom there was suspicion only on which no conviction could have been expected. Opinions will vary as to the correctness of taking criminal proceedings in cases of this kind, but it appears better to leave the decision on that point to the officers on the spot, unless there is something on the record to show they were in error, which did not, as far as I could judge, seem to be so in this instance.

6. The truth would probably have come out had it not been for the haste with which the Sub-Magistrate examined several of the Constables on oath immediately after the theft was reported. In the first alarm every man was anxious to clear himself by showing that it did not occur in his watch, and each man afterwards adhered to his first statement.

7. There was no doubt much want of system and order in the station, and the whole transaction was very disgraceful. I have myself since visited Cuddapah, and matters have, it is hoped, been put on a better footing. But no Cash Chest or other valuable property should have been kept in the middle of a town in a perfectly open shed, even if misalled a Police Station-house. The Government

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are, however, probably aware that Cuddapah is as far behind in its public buildings as in some other respects, Police not excepted. The district gives cause for much anxiety both as to its officers and men, and some special measures will, I believe, have to be adopted. I am carefully watching events, the effect of the late reductions here and elsewhere, and in due course will report results to Government.

No. 148.

ORDER THEREON, 20th January 1873, No. 73.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur with the Board that Constable No. 277 should have been criminally prosecuted for sleeping at his post. He was dismissed from the Force, and the Inspector-General doubts "if a more severe punishment would have been judicially awarded." This remark is not understood; the sentence of the Magistrate would, of course, have been in addition to the dismissal. Such prosecution, it is however observed, did not depend solely upon the view taken of the case by the superior officers of the department, it being open to the Magistrate to take cognizance of the offence, *proprio motu*.

2. The question of the inefficiency of the Police buildings in Cuddapah, where the Station-house in the chief town is described as 'a perfectly open shed,' will be referred for consideration in the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Board of Revenue.

No. 4420

Chief Office of the Inspector General of Police,

Madras, 30 December 1872

From

^{ag.}
The Inspector General of Police.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,

Enclosures

With reference to G. O.

No. 1582 of 19th November 1872

Calling for report on the misconduct of the Cuddapah Police in the case of Theft of the Sub-Magistrate's Cash Chest, I have the honor to submit the following observations.

2. A very careful inquiry was at once made on the spot by the Deputy Inspector General Captain Palmer and Captain Blair temporarily in charge of

of the District, the latter immediately wrote to the District Magistrate reporting the occurrence and a more detailed official report was promised after further inquiry and should have been sent. Captain Kilgour the acting Superintendent who rejoined from privilege leave a few days after the occurrence, appears responsible for the non performance of this duty - an omission which though much to be regretted no doubt arose from the bad state of that Officer's health prior to his departure. Before he ^(Captain Kilgour) left on Sick Certificate for England, Captain Palmer on learning that no further communication had been made to the Magistrate, directed

directed Captain Blair to forward to that Officer a copy of the report which had meanwhile been sent to me by Captain Kilgour and which is published in the Proceedings under reference. This was about the 20th August.

3. Captain Kilgour's further investigation elicited nothing. The conclusions come to by the Deputy Inspector General were that Constable 277 Nursiah had not been relieved by Constable 799 Mahomed Cassim as stated but that he was certainly asleep on his post between one and two o'clock as stated in para 12 of the report. For this offence he was dismissed the service.

4. He might certainly have been

been placed before a Magistrate for this neglect of duty, but I am doubtful if a more severe punishment would have been judicially awarded.

5. It being impossible to ascertain when the box was really stolen the local officers did not deem it advisable to prosecute Constable 799 Mahomed Cassim against whom there was suspicion only on which no conviction could have been expected.

Opinions will vary as to the correctness of taking Criminal proceedings in cases of this kind, but it appears better to leave the decision on that point to the officers on the spot, unless there is something on the record to show they

they were in error which did not as far as I could judge seem to be so in this instance.

6. The truth would probably have come out had it not been for the haste with which the Sub-Magistrate examined several of the Constables on oath immediately after the theft was reported. In the first alarm every man was anxious to clear himself by showing that it did not occur in his watch and each man afterwards adhered to his first statement.

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Police not excepted. The
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of the late reductions here and
elsewhere

elsewhere, and in due
course will report results
to Government.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your most obedient servant
W. W. Davis
Ag. Inspector General of Police

19 November 172 No 121-122

No 40.

November 1872 Sept

Received by day

From
The Supr General
of Police

To
The Chief Secretary
to Govt
Mr. George

Dated 30 December 1872
Recd 11 Jan 1873.

No 4420

For the 20 January 1873
with a report
on the misconduct
of the Buddapash
Police in the case of
Thpt of the sub mag
Caul Chhet.

C. 115 Aug 13. R. 17: Aug 13

I have the honor to
to Government.
Government will report.
Government are in the

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to the Judge Sept 1

to referred for

12/11/1872

#73. 20 Jan 73.

Read letter from Insp Genl
of Police

No 4420 d/30-12-72-

The Govt enquire into the Vtd Constable No 277 who have been criminally prosecuted for sleeping at his post. He was dismissed from the Force, and the Insp Genl. ~~has~~ doubts "if a more severe punishment would have been judiciously awarded". This ~~Govt~~ remark

is not understood; the sentences of the Magt. who of course have been in addition to the dismissal.

Such prosecution, it is however observed, did not depend solely upon the view taken of the case by the superior Officers of the Dept, it being open to the Magt. to take cognizance of the offence, provis mtr.

2. The question of the inefficiency of the Police Building, in Cuddalore, where the Station House in the chief town is described as 'a perfectly open shed' will be referred for consideration in the Judicial Dept. 13/1/73.

IdS

1. To the Inspector General of Police
2. The Board of Revenue
3. The Judge of the District

Handwritten notes at top of page:
The suddapah
Public Cash & Co. Ltd.
Protheng -

Govt. of 118731 Mysore.

REVENUE.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL

OF POLICE.

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated January 20th.

Recd.

And.

G. O., 20th January 1873, No. 73.

JANUARY.

Nos. 147-148.

Robbery of Public Cash Chest in Cuddapah.

—Report of the Inspector-General of Police on this subject with observations thereon. The question regarding the inefficiency of the Police buildings in Cuddapah referred to the Judicial Department for consideration.