

*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 misnamed a Police Station-house. The Government

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

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. 118. 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

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 mis-
conduct 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 Narsiah 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.

7. There was no doubt much want of system and order in the station and the whole transaction was very disgraceful. I have myself

myself since visited
Guddapah 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
mis-called a Police Station
House. The Government are
however probably aware
that Guddapah 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 effects
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. K. R. S.
Ag. Inspector General of Police

19 November 1721 121-122

No 40.

November 1873. Sept

From

The Super General
of Police

The Chief Secretary

to Govt

Mr. George

Dated 30 December 1873

Recd 11 Jan 1874

1873 1420

1873 20 January 1873

in view of a report

on the misconduct

of the Buddafrack

Police in the case of

theft of the and bags

and chest.

C. 15th July 1873. P. 17: 1873

#73. 20 May 73.

Read letter from Insp. Genl.
of Police

No 4420 d/30-12-72-

The fact concerning the 1st Lt. Constable No 277 who had been criminally prosecuted for sleeping at his post. He was dismissed from the Force, and the Insp. Genl. ~~has~~ ^{has} doubt to "if a more severe punishment would have been judiciously awarded". This ~~last~~ ^{last} remark ~~is~~ ^{is} not understood; the sentences of the Magt. ~~was~~ ^{was} 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 depot, it being open to the Magt. to take cognizance of the offence, propter motu.

Ins

2. The question of the inefficiency of the Police Buildings in Cuddalore, where the Station House in the chief town is described as 'a perfectly open shed' will be referred for consideration in the Annual Rep. 15/1/73.

1. To the Inspector General of Police, Madras.
14. The Board of Revenue
5. The Judge of the

Col. of 1873

REVENUE.

To

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL

OF POLICE,

cc, cc, cc.

Dated January 20th.

Recd.

and

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

JANUARY.

103. 127. 148.

Robbery of Public Cash Office at Galloway.
—Report of the Inspector-General of Police on
this subject with observations thereon. The ques-
tion regarding the propriety of the Police
officers in Galloway referred to the Judicial
Department for consideration.