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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1059

Press
Mis.

Dated

19.5.1875 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
5th May 1875.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 37. From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., District Magistrate of Malabar, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 10th April 1875.

I have the honor to inform you that, with reference to G.O., 23rd April 1874, No. 747, a sum of 42,000 Rupees has been collected as fines from the Kolatur and Parai Amshon. A sum of about 2,000 Rupees will from various causes have to be remitted, details of which will be submitted hereafter, and a sum of 2,000 Rupees remains uncollected, but likely eventually to be realized at all events in part.

2. Of this sum the amount already awarded by the orders in question was 5,500.

Regarding the remainder final orders are now required. In paragraph 13b, it was resolved to refer to the Military Department, for the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, the case of the European soldier Rodgers to whom it was proposed by me that compensation should be awarded. The results of the reference have not been communicated, but I have ascertained from Captain Vesey that the man has been invalided in consequence of the wound, and that he is at present employed in the Corps of Commissionaires in London, to which Captain Vesey's father obtained him admission. A sum of money would be of great service to him, as, by depositing it as security with the Managers of the Corps, he would be eligible for posts of greater trust and responsibility, and therefore more highly remunerated than at present. I therefore request sanction to pay him a sum of one hundred pounds from the balance of fines in hand, remitting the amount to him through Captain Vesey, who is at present in England with the Depôt.

3. There appears to me an objection to the proposal to devote the remainder to elementary local education in the immediate neighbourhood of Parai. The scheme of elementary Moplah education which is now in operation throughout the district has achieved a fair measure of success, and the result is mainly owing that there has been no active opposition raised by the priesthood. Care has of course been taken to avoid anything calculated to challenge such opposition, or to afford a handle for bringing such opposition to bear. I cannot doubt, however, that there are among the priests many who view the movement with disfavor, and who would only too gladly seize on any argument likely to assist them in an attack on it. The adoption of such a marked course as the organization from the fines of a system of elementary education in the locality of the outbreak will be regarded by many as a declaration on the part of Government that education is the direct antidote for fanaticism.

A blow may thus be struck at the Moplah elementary education system of the whole province, and much of the ground already gained may be lost. How easily a school may be emptied was proved some three years ago in the case of the Cottayam school, the only one of the old rate schools that was at all resorted to by Moplahs. It had at one time thirty or forty Moplah boys, but owing to the fact of a Moplah priest visiting the locality and preaching against the school, the attendance suddenly fell off and has not since risen.

4. I am myself disposed to recommend the construction of a good cart road from Collatur to the Kutipuram railway station.

A road is a better agent of civilization among a rude community than a school, and it is one that more rapidly induces an improvement in material prosperity. Apart from this, there is its military value in the case of a disturbance. Kutipuram is the only railway station that has not a feeder on both sides, and the reason is that the main lines of the country pass on the north from Maliapuram to Tirur, and on the south from Angadipuram to Pattamby. Kolatur occupies an elevated plateau, and the traffic would be too purely local to warrant the expenditure of general funds. I requested the District Engineer to have the line examined and a good trace has been found and estimated. The estimate amounts to 30,000 Rupees. At a recent meeting of the Local Fund Board the estimate was laid before them, and while admitting the desirability of the project, they were unable to hold out any hope of funds becoming available. If the balance of fines were treated as a contribution to Road Fund for the express purpose of opening up this line, with its continuation towards Maliapuram and Angadipuram, I think the best use would be made of the funds which the circumstances admit of.

5. It has further to be considered that the establishment of a system of elementary Moplah education, other than that already in force, would be a measure of extreme difficulty, and that it is highly inexpedient to attempt to carry it out as a commencement in the more backward portions of the district where contact with the outer world has not yet done much to weaken prejudices. It should be remembered that we have already opened elementary schools in the large villages of the Ernaad and Walwanaad Taluq in hopes of attracting Moplah pupils, and that the result has been a total failure.

No. 38. From Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Adjutant-General, to Colonel A. C. SILVER, Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 5th June 1874, No. 160.

Adverting to your reference Order, No. 1,448 of the 9th ultimo, I am directed to state, for the information of Government, that Private C. Rodgers, No. 739 of the 43rd Regiment, who was rendered incapable for further service by the injury he received at Kolatur, was invalided and recommended for discharge on the 17th November 1873, and embarked for England on the 5th March last.

2. Sir F. Haines recommends this man for compensation in the form of a pension of one shilling per diem, seeing that he will be able to contribute but very slightly towards earning a livelihood.

Transferred to the Judicial Department, with reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 747, dated 23rd April 1874.

OOTACAMUND,
12th June 1874.

(Signed) A. C. SILVER, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M. D.

No. 39.

ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1875, No. 1079.

The Governor in Council authorises the District Magistrate to make a donation, out of the fines levied, of £150, through Captain Vesey, for the benefit of the soldier Rodgers, who has been invalided in consequence of wounds sustained in the suppression of the Moplah outrage in September 1873; and desires that steps may at once be taken to carry out this proposal.

2. The Government fully approve and sanction Mr. MacGregor's proposal to expend the available balance of the fines collected in opening up the communications with Kolatur, and desire the Collector to consider whether a road may not be opened on a less expensive scale than is estimated, for the amount available, so as to connect it with both the Railway station at Kutipuram and also with Malapuram.

(True Extract.)

B. S. P. M. M.
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the District Magistrate of Malabar.
.. Revenue Department.
.. Public Works Department.
.. Military Department.
.. Accountant-General. ✓

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Vol. of 1875

JUDICIAL.

To

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
OF MALABAR.

to, to, to.

Dated May, 5th.

Issued

Recd. " 18th

Recd

G.O., 5th May 1875, No. 1079.

MAY.

Nos. 37-39.

Magistrate's proposals for appropriation of the
fines collected; and provision made for the soldier
who was involved in consequence of the wounds
sustained in the suppression of the outrage.

No. 1059

Commandant of the
Board of Officers.

19th May 1876

To the Board of Officers