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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

11th May 1877, No. 1175.

Madras Police.

Read Administration Reports of the Madras Police for the years 1874 *and* 1875 *with Reports of District Magistrates annexed, also Reports on Criminal Statistics for* 1874 *and* 1875.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1877, No. 1175.

On the 31st March 1875 the strength of the Madras Police Force was 22,597, or 506 below the full sanctioned strength. During the year 1875 sanction was granted for the entertainment of 716 Constables to be paid from the fees for the service of processes; and on the 31st March 1876 the strength was 23,404, or 415 below the full number sanctioned. The cost rose from Rupees 35,57,528 to Rupees 35,93,111; but the latter figure includes Rupees 71,930 from Process Service Fees. The receipts on account of private Police guards rose from Rupees 16,362 to Rupees 23,161.

2. The Inspector-General should address Government in a separate communication with reference to the suggestion made by the Acting Commissioner of Police that the post of Superintendent of Marine Police should be abolished.

3. *Departmental Punishments, &c.*—The improvement indicated by the figures given below is regarded by Government with satisfaction:—

Years.	Dismissed.	Fined or Degraded.	Percentage of Men dismissed or punished.	Desertions.	Resignations.
1873	551	9,336	45·7	132	615
1874	540	6,547	32·4	100	515
1875	479	5,999	28·7	76	526

4. The percentage of punishment in some districts, however, is still very large, and the contrast is peculiarly striking between Chingleput with 72·8 and Madras Town with only 13·2. Special explanation should be submitted in the Annual Report with reference to any districts in which the punishments exceed 50 per cent. The Government concur with the Inspector-General in looking upon fining as an objectionable mode of punishment.

5. His Grace the Governor in Council observes with much regret that the deaths in 1875 were as many as 414 against an average of 243; but the fact is accounted for by the prevalence of cholera, and of an unusual amount of sickness generally.

6. *Convictions by the Courts.*—The number of convictions of Police Officers by the Courts has steadily decreased from 356 in 1871 to 285 in 1875, of which 118 were for such offences as negligent escapes, and offences under the Police Act. There were 5 cases of causing hurt to extort confession.

7. *Rewards*, whether by promotion or in money, were much fewer in 1875 than in the two previous years. The Government trust that this was owing to want of opportunity rather than want of zeal in the force. Special rewards were sanctioned by Government in two cases of successful detection of mail robbery.

Years.	Promotion.	Money.
1873	464	387
1874	336	526
1875	256	175

8. *Education.*—The percentage of men able to read and write was 63·2 in 1874 as in 1873, and rose in 1875 to 64·5. In reviewing the report for 1873 the Government asked the Inspector-General to consider whether in the Southern Range, where schools are so numerous, it might not be ruled that no recruit shall be enlisted who cannot read and write. The Inspector-General reports that the rule is observed in Madras Town and throughout the Southern Range, except in the districts of Coimbatore and South Canara. The Superintendent's remarks on the low state of education in the Coimbatore District contrast somewhat strangely with the fact that results grants were sanctioned in the year of which he writes for a larger number of schools in Coimbatore than in any other district in the Presidency with the single exception of Tinnevelly. The Government agree with the Inspector-General that men of a low physique must not be selected for police work, even though they can read and write.

9. *Processes.*—The decrease in the number of processes served by the Police, remarked on with satisfaction in the Order on the report for 1873, has continued steadily; and in 1875 the number of persons compelled to appear in petty cases had fallen from 1 in 82 of the population in 1872 to 1 in 100.

10. *Violent Deaths, Suicides, &c.*—The number of violent deaths in 1874 and 1875 were 3253 and 3261, respectively, inclusive of 1569 suicides in 1874 and 1723 suicides in 1875. The Government observe that the Inspector-General is of opinion that incessant pain unrelieved by medical aid is a strong incentive to suicide amongst native women, but that care is taken to prevent suspicious cases being hastily accepted as suicides. The Superintendent of the Tinnevelly District describes a case of Suicide by Suttee, in which a young widow of twenty-five years of age dug a pit in her house, filled it with scented wood, and immolated herself after securing all the doors from the inside. The Superintendent is satisfied that it was a purely voluntary act and that no one assisted her. Deaths from neglect and want fell from 397 to 209 in 1875 owing, it is believed, to the provision of doolies for sick travellers and the issue of stringent orders enjoining prompt action to Heads of villages and Police Officers.

11. *Accidental Deaths* numbered 8551 in 1874 and 8902 in 1875, as marginally noted. In Coimbatore in 1874 and in Ganjam in 1875 a decrease in the number of deaths from drowning is traced to precautions enforced by the District Magistrate and the Local Fund Board, respectively; and from the District Magistrates' reports it would appear that a considerable amount of attention has been given to the matter in other districts also. The fact that deaths from snake-bite were most numerous in the districts of Nellore and Tanjore, which were two of those selected for the experiment of giving rewards for the destruction of snakes a few years ago, and which led to a large expenditure of public money, seems to lend support to the view that snakes were frequently bred in order to be destroyed.

	1874.	1875.
Drowning	5,603	5,808
Snake-bite	1,014	1,154
Wild Beasts	290	316
Railways	11	13
Other Causes	1,633	1,611
Total	8,551	8,902

12. *Known Depredators.*—The improvement in the system of dealing with known depredators, viz., the elimination of unnecessary names from the registers, and the consequent more thorough acquaintance acquired by the Police with regard to the really criminal and dangerous portion of the community, is regarded by the Government with much satisfaction. The Magistrate of the Kistna District objects to the extent to which the surveillance is carried, but, as the Inspector-General states that the practice referred to is only adopted in the case of released prisoners who have been convicted of dacoity or twice convicted of other heinous offences, the Government do not consider that the legitimate functions of the Police have been overstepped.

13. *Offences cognizable by the Police.*—The number of such cases reported rose from 32,443 in 1873 to 37,577 in 1874 and 39,362 in 1875; but it is satisfactory to learn that this was due to a great extent in 1874, and entirely in 1875, to simple hurt and mischief, having been only recently brought under the head of "Cognizable

offences." In 1875 there was actually a decrease in the amount of really serious crime. Detection appears to have improved steadily, thus—

	Percentage of Cases detected.	Percentage of Persons convicted to arrested.
1873	41·2	52·4
1874	42·8	54
1875	46·6	56·4

14. *Murders.*—The number reported in 1874 was 265 with 90 detections, and in 1875 there were 295 reported, of which 134 were detected. It is noteworthy that the failure to detect any of the 12 cases of murder reported in Ganjam in 1874 was followed by a very large increase in the number committed in that district in 1875.

15. *Dacoities.*—Notwithstanding an unexpected increase of more than 100 per cent. in Malabar, the number of dacoities reported in 1875 was only 229, the lowest number yet recorded. Under these circumstances, a slight falling off in the detection might naturally be looked for, the perpetrators being probably more on their guard than usual. Turning to the classification of dacoities there are found to have been—

	1874.	1875.
House dacoities	94	95
Field do.	75	72
Highway dacoities	97	62
Total	266	229

16. The Town of Madras and the marginally-noted districts were entirely free from House Dacoities in 1875, and the Inspector-General of Police dwells with justifiable satisfaction on the steady decrease of this crime; pointing out, as regards one form of the offence, that the number reported had been reduced from 1028 in 1858, the year before the introduction of the Constabulary, to 62 in 1875.

Cuddapah.
Godavery.
Kistna.
Vizagapatam.
Nilgiris.

17. *Robberies* other than dacoities show a steady decrease since 1872, thus—

1872	564	1874	514
1873	539	1875	441

Detective results though better than in 1874 were not quite so good as in 1873. There were three cases of drugging in 1874 and fifteen in 1875. The latter seem to have been distributed pretty equally all over the Presidency.

18. *House-breaking.*—The results were as under—

	Cases.	Percentage of detection.
1874	7,103	31·4
1875	6,518	33·8

Of these the number committed by night were—

	Cases.	Percentage of detection.
1874	6,082	27·3
1875	5,504	29·3

Notwithstanding the difficulty of detecting cases of this kind the above results cannot be accepted as reflecting credit on the force. Separate orders will be passed on the letters from the Inspector-General and the District Magistrate of Tanjore recommending rewards to the officers who prosecuted to such a successful issue the very important and interesting case of which full details are given on pages 45—51 of the report for 1875, and in the District Magistrate's letter annexed. It is observed that the Inspector-General attributes the indifferent detection in Tinnevelly to sympathy between the "Maraver" house-breakers and the "Maraver" Village Police, and that this view is shared by the Magistrate of the district, who in paragraph 8 of his

report attributes this sympathy to their appreciation of crime "of a skilful and enterprising type when not combined with violence" while in paragraph 4 he speaks of the aptitude of Maravers generally for a crime of violence when temptation arises. The Inspector-General and District Magistrate differ as to the nature of the remedy to be applied, but the matter need not be further discussed here as it is under consideration separately in connection with the reorganization of the Village Police simultaneously with the introduction of the new settlement.

19. The percentage of cases detected to cases reported in the grave crimes of Dacoity, Robbery, and House-breaking varied in the different districts in 1873 from 16·4 to 47·3, in 1874 from 22·6 to 50, and in 1875 from 21·2 to 54·7, the averages being 28·9, 32·1, and 34·4, respectively. This steady rise in the minimum is satisfactory.

20. *Cattle-lifting* appears to have been less prevalent in 1875 than in 1874, but in both years there were more cases than in 1873. Detection, however, was rather better in 1875 than in either of the other years. The crime is doubtless most difficult to reduce, as remarked by the Inspector-General; and the close attention now given to it must be continued.

Years.	Cases.	Percentage of Cases detected.
1873	2,811	48·7
1874	3,050	48·7
1875	2,856	50·1

21. In *Thefts* generally there was a satisfactory decrease of about 1000 cases in 1875. The Government observe that it is only in the case of notes forwarded in *unregistered* letters that frequent complaints of theft are received by the Police against the Postal Department.

22. *False Cases.*—In their Order on the Police Report for 1873 the Government animadverted on the fact that of the 6314 cases referred by the Magistracy to the Police for inquiry 62 per cent. turned out to be false. In 1874 and 1875 there was little improvement, the numbers referred being 6473 and 6369, respectively, and the percentage of false cases 57 and 60. Of these 1409 in 1874 and 1570 in 1875 were referred in Malabar alone. The District Magistrate will report on this point, which is not referred to in his remarks on false cases. Of course, as regards cases referred under Section 146 because the Magistrates "see cause to distrust the truth of the complaint" the fact of the bulk of the cases turning out to be false is in itself no ground for condemning the Magistracy; but, as remarked in the Order above quoted, the Government believe that many of the complaints might have been summarily rejected after careful examination on oath, as being clearly connected with disputes of a civil nature, and in many other cases it is probable that the local inquiry might have been held more fitly by some subordinate other than a Police Officer. With reference, however, to the Inspector-General's remarks in paragraph 97 of the report for 1874, the Government observe that there can be no objection to Magistrates referring a case "because it is convenient to have the case put into shape by the Police," provided that it is the convenience of the public and not the personal convenience of the Magistrate that is being considered. Of course, under such circumstances the reference should be made under Section 110 and not under Section 146.

23. The number of cases referred by the Police for the orders of the Magistracy rose from 10,899 in 1873 to 12,392 in 1874 and 14,029 in 1875, and of these 11,964 were ordered to be struck off as false in 1874 and 13,629 in 1875. The Government must again, in full concurrence with the Inspector-General, urge upon the Magistracy the necessity of making a vigorous effort to put a stop to the prevalence of false complaints by occasional exemplary prosecutions. They have no desire to under-rate the objections raised in several quarters to the adoption of such a measure, when carried out wholesale. A reckless institution of prosecutions for false complaints would undoubtedly be a greater evil than that which it is now desired to put down, but amongst the 13,629 false charges preferred in 1875 there must have been many the malignant falseness of which was a matter of notoriety in the locality in which the offence was alleged to have occurred, and in such cases a prosecution for false charges would be the appropriate course. Of course, the greatest care must be taken to avoid prosecution in the case of complaints technically "false," which, as pointed out by Mr. Logan, are really nothing more than mistakes of fact or of law.

24. There was also an increase in the number of cases thrown out as false after trial, but the percentage of conviction in cases tried by High and Sessions Courts was 75·4 in 1874 and 76·8 in 1875 against 72·3 in 1873.

25. On the whole, there seems reason to concur with the opinion of the Inspector-General of Police that the administration and working of the Police has been satisfactory during the years under review, and the special recognition of Government is due to Major Rolland, Captain Pickance, Captain Jenkins, Inspectors Paczensky, Gnagnadicum Pillai, Naraina Iyengar, Ali Dost, and the other officers whose work is favorably noticed by the Magistracy and Inspector-General of Police.

26. In G.O., dated 2nd December 1874, No. 2197, the Government stated that in future the Police Report, the District Magistrate's Grave Crime Reports, and the Criminal and Judicial Statistics would all be reviewed together. The reports of the Magistrates of districts have, to a certain extent, been noticed above, concurrently with the report of the Inspector-General of Police, but certain points still remain for consideration.

27. During the year 1875 District Magistrates generally seem to have been very well satisfied with the working of the Police, though it was only to be expected, with so large a force, that grounds for dissatisfaction should exist here and there. The present Government Agent, Vizagapatam, and the Superintendent of Police seem to agree in considering that the reserve of the Jeypore Police Force requires strengthening. The Inspector-General of Police will make such arrangements or submit such proposals as he may find necessary. The Deputy Magistrate of Nursapore, in the Godavery District, speaks unfavorably of the Police in his division generally, and complains of misconduct in certain specific cases, but the decision of the Sessions Court as reported by the Superintendent of Police do not at all support the views advanced by the Deputy Magistrate. The Government fully concur in the remarks made by the District Magistrate, Tinnevelly, to the effect that great care must be exercised in checking any tendency on the part of Station-house Officers to increase the recorded percentage of detection by having undetected *bonâ-fide* cases struck off as false; but they believe the practice is one which the superior officers of the Police have always used their strongest endeavors to repress.

28. An abstract of the operation Returns of the Magistracy is given as an Appendix. When compared with the table attached to G.O., dated 2nd December 1874, No. 2197, it would appear that the number of cases disposed of by the Magistrates of districts rose from 417 in 1873 to 764 in 1874 and 833 in 1875, but the increase is due, to a very considerable extent, to the fact that the cases shown as disposed of in the present Returns include cases summarily dismissed or referred to Subordinate Magistrates for disposal. In future a new column must be added showing the number of cases disposed of after examination of witnesses. The committable cases inquired into by Magistrates of districts rose from 23 in 1873 to 25 in 1874 and 34 in 1875, while those inquired into by Divisional and Assistant Magistrates stood at 586 and 476 in 1874 and 1875, respectively, against 417 in 1873.

29. Individual cases of inefficiency or misconduct being excepted, the Subordinate Magistracy is favorably spoken of in most of the reports in which any remarks at all have been recorded on the subject. It will be borne in mind in future that one of the main objects of the report is that the Government may be placed in possession of the opinion of District Magistrates regarding the working of the Subordinate Magistracy under their control. Mr. Goodrich reports from Vizagapatam that with five exceptions he continues to be profoundly dissatisfied with the Sub-Magistrates' character or conduct, or both. Mr. Thomas, on the other hand, who reported very unfavorably of the Subordinate Magistracy of the Tanjore District in 1874, is now able to state that from the ranks having been weeded of a few of the worst members a great improvement has taken place and that on the whole they seem as a body to have worked hard and fairly well. The Government trust that a similar improvement will b reported from Vizagapatam for the year 1876.

30. In 1874 the large number of 106 appeals were disposed of by the District Magistrate of South Canara and 96 by the District Magistrate of Tanjore. In 1875 the number disposed of by these officers was 45 and 59, respectively. The reports contain no explanation of these variations nor of the reasons why no appeal cases whatever were disposed of in 1874 by the District Magistrates of Nellore and Coimbatore, nor by the District Magistrate of Malabar in 1875. Points of this kind must not be passed over in silence in future.

31. *Judicial Statistics.*—Heads of villages disposed of 17,454 cases of petty assaults and thefts in 1874 and 15,664 in 1875.

32. The punishments awarded by the different Courts throughout the Presidency are given below :—

—	Death.		Transportation.		Rigorous Imprisonment.		Simple Imprisonment.		Fined only.		Whipped only.	
	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.
High Court	1	..	...	12	44	52	1	...	...	...	...	1
Sessions Court ..	61	76	259	347	1,328	1,164	66	68	31	19	22	36
Magistracy	...	..	...	..	21,628	22,855	3,744	4,455	75,040	92,511	2,406	2,250
Heads of Villages.	...	..	...	..	..	..	22,536	20,605	..	..	..	..

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

J. Thumb
Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
„ all District Magistrates.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Presidency Magistrates.
„ the Commissioner of Police.
„ the Master Attendant, Madras.
„ the Director of Public Instruction.

Districts.	Number of Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.		Appeals disposed of.					
			District Magistrates.				Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.	
	1874.	1875.	1874.		1875.		1874.	1875.
South Arcot	4	4	22		11		248	162
Tanjore	2	5	96		52		99	190
Trichinopoly ..	3	3	71		44		47	75
Madura	5	3	70		41		245	224
Tinnevelly	6	6	8		33		330	247
Salem	4	4	30		48		114	117
Coimbatore	4	4	..		22		132	112
Nilgiris	..	..	..		..		..	..
Malabar	6	2	1		..		251	208
South Canara ..	2	2	106		45		95	29
	38	37	404		296		1,491	1,364
	..	..	..		..		..	..

Districts.	Number of Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.		Appeals disposed of.					
			District Magistrates.				Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.	
	1874.	1875.	1874.		1875.		1874.	1875.
Ganjam	4	4	6		8		103	85
Vizagapatam ..	4	3	35		24		87	61
Godavery	4	4	25		59		107	102
Kistna	4	3	13		26		88	75
Nellore	3	3	..		5		53	53
Kurnool	4	3	16		25		74	60
Bellary	4	6	15		11		200	190
Cuddapah	5	5	1		24		78	52
North Arcot ..	..	4	..		19		..	138
Chingleput ..	3	3	19		21		55	59
	35	38	130		222		845	875
Total ..	73	75	534		518		2,336	2,239

Districts.	Number of Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.		Preliminary inquiries disposed of.						Trials disposed of.					
			District Magistrates.		Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.		Subordinate Magistrates.		District Magistrates.		Divisional and Assistant Magistrates.		Subordinate Magistrates.	
	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.	1874.	1875.
Ganjam	4	4	1	2	7	13	111	99	31	28	183	291	4,076	4,536
Vizagapatam	4	3	1	2	4	10	169	149	104	70	200	245	5,852	6,314
Godavery	6	6	4	1	24	29	112	98	99	107	685	842	5,771	6,015
Kistna	5	5	2	1	29	41	93	95	70	16	387	254	5,031	4,938
Nellore	3	3	..	..	24	18	49	53	..	2	371	198	3,381	3,821
Kurnool	5	4	..	4	39	14	82	139	54	71	417	227	3,599	6,369
Bellary	6	6	..	1	39	24	125	131	26	26	1,782	1,865	6,207	9,777
Cuddapah	6	5	1	1	17	7	103	106	15	80	385	204	4,079	4,067
North Arcot	..	4	..	1	..	27	..	153	..	33	..	754	..	5,934
Chingleput	6	6	..	..	22	12	88	86	34	59	1,018	956	3,747	3,732
South Arcot	4	4	1	4	65	26	108	143	11	44	490	323	6,954	6,710
Tanjore	5	5	2	..	93	93	216	219	19	12	1,687	1,258	11,736	11,423
Trichinopoly	5	4	1	3	23	14	79	86	141	69	1,255	835	4,188	4,715
Madura	6	5	4	2	62	38	188	153	21	33	454	495	7,612	9,320
Tinnevelly	6	6	..	..	63	14	121	127	9	17	537	423	4,028	4,792
Salem	4	4	..	..	19	19	167	143	48	35	324	262	6,190	5,732
Coimbatore	5	4	2	3	8	17	116	121	1	24	332	189	6,345	7,340
Nilgiris	2	2	..	..	15	12	..	..	4	4	1,274	1,421	163	208
Malabar	9	7	..	2	26	33	204	153	2	8	1,169	1,109	9,015	10,039
South Canara	4	4	6	7	16	15	77	63	75	95	132	144	2,916	2,822
Total ..	95	91	25	34	586	476	2,208	2,317	764	833	13,082	12,295	100,890	118,604

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue Separate
No 2666

Govt. of [1877] Madras.

JUDICIAL.

To

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL of
POLICE,
&c. &c. &c.

Dated May, 1877.

Issued 26

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31st May 77.