

बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार



सत्यमेव जयते

संचिका संख्या
अभिलेखागार संख्या

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Certified Copy

*Of the letter dated 21st June 1857, from the Magistrate
of Saran, to the Secretary, Government of Bengal,
relating to the preservation of peace in the said district*

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

कार्यवाही

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विषयः—

N^o. 3.

From the Magistrate of Saran
To, The Secretary to the Gov^t of Bengal

June 21st / 57.

Sir,

As the matter is urgent I have thought it my duty to communicate direct with you and beg to lay before you two letters in original addressed by Major Holmes one to myself and the other to Mr Lynch the Deputy Magistrate Major Holmes not having obtained the sanction of the Right Honble the Governor General I do not think it incumbent upon me to acknowledge his authority. Nevertheless I would observe that most of his suggestions for the protection of the district had been previously carried out and I shall be ready to Co-operate with him in any measure he may be pleased to suggest and having for its object the preservation of the peace of the district that does not supersede the control of existing authorities. The state of the district has nothing very alarming

in

in it at present, nevertheless as I
mentioned in my letter of yesterday's date ⁷ No 2 of 20 June
there are reasons for dreading a disturbance
and in the event of disaffection showing
itself amongst the troops at Dinapore or
Patna or even amongst the few stationed
here viz: the Muzeeb guard and a detach-
ment of the ⁷ 5th Irregular Cavalry I fear the ⁺ Major MacDonnell's
headquarters in the district and the Sepoys ^{Corp - head quarters}
at Rowree,
both the deserters and disbanded men
as also perhaps those who may be at
home on leave of whom there are a great
number at present in the district, would
join them, and it would then be necessary
to act with promptness and to enforce military
law. In the present state of affairs this
contingency might arise at any moment
and the delay which would be occasioned
by a reference to the Presidency might prove
disastrous. It is therefore for the Govt. to
judge whether it might not be advisable
to entrust some officer with provisional
authority for declaring martial law
when the proper time arrives -

I have &c.
Edw. M. P. MacDonnell
Magte

19th June

My dear Macdonell

As a single clear head is better than a dozen in these times, and as Military Law is better than civil in a turbulent country I have assumed absolute Military control from Goruckpore to Patna, and have placed under absolute Military rule all that country, including the districts of Saran, Champaran and Tirhoot. The Governor General having requested me to write to him direct, I do so daily, and have informed his Lordship on this head.

I now look to all the Magistrates of these districts to aid me effectually in preserving order, and to carry out with a single will the following instructions.

* 1st Let all the Chief Gats on the river be strictly guarded, removing for the present the small Zaimdaree Gats - let any suspicious characters be seized, and let all such be placed in detention in the jail, for the present.

2nd Proclaim a reward of Rs. 50 for the seizure

seizure of each rebel sepoy, and should you catch any such, send them in Gous to the Military authority nearest the spot of their capture, either Segowlee or Dinapore. (not Ghazepore). also send witnesses.

3. Proclaim a similar reward for information which may lead to the conviction of those guilty of speaking seditious words against the Government.

Seize all such, and send them to me.

4. Send an order to all the petty Rajahs in your district, to keep their followers on the alert to aid the police; warn them that for concealing any sedition, or any rebel, they will be punished as principals. - and that they will receive honor for seizing any rebels.

5. Instruct your Thanasdars and Tehsildars of police that in case of ^{any} really good service in such matters, they will be recommended for reward to the Govern-
-or General direct.

6. All the petty Rajahs should be required to furnish half the mounted
men,

men in their establishments to patrol thro' the district, and to watch for seditious persons. *

I shall send a copy of these instructions to the Governor General direct and if you can make your police carry them out sharp, you will deserve well of the country. Similar instructions have gone to Tirhoot, Allypore and Goruckpore.

Yours &c.

L. J. G. Holmes

P. S. All well at Goruckpore I have reinforced them with 110 sowars, and the country is being brought into order. — Wingfield had gone forward to Gonda Barrack to take charge. Ramsay writes that 200 Gookas would be there today. I have stopped the 3000 Gookas for whom I prepared as they will not now be wanted.

Secoulee 19th June 1857.

My dear Lynch.

I am delighted to hear that your police has been so vigilant, and has done such good service. —

Be

Be so good as to give the Captains
a reward of Rupees 50- for each rebel sepoy
seized and convicted, and this note shall
be your authority for so doing.

I have taken absolute Military
Command, and placed the whole country
from Goruckpore to Patna under Military
Law, and at the request of the Governour
General I report to him direct daily.

You will therefore express from
me to your Police and especially to the
Thannadar of Danowlee my high sense
of their exertions, and that I shall take
good care that their services are well
rewarded.

You will issue very stringent
instructions for the close watching the
Gates on the Gogra, and every suspicious
character must be seized, and sent to
you for examination. - In case any
one cannot give a clear and satisfactory
account of himself, he is to be placed
under restraint in your Jail, until I
give an order for his release.

I

I consider it peculiarly fortunate
that you have remained at Sewan, for
you have evidently kept your people
thoroughly up to the mark - and I have
already mentioned this to the Governor
General.

I consider that ^xMacDonell also,
who understands the natives well,
and is a cool staunch fellow, has
set a good example, and has done
very good service.

Look out for the 2 Sepoys of the
17th ^{विभाग} who shall meet their deserts im-
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)
mediately after their arrival at this
place.

Yesterday hearing that the factory
of Babuulee Cooperetti was in danger,
and that Butee had been pillaged
and burnt, I sent out an additional
force of 20 Sowars under a smart
officer, with orders to cross at Ripra
gat, go round that way, and thence
down to Allypunge to you for orders.
You will instruct him if all

is

x (The Deputy
Agent
at Sewan)
W. F. W. D.

is quiet in your vicinity, to move with
his party towards Ghazee pore and then
to patrol from that quarter round towards
Azimghur and so to Gorumkhere, accord-
ing to first instructions.

Yours very truly.

Edw. G. Holmes

N^o 293

From

The Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal
To,

The Magistrate of Chuppra

Dated For William the 27th June 1857.

Sir,

बिहार सरकार

General

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य जमिंदारों के विरुद्ध निर्दोशालय)

I am directed by the Lieut^t
Governor of Bengal to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter of the 21st Instant
with enclosure announcing that Major
Holmes has placed your district and
the districts of Champaran and Terhoo
under Martial Law.

You have judged rightly that
this proceeding is wholly illegal and
unauthorized and you will not obey
it or act upon it. You will com-

—municate

communicate a copy of these orders
to Mr Lynch and to any other public
officer whom it may concern.

To Major Holmes himself a
communication will be made from the
Government of India.

It is not desired that you should
so repudiate Major Holmes's unlawful
act as to place him in any kind of
slight or contempt but merely take
no notice of what he has done further
than stating that you have been
apprised that his order is of no force
and you are unable to act upon
it sending him at the same time
a copy of this letter.

Major Holmes's intentions are
doubtless good but he would seem to
have allowed his zeal to carry him
too far in this instance.

I have &c
L. A. R. Young
(True copies) Secy to the Gov^t of Bengal

A. J. S.
Secy to the Gov^t of Bengal