

District Superintendent of Police very carefully. But he cannot speak too highly of his constables as a whole, including his Burman policemen. It is very easy for an Indian under the stress of seeing his property destroyed to think that an individual policeman is doing less than he might. We cannot, on the evidence we have, find that any case of this kind has been established in Pegu town. We were given some particulars of one case of a demand made by a police officer for money as the price of protection of a particular inhabitant. This has been investigated by the District Superintendent of Police himself and found to be untrue.

The only other matter we propose to mention is the searching of the house of a gentleman named Senator *Khan Bahadur* Ibrahim, who is a respectable and, we understand, a wealthy citizen of Pegu. This gentleman's part in the affair reflects nothing but credit upon him. Nevertheless, a persistent rumour was spread by malicious persons that he was collecting Indians in his premises for the purposes of attacking the Pagoda. It was quite untrue. But nevertheless the Deputy Commissioner thought it wise to reassure the population by conducting himself a formal search. This was a pure matter of form and, as the Deputy Commissioner says in his report, no one who knew *Khan Bahadur* Ibrahim could for a moment have suspected that such a rumour was true. The search was made and of course, nothing was found. There is a suggestion made to us that this search constituted an outrage towards this gentleman. We do not ourselves think so. We have no doubt that the Deputy Commissioner made it clear to the gentleman in question what his purpose was and we do not think that any reasonable man could regard the action of the Deputy Commissioner otherwise than as quite proper.

The search of *Khan Bahadur* Ibrahim's house.

The District Superintendent of Police points out to us that on the 27th of July he was called upon to supply police for the disturbances at Rangoon and that reluctantly he did so. In the result, we do not think that Pegu suffered. But we sympathize with the District Superintendent of Police in his view that at a time of disturbance; it was dangerous to deplete the police force at Pegu. He has put this forward, not as a matter of complaint, but as an item of information. We have already seen how destitute in the emergency Rangoon was of effective civil police. The remedy, in our view, lies, not in the expedient of borrowing policemen here and there when an emergency arises, but in making the Rangoon City Police a self contained and effective force, capable of dealing with its own disorders. It was we think most dangerous to deplete the strength of the Pegu, or any other local, police in this way.

Constables "borrowed" for Rangoon.

Sadoway.⁽¹⁾

This was the only district of the Arakan Division which was in any way affected by the disturbances and even here there was no trouble during the first outbreak of rioting in Rangoon. But towards the end of August and in September there was a faint effervescence even in

⁽¹⁾ We have not visited this and the following districts, in which, for the most part, nothing of great importance took place. We have compiled these brief accounts from the official reports.

Sandoway District. In Sandoway town itself, on the 30th of August there were rumours that an attack would be made on the bazaar the next morning by bad characters from surrounding villages. This did not materialize but there was instead a momentary panic in the bazaar owing to some women being seen running to meet a motor-bus bringing fresh fish from the sea. This was a case of pure "nerves." After this matters settled down and there was no more trouble in Sandoway itself.

On the 2nd of September at Gwa crowds collected possibly with the intention of attacking Indians and looting their shops. Considerable alarm was caused to these shop-keepers, but no attack took place and the crowds were persuaded to disperse. U Kyaw Aung, a Muslim Resident Excise Officer, fired his '22 rifle "in order to reassure an Indian shop keeper." On the next day a number of Burmans attacked a motor bus in which some Indian shop keepers were removing themselves and their property from Kyaukkyi to a safer place. The Indians fled and their property was looted. Eight Burmans were arrested on this account. At about 5 p.m. on the same evening, one Ba Thein entered the quarters of the Branch Post-Master at Kyaukkyi and demanded money. The Branch Post-Master produced a *dah* and with the help of a postal peon the intruder was ejected. At about the same time, two Indian shop keepers had their property looted at Kyanyo near to Kyaukkyi. The Village Headman is said to have deliberately ignored what was going on and, we are pleased to see has since been placed under suspension and sent for trial in connection with this case. There were only two other incidents in the neighbourhood involving attacks on Indian traders and in all these cases a number of persons were arrested.

Although it is possible that the rumours which prepared the atmosphere of uneasiness that preceded these slight disturbances had been deliberately put about, it cannot be said here that the attacks on Indians were really organized. But it is established that a number of bad characters had assembled in Kyaukkyi in readiness to take advantage of any disturbance that might occur.

Pyapón.

Bogale.
29th July.

Tension began in this district on the 29th of July when rumours reached Bogale that a "tazaung" of the Sule Pagoda in Rangoon had been destroyed. These rumours were immediately exploited by the local *Thakins* who convened a meeting at which it was decided to assault all Indians in the town and to destroy their property. It was arranged that the signal should be given by the beating of a gong that night. At about 8 p.m. the agreed signal was given and a mob collected outside the house of *Thakin Thin*, the leader of the Bogale *Thakins*. The mob moved off towards the bazaar collecting recruits as it went but was checked by a police patrol, whereupon it broke up into smaller groups and filtered into the bazaar quarter. Widespread looting of Indian shops and stalls ensued and continued for about an hour. The First Additional Magistrate patrolled the town with the police the whole time. When the patrols came near, the crowds dispersed only to collect again as soon as the patrols moved on. The Magistrate then ordered the police party to fire one shot in the air. This had the effect