

CHAPTER VIII.
COURTS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

*Village Magistrates—Sub-Magistrates—Division Magistrates—The
Court of Session.*

IN this, as in other districts, there are four grades of Criminal Courts; those of

1. Village Magistrates.
2. Subordinate Magistrates (invested with first class or with second class powers.)
3. Magistrates with full powers.
4. The Sessions Judge.

The Village Magistrates are the heads of villages. Under Regulation IV of 1821 and Regulation IX of 1816, they have jurisdiction in simple cases of assault, and in petty cases of theft unattended with aggravating circumstances, where the value of the property stolen is not more than one Rupee.

2. *Sub-Magistrates.*—The Tahsildar of the taluq is in his magisterial capacity designated the taluq Sub-Magistrate. The taluq Sheristadar is usually invested with magisterial powers, but is not expected to exercise them except in cases of emergency during the temporary absence of the Tahsildar Sub-Magistrate. In seven of the larger taluqs there is an additional Sub-Magistrate, who resides in some village other than the cusba, and under whom a certain number of villages are placed. The stations of these officers and the number of villages over which they have jurisdiction, will be found in the chapter on 'Revenue Administration', where they are called Deputy Tahsildars.

At present seven of the Sub-Magistrates (Bellary, Raidrúg, Adoni, Gooty, Tádpatri, Dharmaveram and Pennakonda) have first class powers.

There is a town Sub-Magistrate of Bellary who disposes of cases arising in the Brucepettah and Mellorpettah, and as Assistant Cantonment Magistrate of minor cases occurring in the Cantonment.

3. *Full-power Magistrates.*—These are the District Magistrate, the Joint, Head Assistant and Deputy Magistrates and the Cantonment Joint Magistrate. The District Magistrate's ordinary and Appellate jurisdiction extends over the whole of the district, and the

Division Magistrates have jurisdiction over cases arising in villages under their charge. The extent of these charges is shown in Chapter III, Revenue Administration.

One or more of the Assistant Magistrates has usually full powers.

4. *The Sessions Judge* disposes of such cases as are committed to him by the Magistracy, supervises their proceedings, and hears appeals from the decisions of the Division Magistrates.

CHAPTER IX.

POLICE.

The old system—Introduction of Act XXIV of 1859—The sanctioned strength—Distribution of the force.

PART II. *The Village Police—Colonel Monro's report on them—Reports on their condition by various Magistrates.*

THE Police administration of the district prior to the year 1860 was under the direct control of the Magistrate, who was allowed a fixed establishment. The Amildars or Tahsildars were the recognized heads of Police in their respective taluqs. They supervised the action of their subordinates and also exercised magisterial powers in cases of assault or petty theft. Graver cases were sent up by them to the Sessions Court or the European Magistrates. Under them were Peishkars and Tahsildars, answering to the Station House officer of the present day, though under the old system these men had also to assist in collecting the revenue. In the more important towns of Bellary, Gooty, Adoni and Hospett, 'Kotwalls' held office under the Amildar.

With the passing of Act XXIV of 1859 (the Police Act) the old system came to an end. This Act did not fully come into force in the Bellary district till July 1860. The disbandment of the old force and the enlistment of men under Section 11 of the Act were carried on simultaneously. Anantapúr and Hospett were the first taluqs taken up, and by degrees the police force was distributed throughout the district.

The chief administrative officer is the Superintendent, who is aided by two assistants. The Assistant Superintendent of the 1st class resides at Anantapúr and has charge of the five taluqs of Anantapúr, Dharmaveram, Hindipúr, Madaksira and Pennakonda. The other