Police Matters

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I started collecting material for this project at established archives, but all the while, I was also hunting for police writing that might be more textured than published reports or memoirs. Almost two years into my project, after several dead ends, and one week before a flight back to the United States, a contact led me to old records kept in rural police stations. As I sat in Manur station in Tirunelveli district, reading with disbelief detailed police notes on rural life from the 1930s, I realized that I would have to reframe all the material I had collected so far. My deepest gratitude to C. M. Ranjani, Shridhar Chittappa, and Veerabadran for helping me access the Tamil Nadu police department. And I cannot thank enough Mr. Abhash Kumar, Mr. Vijayendra Bidari, Mr. Ashok Kumar, and Mr.
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