

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 424

Press
Mis.

270-271

Dated 30 - 3 - 18 1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Vice,
January 1864.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
30th March 1864.*

No. 270. Read the following letter from W. FISHER, Esq., Resident in Travancore and Cochin; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated on Circuit, Peermade, 9th March 1864, No. 22.

On the 18th January last, I addressed the Magistrate of Madura on the subject of concerting measures for putting down predatory incursions of armed bands into Travancore, from the Madura District. Up to this date I have received no reply, and as I am about to leave these hills, where I had some hope of meeting the Magistrate, and shall within a month be making over charge to the officer appointed to succeed me as British Resident in Travancore, I have the honor to submit a copy of the letter above alluded to. It will, I trust, show the present state of the question, and the necessity which exists under any circumstances for co-operation between the British and Travancore authorities, in order to protect life and property on the frontier of this State, at a point where, without active and persistent measures on the part of the British authorities in Madura, no steps taken by the Travancore Sircar can be more than partially successful in defending the peaceable and industrious cultivator from plunder and violence.

2. I am aware that the majority of the people engaged in the cultivation of Cardamoms are in reality British subjects, and that hitherto some of them at any rate may have been more or less implicated in the robberies which take place; but I have now induced the Sircar to take steps which will tend to do away with this temptation to which these ryots have been exposed by mis-judged parsimony, and feel that the measure which secures the cultivator a fair amount of remuneration, and the Sircar the crop the ryots engage to deliver, can be productive of little good, unless the authorities in Madura afford active co-operation in controlling the predatory classes, which the mismanagement of the Cardamom monopoly in this State have doubtless, tended to foster.

3. I therefore trust that I am right in soliciting the attention of Government to this question at a moment when efforts made, but which I shall not have opportunity to continue, have apparently failed to attract that attention to the subject which is so requisite.

No. 271. ORDER THEREON, 30th March 1864, No. 424.

Ordered that a copy of the Order of the 18th instant, No. 396, be furnished to the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Resident in Travancore and Cochin, with No. 396 of 1864.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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Residents' Office,

Trivandrum 18th January 1864.

From

W. Fisher Esq.

Resident of Travancore and Cochin

To

The Magistrate of

Madura

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the
Dewan of Travancore has addressed me on the subject
of cooperation on the part of the British Authorities in
Madura, in cases in which British subjects have been
charged with entering Travancore territory with arms in their
hands for the purpose of robbing the Cardamom gardens,
and attacking the Treas guard.

2. The Magistrate is said to have given the
Srkas Agent an endorsement purporting that he declined
to interfere, because the Resident had not addressed him
on the subject.

3. On another occasion the Sub Magistrate
of Permacollum declined to interfere in a case of robbery
of Cardamoms by some Thavars and Parvians on the ground
that the Magistrate's order N^o 3 January 20th 1863 prohi-
bited his interference.

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4. The Dewan is under the impression that the orders of the Madras Government quoted in the margin in recognizing the appointment of Sircar Agent to watch the movements of robbers, collect evidence, and prosecute parties before the British Authorities, allow the prosecution of persons charged with smuggling cardamoms.

5. Though this is an error, the orders of Government appear to me to authorize the prosecution of persons charged with robbery or other crime committed in Travancore, for which the parties accused would be liable to punishment on conviction, had the crime been committed in British Territory.

6. To this extent then I think, I may rightly claim your assistance and the cooperation of the British Police, and I request that you will favor me with your views on the subject for reference if necessary to the Government of Madras, should you differ from me.

7. The Sircar are so fully impressed with the evils which attend a monopoly such as that hitherto in force, that it has been greatly modified; and it is hoped that the arrangements now made will have a very beneficial effect as regards smuggling.

8. The active cooperation however of the British Authorities is as much needed as ever in order to put down the armed gangs which habitually rob the gardens and even attack the guards placed over the drying grounds of the Sircar.

9. It is to the extinction of these bands that I would particularly direct your attention, and to this end I ask your cooperation on behalf of the Travancore

Ex. from Minutes of
Consultation No 289 dated
20 March 1856.

Travancore Government. (3)

10. As long as this spice commands the present high prices, so long will the plunder of the cardamom grounds offer great temptation to the lawless and predatory classes, and if the monopoly was abolished tomorrow the temptation would still be as great to them as it is at present.

11. It is, I presume, the object of Government to protect life and property whether they are endangered in Travancore or in British territory, and to put down all attempts at violence and robbery on whichever side of the border such crime is committed. There is no doubt great difficulty in bringing home to the perpetrators, crime committed in such a wild country as the Cardamom Hills; but I have no doubt that it is the anxious wish of the British Magistracy to control the lawless and to put down crime, and I trust that by dint of cordial cooperation between the authorities in the British and Travancore territory, the operations of these predatory bands may be checked, and a degree of protection afforded to the peaceful and industrious population, which can hardly be enjoyed so long as the frontier is infested by armed bands of plunderers.

12. I am sure that I have only to call your attention to the subject to secure for it that consideration which it deserves, and that cooperation with the Travancore authorities, which the Government of Madras authorizes and the state of the frontier renders necessary. I shall

be happy to receive any suggestions on this subject you may be good enough to offer, and as I am about to visit the Hills in the neighbourhood of the Cardamom gardens, shall be happy to confer with you on the best means of establishing a better state of things in that quarter, should it suit your convenience to visit Permade during February or the early part of March.

I have the honor to be
(signed) W. Fisher
Resident

(True Copy)

W. Fisher
Resident

Encd. I.D.

Enclosed in a letter from the Resident of Travancore and Cochin to the Chief Secretary to Government dated 9th March 1864.

30 March 1864

N^o 424 - 30th March 1864.

Ordered that a copy of the Order of the 18th Instant N^o 396 be furnished to the Resident of Travancore and Cochin

[Signature]

For N^o 244
1864

The Resident of Travancore and Cochin }
with N^o 396 of 1864 }
64.

despatch 2/4

From the Resident of Travancore and Cochin to the Chief Secretary to Government dated 18th March 1864.

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