

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 412

Press
~~Mis.~~

310. 311

Dated

21-2-1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1861.*

No. 310. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 16th January 1861, No. 2:—

SIR,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council your letter of the 4th October last (No. 102), in which you inform me that the Laccadive Islands, belonging to the Bîbi of Cannanore, still continue under the management of the Officers of Government, and that they will so remain until the arrears, principal, interest and charges shall be paid by the Bîbi.

2. From the account submitted with your letter, it would appear that, at the close of 1859, the balance against the Bîbi amounted to Rupees 48,565, of which the sum of Rupees 14,079 was for principal, and Rupees 34,485 for accumulated interest at 12 per cent.

3. I am aware that the demand for interest, with which the Bîbi objects to comply, has been maintained less from considerations of revenue than for the purpose of retaining the Islands under our management, and thereby relieving the inhabitants from the exactions and oppressions to which they were subjected under the Bîbi's administration.

4. In their Proceedings of the 8th February 1860, the Board of Revenue observe that, "however desirable the permanent acquisition of the Islands may be, such an arrangement "cannot be effected without the free consent of the Bîbi," and of that the Board see little hope. They accordingly recommend, either that the Islands should be retained until the Bîbi's debt for Peshkash, interest and management is fully repaid, or that the remission of the interest should be made conditional on her immediately and permanently introducing such reforms as Government may dictate.

5. Judging from the previous conduct of the Bîbi, there is little probability that she would consent to introduce into her administration any such reforms as those indicated by the Board as so desirable.

6. I am fully sensible of the duty which rests on our Government to protect the people submitted to our rule from such oppression as these Islanders were exposed to under the administration of the Bîbi; but I think that it is consistent neither with our sense of justice, nor with our dignity, to avail ourselves of a rigid application of the revenue law for the attainment of that object.

7. It is admitted that the Bîbi first fell into arrear in consequence of the disastrous effects of a storm, by which vast numbers of cocoanut trees, from which her revenues on these Islands were mainly derived, were utterly destroyed; and if that circumstance had not, at the same time, brought to light the defects of her administration, there is little doubt that the arrears would have been long since liquidated, that the charge for interest would not have been insisted on, and that the Islands would have been replaced under her management.

8. I must, accordingly, direct that you will reconsider this case, and, on the Bîbi liquidating the amount which may be shown to be due on account of Peshkash and charges of management, excluding interest, direct the Islands to be restored to her revenue management. If she should still refuse to introduce into her administration such reforms as you may consider necessary, she must be distinctly informed that, in the event of any acts of oppression or extortion being hereafter proved against her or her Agents, Government will not hesitate to place the Islands under sequestration, in order to compel the introduction of good government.

No. 311. ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1861, No. 412.

1. Ordered that this Despatch be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information and guidance, with reference to the Orders of 18th February 1860, No. 257.

2. In paragraph 8 the Secretary of State directs that the Laccadive Islands belonging to the Bîbi of Cannanore shall be restored to her on her paying the balance due by her, exclusive of interest; and that, if she still refuse to introduce necessary reforms into her management, she shall be warned of the consequences of any acts of oppression or extortion being hereafter proved against her or her Agents. This order should be promptly carried into effect.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

interest

Revenue Dept.

No. 412.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 21st Feb. 1861

Read the following Despatch
from the Right
Honorable the Secretary of State
for India.

Directions for the intro-
duction of reforms into the
divine Islands belonging
to the Bibi of Cannanore. (Here enter 16th Jan. 1861 No. 2)

1. Ordered that this
Despatch be communicated
to the Board of Revenue
for their information and
guidance with reference to
the orders of 18th February
1860 No. 254.

2. In para 8 the Secretary
of State directs that the Sacca
divine Islands belonging to
the Bibi of Cannanore shall
be restored to her on
her paying the balance
due by her exclusive of
interest

interest, and that if she ^{still refuse} ~~hesitates~~
to introduce necessary reforms into her
~~management, that in the event~~
management, she shall be warned of the consequences
of any acts of oppression

or extortion being hereafter
proved against her or her
agents. ~~Her island will be~~
~~placed under sequestration~~
~~in order to compel the intro-~~
~~duction of good Govt.~~

This order should be
promptly carried into
effect.

CGP

FAA
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13 Copies
To the Board of Directors. Cirp 22

Order on Rev. deerp 102
of 1861.

Polymia J. de L.
of 10th of 1861 12.33

1-10-18.

Revenue 1861 2. 1/2
Rev. of 10th Jan. February.

1861 12.

Order of the Board of Govt.
of 21st February 1861.

to the Board of Rev.
of 13 July 63 C no 426.

General Deputate
reflecting the restoration
of the Academie's lands
to the Office of Communes,
communicated to Board
of Revenue.

C 10310 5311.