

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 722	Press Mis.
505-506	
Dated	28-3-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th March 1861.*

No. 505. Read the following letter from W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department), to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, 7th March 1861, No. 484 :—

SIR,

1. The Government of Madras is probably aware of the great importance which is attached by the Government of Bombay to the early carrying out of the measures necessary for opening roads from the interior to the Port of Sedasheghur. In connection with the proposals which have been made to that end, it has been suggested to the Governor General in Council that it might be attended with some advantage to transfer the District of North Canara to the Government of Bombay, thus placing the works specially connected with the Port of Sedasheghur and the Port itself in the hands of the authority chiefly interested in rendering the harbor practically available for trade, and more particularly for the export of Cotton, by effecting a practicable communication with Dharwar.

2. It is possible that there may be objections to this measure which do not at present occur to the Governor General in Council, but having regard to the position of the District, and also to its separation in 1859, under the Orders of the Madras Government, from South Canara, the transfer to Bombay would appear at first sight to be a convenient and suitable arrangement.

3. I am desired to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be good enough to consider the question in communication with the departmental authorities, and communicate his opinion upon it at as early a period as possible.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 506. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 28th March 1861, No. 722 :—

SIR,

1. I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 7th instant, No. 484, asking for the opinion of this Government on a suggestion which has been made to the Government of India, for the transfer of the District of North Canara to the Presidency of Bombay. The Honorable the Governor in Council has carefully considered the question thus proposed, and he is quite unable to concur in the expediency of the transfer.

2. The Government of India is aware that a similar proposal, but of a less sweeping character, was brought forward on a former occasion. In 1835 it was proposed by the Bombay Government that the two Balaghaut Taluqs of Sunda and Sapa should be transferred to that Presidency; the main reason assigned being to give the Southern Mahratta country a good boundary.* This Government fully considered the proposal, and came to the conclusion that the transfer was inexpedient; and this decision was concurred in by both the Government of India† and the Home authorities.‡

* Minute by the Governor of Bombay, April 23rd 1829, paragraph 10.

† 21st March 1836, No. 14.

‡ 25th April 1838, No. 4, paragraph 64.

3. On two subsequent occasions a similar proposition was made direct from Bombay to this Government, viz., in 1847 and in 1855. The former of these proposals was for the transfer of all the country north of the Honore river, and was based on the wish to obtain possession of the Port of Coompta; the second proposal was merely for the transfer of the two Taluqs named in the preceding paragraph, with a hint at the transfer of the Port of Sedasheghur also. This proposal was based on the supposed advantage of bringing the Forests of the two Taluqs under the same management as the Darwar country, for the better conservation of the timber. On both these occasions the subject was fully considered by this Government in communication with the local authorities; and on both, the transfer was held to be inexpedient. Replies to that effect were made to Bombay; and as far as this Government is aware the correspondence was thus closed on both occasions.

4. The foregoing detail will show the Government of India that the subject is not new. It has been in fact so fully discussed and considered here, that this Government has not now found it necessary to consult local or departmental authorities.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th March 1861.*

The proposal now made is much more extensive than any of the former. The transfer proposed includes not only the Forest Taluqs, but the whole of North Canara District; the object stated being that the Port of Sedasheghur and the works specially connected with it, may be in the hands of the authority chiefly interested in rendering the harbour practically available for trade.

5. On this proposal I am directed to state in the first place, that this Government wholly dispute the premises. Admitting, which will probably be the case, that the trade of the Port of Sedasheghur will for some time at least, be conducted with capital from Bombay, this Government still maintain that they feel and have displayed not less anxiety for the improvement of the Port and of the approaches than the authorities of Bombay. Several lines of approach to the Port from the interior have been explored, and estimates framed, and it is owing only to the restrictions on expenditure during the last few years, that the road from Sedasheghur to the Darwar Frontier in the direction of Hubli is not now complete. But this Government is now using every effort to have it made as speedily as possible; as well as to carry into execution those works of improvement to the Port itself, which have been determined by the Home authorities to be sufficient for the present. All proper facilities will be given also to merchants, either from Bombay or elsewhere, desiring building land; and the example of Coompta, and in some degree of Taddri, shows that the fact of the place being under a different Government will not at all prevent the employment of capital from Bombay.

6. The application which has been made to the Government of India appears to assume that the whole of the exports from Sedasheghur will consist of cotton from Belgaum and Darwar; but this is not likely in fact to be the case. In reporting on the proposition of 1847, Mr. Blane, the Collector of Canara, stated that nearly half the cotton exported from Coompta was from Bellary and the south-west parts of the Hyderabad territory; while there was also much supari, pepper, cardamoms, and sandalwood, the produce of Canara and Mysore. Sedasheghur will probably attract much of the trade from Coompta, and its exports therefore may be expected to follow a similar division.

7. But further I am desired to point out that even if the premises were admitted, they would not by any means support the proposal founded on them. The object stated is to have the Port of Sedasheghur and the road to Darwar under Bombay; and for that object it would only be necessary to extend the Darwar Frontier south to the latitude of Sedasheghur. But the proposal contemplates the transfer of the entire District of North Canara, with a populous territory stretching for fully a hundred miles to the Southward of Sedasheghur. For this part of the plan no reason whatever is given; but it may be assumed to be that it is seen to be objectionable to break up the new and convenient District of North Canara.

8. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the reasons produced against the proposal of 1835, and which obtained the concurrence of the highest authorities, and those which led this Government to decide against the proposals of 1847 and 1855, may be urged with still greater force against the present proposal. The fiscal regulations which in 1847 impeded the free passage of goods through Canara have all been wholly abolished; and the forest management, the supposed laxity of which led to the proposal of 1855, has been made thoroughly efficient under the Conservancy Department subsequently formed. On the other hand all the considerations based on the inexpediency of disturbing social and administrative relations long established and under which a people is thriving in a remarkable degree, have now still greater force; for the advance of the northern Taluqs in prosperity has subsequently been still more rapid and decided than it was shown to be in 1855, and the administration of the whole District has been improved and consolidated by forming it into a separate and independent jurisdiction.

9. To sum up what has been said, I am directed to state that as respects the northern Taluqs the reason given for the transfer is in the opinion of this Government, inapplicable and insufficient; while no reason whatever is offered for the transfer of the much larger remaining portion of the District. On the other hand the reasons against the transfer of either portion are much stronger now, than when a former similar proposal was rejected by the Government of India and by the Home Government.

*Office
28th April*

Revenue Dept

No 722

*To
The Secretary to the
Government of India.*

Sir,

*I am directed to
acknowledge your letter of
the 7th Instant, No 484 -
asking for the opinion of
this Government on a sug-
gestion which has been
made to the Government
of India, for the transfer
of the District of North
Canara to the Presidency
of Bombay. The Honorable
the Governor in Council
has carefully considered*

MD

W.H.

5/11

the

the question thus proposed,
and ~~I am instructed to state~~
~~for the information of the~~
~~Government of India, that~~
he is quite unable to concur
in the expediency of the
transfer.

2 The Government of
India is aware that a
similar proposal, but of a
less sweeping character, was
brought forward on a former
occasion. In 1835 it was
proposed by the Bombay
Government that the two
Balasahant Taluqs of Sonda
and Sipra should be trans-
ferred to that Presidency;
the main reason assigned
being to give the Southern
Mahratta Country a good
boundary

+ ~~Barber~~
Minute by the Gov^r of Bombay
April 23^d. 1829 Para 10

* 21st March 1836 No 14
* 26th April 1838 No 4 para 64.

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fully considered the proposal,
and came to the conclusion
that the transfer was in-
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3. On two subsequent
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viz in 1847 and in 1855.
The former of these propo-
sals was for the transfer
of all the Country north
of the Honore river, and
was based on the wish
to obtain possession of the
Port of Coompta; the
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merely

merely for the transfer of the two Taluqs named in the preceding paragraph, with a hint at the transfer of the Port of Adichighar also.

This proposal was based on the supposed advantage of bringing the forests of the two Taluqs under the same management as the Darwar Country, for the better conservation of the timber. On both these occasions the subject was fully considered by this Government in communication with the local authorities; and on both, the transfer was held to be inexpedient.

Replies
A reply to that effect ^{were} ~~was~~ made to Bombay; and as far as this Govt is aware the

the correspondence was thus closed, on both occasions.

4. The foregoing detail will shew the Government of India that the subject is not new. It has been in fact so fully discussed and considered here, that this Government has not found it necessary to consult local or Departmental authorities on the present occasion.

The ^{present} ~~present~~ ^{now made} proposal is much more extensive than any of the former. The transfer proposed includes not only the Forest Taluqs, but the whole of North Canara District; the object stated being

being that the Port of Sidat-
-higher and the works spe-
-cially connected with it,
may be in the hands of
the authority chiefly interested
in rendering the Harbour
practically available for
trade.

5 On this proposal I
am directed to state in the
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Admitting, ^{which} ~~that~~ will pro-
bably be the case; that the
trade of the Port of Sidatshi-
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tal from Bombay, this Govt
still maintains that they
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less anxiety for the im-
provement of the Port
an

Barbar

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and of the approaches than
the authorities of Bombay.
Several lines of approach
to the Port from the In-
-terior have been explored
and estimates framed,
and it is owing only to the
restrictions on expenditure
during the last few years,
that the road from Sidat-
-higher to the Darwar
Frontier in the direction
of Hubli is not now com-
plete. But this Govt
is now using every effort
to have it made as speed-
-ily as possible; as well
as to carry into execution
those works of improvement
to the Port itself, which
have been determined by
the Home authorities
to

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All possible facilities will

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either from Bombay or else-

-where, pleasing building

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-ample of Coompta, and

in some degree of ~~Sadobri~~,

shows that the fact of the

place being under a differ-

-ent Government will not

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-ment of Capital from

Bombay.

6. The application

which has been made to

the Government of India

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the whole of the exports

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Belgaum and Darnwar but

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56
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of 1847. Mr. Blane

the Collector of

Canara stated

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half the cotton

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Coompta was from

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the South West

parts of the

Hyderabad Ter-

-ritory; while

there

there was also much
Supari, pepper,
Cardamoms, and
Sandalwood, the
produce of Canara
and Mysore. Sidas-
highar will probably
attract much of
the trade from
Coimbatore; and
its exports
therefore may
be expected to
follow a simi-
lar division.

But

King of Canara

7

But further I am
desirous to point out that
even if the premises were
admitted, they would not
by any means support the
proposal founded on them.
The object stated is to have
the Port of Sidashighar and
the road to Darwar under
Bombay; and for that object
it would only be necessary
to extend the Darwar frontier
south to the Latitude of
Sedashighar. But the pro-
posal contemplates the
transfer of the entire District
of North Canara, with a
populous territory stretching
for fully a hundred miles
south from Sedashighar.
For this part of the plan
no reason whatever is given,
but it may be assumed to
be that it is seen to be dis-
advantageous to break up the new
and convenient District of
North

North Canara. —

8. The Governor in Council is of opinion that the reasons produced against the proposal of 1835, and which obtained the concurrence of the highest authorities, and those which led this Govt. to decide against the proposals of 1847 and 1855, may be urged with still greater force against the present proposal. The fiscal regulations which in 1847 impeded ^{the} free passage of goods thro' Canara have all been wholly abolished; and the forest management, the supposed laxity of which led to the proposal of 1855, has been made thoroughly efficient under the Conservancy Department subsequently formed. On the other hand all the considerations based on the inexpediency

of disturbing social and administrative relations long established and under which a people is thriving in a remarkable degree, have now still greater force; for the advance of the Northern Taluqs in prosperity has subsequently been still more rapid and decided than it was shown to be in 1853, and the administration of the whole District has been improved and consolidated by forming it into a separate and independent jurisdiction.

9. To sum up what has been said, I am directed to state that as respects the Northern Taluqs the reasons given for the transfer is in the opinion of this Govt., inapplicable and insufficient, while no reason whatever is offered for the transfer of the

the much larger remaining
portion of the District. On
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than when a similar pro-
posal was rejected by the
Government of India and
the Home Government.

J.H.

Copy in a Letter to England
of 13th April/61 No. 54.

Rev - 57-58
1-5-1855
" - 73-74
1-5-1855
" - 27-28
2-10-55.

To Govt. of India

Transfer of N. Canara
to the Bombay Govt

Revenue 1861 Departt
Pro. of Govt. for March

No 722.

To the Secretary to the
Govt of India.
Dy 28th March/61.

From the Secy to the Govt of India of 22nd
May 1861 No 1270

Acknowledges receipt
of letter from Govt. of India
containing a suggestion for the
transfer of the North Canara
District to the Bombay Presi-
dency and for reasons given
state that this Govt. is quite in-
capable to concur in the expedi-
ency of the transfer.

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