M.R.O. 1—84,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 208 Press ~~Mis.~~

(20-22)

Dated 20. 7. 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

208

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department, 20th July 1863.

Read the following papers :—

No. 20. From WILLIAM FISHER, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trevandrum, 3rd July 1863.

In acknowledging receipt of Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department, dated 22nd June 1863, No. 175, I have the honor to submit the following remarks with a view to correcting some misapprehension which appears to have occurred regarding the correspondence therein alluded to.

In paragraph 4 of the Proceedings under reference, it is stated that I agreed with the Rajah that the Dewan's pay should not be raised, at least, until he had completed some term of satisfactory and energetic service; and that I did not answer the Rajah's suggestion in regard to the allowance, to Madava Row's sons. What I did say was that I did not think the Dewan's pay if raised, would be deemed extravagantly high, but that as the Rajah objected to raise it, I saw no occasion for anything being done in lieu of granting the Minister's request in the shape in which it was put.

Thus I respectfully submit that I disposed of the Rajah's suggestion and did at once answer the reference made to me.

I certainly proceeded to point out a mode in which I thought the Rajah's object might be hereafter attained in an unobjectionable manner, but in doing so I only made a suggestion counter to the Rajah's, showing that I did not approve of the pensions to the Dewan's sons, though I should not have objected under what I considered peculiar circumstances, to an increase being made to the Dewan's pay had it been the Rajah's wish to increase it. On this latter point I am aware from the observations made by His Excellency the Governor in Council, that my opinion is held to be untenable and I bow to that decision.

It is further stated in the paragraph above quoted, that on being reminded by the Rajah of my omission to answer his suggestion in regard to the allowance to Madava Row's sons, I wrote that as His Highness preferred this mode of granting the request of the Dewan, I saw no reason why it should not be adopted.

It is true that words to this effect were used, but it must be observed that the Rajah merely informed me that he did not understand my first note; and then stated that as he had already acquainted the Dewan with his intentions, he thought the arrangement might hold good. I had overlooked the fact that this circumstance had been implied in the Rajah's first note, and it was on the ground that the Rajah had already committed himself to the course proposed, and had in his second letter drawn my attention to the fact, that I considered further opposition to the mode of remuneration useless, whilst I did not object to the remuneration itself.

It is needless, I hope, to add that had I been aware of the receipt by the Dewan, of such frequent and valuable presents from time to time, since the Rajah's accession, I should not have deemed that his services to the State could with any propriety meet with further acknowledgment, and should have looked on an application for an increase of pay, as evidencing a grasping spirit on the part of the Dewan which his previous character did not lead me to anticipate.

My present communication has for its object only the correction of what will, I think, be found to be erroneous views of the correspondence adverted to, and the steps taken with reference to the orders received will be duly reported on.

No. 21. From WILLIAM FISHER, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trevandrum, 4th July 1863, No. 45.

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that under the circumstances stated below, His Highness the Rajah of Travancore, has decided on cancelling the Neet granting pensions to the sons of the Dewan Madava Row, whilst their father remains in the service; but that in the order to be issued, the Rajah intends to repeat his promise of a pension to the Dewan on that Officer's retirement.

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20th July 1863.

2. After ascertaining, in the first place, that the Dewan had received numerous and valuable gifts and concessions from the Rajah, as stated in a letter signed "Fact," which has attracted the attention of His Excellency the Governor, I obtained an interview with the Rajah and learned from His Highness, that the Dewan had greatly pressed for an increase of pay, taking advantage, as the Rajah thought, of his anxiety to avoid all unpleasantness and annoyance which it was in a Minister's power to create. The Rajah added, that under these circumstances, he had made the arrangement about the pensions, contrary to his own wishes on the subject.

3. On this, I sent for the Dewan, pointed out to him the position in which he had placed himself, in obtaining favors which he must know were not freely accorded, but granted in consequence of his personal influence over the Rajah, and that arising from his position as Minister.

4. On his expressing deep regret for the admitted impropriety of his conduct, I advised him to take such steps, as in his own opinion, would best evidence the sincerity of his contrition and prove to His Highness that nothing of the kind should ever occur again.

5. He subsequently addressed a letter to the Rajah, expressive of his regret for what he had done. He stated that he had reflected seriously on the subject of the pensions granted to his sons; that it would be in the recollection of His Highness that he had not asked for the pensions, as stated in the Neet; and he then proceeded to express his sincere regret for having ever pressed his application for an increase of pay on the Rajah, from whom he had already received so many marks of kindness, and he begged respectfully to inform His Highness that under these circumstances, it was not his intention to avail himself of the Neet.

6. The tone of this letter was not altogether satisfactory, but it appeared to me that there were only two courses open to His Highness, viz., either to accept the expression of regret for impropriety of conduct, as evidenced by the wish not to take advantage of the favor conferred, and so make the order issued virtually inoperative, or to proceed to further and more decisive measures.

7. After much consideration and communication with me on the subject, the Rajah finally came to the conclusion that the only alternative was to cancel his order on the grounds afforded in the Dewan's letter, and resolved on the course now taken, and to which I assented.

Order thereon, 20th July 1863, No. 208.

Resolved that the foregoing letters be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMootry.

Pol. Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
Letters from the Resident
of Travancore and Cochin

(Here enter 3d July 1863 &
4th — — — No 48)

Order thereon 20 July 1863 No. 208.

Resolved that the
foregoing letters be recorded

dist of 28th July

Pol. Letter Engd 11th Septr
Vol 9 of 1863.
Reg. Lr 623 Dated 17/8/63

1863. Department.

No. 208.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Pol. 294

Dated 20th July 63

Recording letter from the Resident of Travancore and Cochin regarding the pensions granted to the sons of Tandavaraya Row &c. late Dewan of Travancore.

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