

Political (1963) Department.*Press* SERIES.

G.O., No. 38

DATED 31-1-63.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Copy of the Secretary of States
Despatch to the Govt of India
on the affairs of Tanjore furnished
to the Govt. Agents.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 8th December 1862, No. 18.

Dated 23rd October (No. 83) 1862.

With reference to your letter, dated 26th September, No. 14, 1862, I transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency's Government, copy of a Despatch addressed by me to the Government of India, on the affairs of Tanjore.

Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 23rd October 1862, No. 83.

1. The letter of your Excellency's Government, No. 25, of March 8th, 1862, and the Proceedings of the Governor and Council of Madras, No. 10, of the same date, in connexion with several important questions affecting the interests of the family of the late Rajah of Tanjore.
2. Your Excellency's Government, in the scale of pensions granted to the widows, to the relatives, and to the servants of the late Rajah. These pensions (which, with certain specified exceptions, are to be limited to the respective lives of the recipients) amount in the aggregate to upwards of five lakhs of Rupees per annum. They appear to have been calculated with due regard to the claims of the several members of the family, whom it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government to see supported in comfort and respectability.
3. You have very properly sanctioned the payment of the late Rajah's debts. The money found in his treasury at the time of his decease has been devoted, as far as it will go, to that purpose. The remaining obligations of His late Highness will be discharged by the British Government.
4. The orders which you have passed for the restoration to the family of the great bulk of the personal property belonging to the late Rajah are generally in agreement with the intentions of Her Majesty's Government. Fully aware of the difficulty of discriminating in such cases between public and private property, and being desirous that the utmost liberality should be extended to the Tanjore family, Her Majesty's Government cheerfully forego their claim to this portion of the personal estate, and consent to the distribution in the manner proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, in his Minute of the 14th April 1860, of the jewels, clothes, and other personal effects of the late Rajah.
5. In accordance with these views, after retaining "the two Swords of State,—the hereditary possessions of the holder of the Tanjore,—which could be used or worn by the Rajah only," the purchase by Government, at a valuation, of the remainder of the armoury, and the retention of such portions as may be of any interest in the Central Museum at Madras, are approved. The other arrangements, referred to in paragraph 9 of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, May 17th, 1862, for the maintenance of a library, hospital, buildings, and palace establishments, are sanctioned.
6. With regard to the landed property of the late Rajah, it appears to have been of two kinds. There were estates purchased by His Highness, or otherwise obtained by him, as private property, regarding which there was no doubt or dispute. These, as a matter of course, have been distributed among the members of the family, according to the principles of Hindoo law. But there were others of a more important character, regarding the tenure of which a difference of opinion existed among the members of the Madras Government. These were certain extensive and highly cultivated villages, which were retained by the Rajah Serfojee, at the time of the cession of the country, under the pretence that they were gardens and pleasure grounds, necessary to his ease and comfort, and which, upon a representation to this effect, were conceded to him by the British Government. The question for decision was, whether these lands were so retained by the Rajah, as a part of the Raj, and as such lapsing to the British Government, on his demise, or whether they were private property, and as such passing to his heirs.

Fort St. George

India Office
London 8th December 1862

Political

N^o 18

dated 23rd Oct: (N^o 83) 1862

Sr,

With reference to your
Letter, dated 26th September
N^o 14, 1862, I have the
herewith, for the information
of your Excellency's Government,
copy of a Despatch addressed
by me to the Government
of India, on the Affairs of
Tanjore.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient
humble servant

Chook

His Excellency
The Honourable
The Governor in Council
Fort St. George

dist. of no. 1863.

2/9/64

No 103

Political
S: Decr 1862

The Secretary of State for India,
No 18.

S. O. 1863.

Transmits for information copy
of a Despatch addressed by him
to the Govt. of India on the affairs
of Tanjore.

Received 8th January 1863.
The Marquis.

Political Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Read the following
Despatch from the R. H.
the Secretary of State for
India.

(dated 8 December 1862 No 18)

Order 31st Jan'y 1863 No 38.

Ordered that a copy
of the foregoing Despatch
and its enclosure be
furnished to the Govt.
Agent at Tanjore for his
information. It is observed
that the letter from this
Govt. reporting their proceed-
ings in the matter of the
Tanjore Raj up to the 26th
of September last, although
acknowledged in the fore-
going Despatch, had not
reached the Rt. Honble the
Secy. of State when his
Despatch to the Govt. of India
of the 28 October
last was written.

To the Govt. Agent
at Tanjore.
dup. 3

1863-136

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
31st January 1863.

No.61. 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, 8th December 1862, No.18.

With reference to your letter, dated 26th September, No.14, 1862, I transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency's Government, copy of a Despatch addressed by me to the Government of India, on the affairs of Tanjore.

Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C.WOOD, Bart, Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 23rd October 1862, No.83.

1. The letter of your Excellency's Government, No.35, of 8th, 1862, and the Proceedings of your Government for June, contain your final decision with respect to the recommendations of the Governor and Council of Madras, in connexion with several important questions affecting the interests of the family of the late Rajah of Tanjore.

2. Your Excellency's Government has approved of the scale of pensions granted to the widows, to the relatives, and to the servants and dependents of the late Rajah. These pensions (which, with certain specified exceptions, are very rightly limited to the respective lives of the recipients) amount in the aggregate to upwards of five lakhs of Rupees per annum. They appear to have been calculated with due regard to the claims of the several members of the family, whom it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government to see supported in comfort and respectability.

3. You have very properly sanctioned the payment of the late Rajah's debts. The money found in his treasury at the time of his decease has been devoted, as far as it will go, to that purpose.

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Recd. 1863 Despatch
No 38.

Proceedings of Govt

2/31 Jan 63

Copy of the Secretary
of State's Despatch to the
Govt of Madras on the subject
of Pension furnished to
the Govt of Madras

(16)

Recd. 1863. 12th April 1863.

14th of 1864.

14th of 1864.

6.10.13

2/9/64

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The remaining obligations of His late Highness will be discharged by the British Government.

4. The orders which you have passed for the restoration to the family of the great bulk of the personal property belonging to the late Rajah, are generally in agreement with the ~~late~~ intentions of Her Majesty's Government. Fully aware of the difficulty of discriminating in such cases between public and private property, and being desirous that the utmost liberality should be extended to the Tanjore family, Her Majesty's Government cheerfully forego their claim to this portion of the personal estate, and consent to the distribution in the manner proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, in his Minute of the 14th April 1860, of the jewels, clothes, and other personal effects of the late Rajah.

5. In accordance with these views, after reserving "the two Swords of State, ---the hereditary possessions of the holder of the Tanjore Raj, which could be used or worn by the Rajah "only", the purchase by Government, at a valuation, of the remainder of the armoury, and the retention of such portions as may be of any interest in the Central Museum at Madras, is approved. The other arrangements, referred to in paragraph 9 of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, May 17th 1862, for the maintenance of the library, hospital, buildings and palace establishments, are sanctioned.

6. With regard to the landed property held by the late Rajah, it appears to have been of two kinds. There were estates purchased by His Highness, or otherwise obtained by him, as private property, regarding which there was no doubt or dispute. These, as a matter of course, have been distributed among the members of the family, according to the principles of Hindoo law. But there were others of a more important character, regarding the tenure of which a difference of opinion existed among the members of the Madras Government. These were certain extensive and highly cultivated villages, which were ~~xxx~~ retained by the Rajah Serfojee, at the time of the cession of the country, under the plea that they were gardens and pleasure grounds, necessary to his ease and comfort, and which, upon a representation to this effect, were conceded to him by the British Government. The question for decision was, whether these lands were so retained by the Rajah, as a part of the Raj, and as such passing to the British Government, on his demise, or whether they were private property divisible among his heirs.

7. From a careful perusal of the voluminous reports of the several Commissioners of Tanjore, and of the Minutes and proceedings of the Madras Government thereon, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that these landed possessions, adverted to in paragraph 51 of the Commissioner's Report of the 11th of July 1857, and in the Resolution of the Madras Government of 5th of December 1859, can be regarded in no other light than as a portion of the hereditary Raj, or domain, and might have been dealt with in the same manner as all other rights and privileges acquired by him in his public capacity at the time of the cession of the country to the British Government.

8. But whilst Her Majesty's Government entertained no doubt of the right of the State to resume possession of lands temporarily alienated under such circumstances, they were anxious to treat in the most liberal spirit the surviving members of the late Prince's family; and were willing to relinquish to them the benefits accruing from these possessions. They perceive, therefore, with much satisfaction, that the Madras Government were disposed to give liberal interpretation to the instructions of your Excellency's Government, and they confirm the arrangement whereby you have sanctioned the relinquishment of the whole of the lands in favour of the heirs of the late Rajah." In what shares, and to what members of the family, it may, after due investigation, be considered equitable, and suitable to their respective degrees of relationship to the deceased Prince to distribute the property, I hope to be shortly informed.

9. Your Excellency's Government having determined the mode of dealing with the landed possessions of the late Raj of Tanjore, it appears to be advisable to leave it to the Government of Madras to carry out these detailed arrangements with the utmost despatch. The delay which has already occurred in your decision upon the measures recommended by that Government has added considerably to the embarrassments with which the subject was encompassed. But now that such marked and liberal consideration has been manifested for the interests and comfort of the family, Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the present settlement will be received with satisfaction by the several members of it, and that the reconciliation of any individual claims and differences that may arise will easily be effected by the judicious exercise of the influence and advice of the local Government.

10. I have to express approval of the decision of the Madras Government, contained in the latter part of paragraph 9 of their Proceedings of the 5th of December 1859, regarding Merassy rights in three villages bequeathed by Mohana Bhoyee to Sydunka Bhoyee, and regarding certain alienations of the nature of Inam to be dealt with by the Inam Commissioner.

11. I have only to add, that the determination of your Government to ~~tax~~ treat the advance of Rupees 35,000 to the late Rajah's daughter, on her marriage (sanctioned in my letter of 9th June, No.14, 1860, to the Madras Government), as a free gift, not to be reclaimed, has the approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

12. A copy of this Despatch will be forwarded to the Government of Madras.

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No.62.

ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1863, No.38.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Despatch and its enclosure be furnished to the Government Agent at Tanjore for his information. It is observed that the letter from this Government reporting their proceedings in the matter of the Tanjore Raj up to the 26th of September last, although acknowledged in the foregoing Despatch, had not reached the Right Honorable the Secretary of State when his Despatch to the Government of India of the 23rd October last was written.

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

When given for copying
 When copied
 When examined
 When signed

18

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 19

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DICTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.