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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

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(B Dis 18-19)

Dated 12-2- 19~~63~~

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department, 12th February 1863.

No. 18. 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, 27th December 1862, No. 19.

I have considered in Council the letters of your Excellency's Government, Nos. 11 and 12 of the present year, reporting you proceedings relative to the three Native States of Travancore, Cochin, and Poodoocottah.

Administration Report for 1036, (1860-61.)

2. TRAVANCORE.—The Revenue Statements for the year under report, one of the most unfavorable on record, contrast strongly with those of the preceding, which was equally exceptional in its prosperity. The difference of 10 lakhs between the income of the State in the two years* appears to be sufficiently accounted for by Mr. Maltby.

* Income in 1857-58.... Rs. 42,11,698.
1858-59.... „ 42,77,119.
1859-60.... „ 51,41,918.
1860-61.... „ 41,03,779.

3. I observe with satisfaction that, compared with former average seasons, the decrease of Revenue is not considerable, and it is highly creditable to the Dewan's management, and to Mr. Maltby's superintendence that the State should, after remitting irrecoverable Revenue balances to the amount of nearly 2½ lakhs, have been able to expend a still larger sum on the relief of destitution, by employing the distressed population on Public Works of present utility and future promise.

4. The estimated Budget for the succeeding year 1037 (ending August 1862) is satisfactory, exhibiting a surplus of 3 lakhs after making provision for a liberal expenditure on Public Works.

5. In his report of the 30th April last, Mr. Maltby adverts to certain matters connected with Travancore which are deserving of consideration.

6. The high character for amiability and enlightenment given by Mr. Maltby to the Rajah, and the conspicuous ability and good faith which have distinguished his Dewan, Madava Row, afford ground for the strongest confidence that the various subjects noticed by the late Resident will receive careful and dispassionate attention from both Ruler and Minister. The removal of the defects still obvious in the administration of justice, the mitigation of the intolerance displayed by the Nairs relative to the dress of their social inferiors, and the development of the resources of the country by Public Works together with the removal of restrictions on commerce, offer full scope for the exercise of the high qualities of both.

7. I request you will communicate to the Rajah these remarks, and intimate to His Highness the great gratification with which Her Majesty's Government have received the late Resident's favorable reports of his rule.

8. COCHIN.—The Revenue report of Cochin is of a favorable character, and represents the results of the first year's management of the new Dewan, Shungoony Menon. The increase of revenue is gratifying, and the fact that an increased cash balance at the year's end was combined with a liberal expenditure on Public Works creditable to the administration. The estimated Budget for the present year presents no special features for remark, and its results will more profitably be reviewed when reported as actual facts. The small increase made to the Rajah's allowance is approved.

9. Her Majesty's Government observe with satisfaction that the substitution of a fixed duty on Pepper for the Government monopoly of that article which had hitherto prevailed, has, even during the first year, not been productive of loss to the Sirkar, and entirely approve the intention of the Rajah to extend the change to the levy of the Government dues on Tobacco.

10. The happy results which have followed the concession to the Rajah of increased power, (as directed in previous Despatches† of Her Majesty's Government) are highly gratifying. Unreserved confidence appears now to exist between the Rajah and his able Minister, and the former is stated by Mr. Maltby not only to appreciate, but beneficially to use, his larger share of influence in the conduct of State affairs, and

† Dated 31st March (No. 4) 1859, p. 18—25 and 17th November (No. 20) 1860, p. 9.

in the choice of public servants. The reforms which have been introduced appear to have been well devised and carried into effect, while those which are in contemplation are of a character to increase the prosperity of the people and their confidence in the administration of justice.

11. The reforms carried out in both Travancore and Cochin during the comparatively short period for which Mr. F. N. Maltby has filled the office of Resident have been of the highest moment to the prosperity of the two territories, and Her Majesty's Government concur with you in entertaining a high sense of that Officer's valuable services.

12. POODOCOTTAH.—The report of the administration of this petty State during the year 1860-61, though presenting few noteworthy results, exhibits a laxity of administration and of accounts, which justly attracted your animadversion. The arrears amount to considerably more than two-thirds of the entire land Revenue, while the delusive heading of "balances in kind," so far from representing an asset, conceals a deficiency caused by the extravagance of the Rajah and the ladies of the Palace.

13. Her Majesty's Government regret to be obliged to concur in the opinion you express relative to the disgraceful conduct of the Rajah in appropriating the Devastanum Funds to minister to his own extravagance. The false representation made by him to the Political Agent by which he succeeded in obtaining a large increase of his allowances, also exhibit the entire want of honesty and moral principle which characterize this chief. It is the clear duty of the Political Agent to prevent the Rajah from having access to the means of further extravagance, and in this he must be seconded by the Dewan, who I am glad to observe by your further proceedings of 2nd May last was not liable to the censure which, previous to Mr. Levinge's explanation, you considered his apparent neglect of duty to deserve.

14. Your warning to the Rajah that he can expect no favor from Government so long as he conducts himself in the manner above indicated, is also approved, and Her Majesty's Government trust it may be attended with beneficial effect.

15. Untill some proof of reformation on the part of the Tondiman become apparent, your Government should abstain from all direct communication with him, and the intercourse of the Political Agent should also be restricted to formal official duties, so that the character of the British Government may not be compromised by any appearance of countenance of the present Rajah's disreputable conduct.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 12th February 1863, No. 50.

Ordered that a copy of paragraphs 2 to 11 of the foregoing Despatch be furnished to the Resident of Travancore and Cochin, and that he be requested to communicate to His Highness the Rajah of Travancore the remarks contained in paragraph 6, and also express to His Highness the great gratification with which Her Majesty's Government have received the late Resident's favorable reports of his rule.

2. A copy of the paragraphs in question will also be sent to the late Resident Mr. F. N. Maltby.

3. Ordered also that paragraphs 12 to 15 be furnished to the Political Agent at Poodoocottah, and that he be requested to communicate to the Rajah the remarks of the Secretary of State on his conduct. The Agent's particular attention is drawn to the last clause of paragraph 13 and to the injunction contained in the last paragraph, by which he will be guided in his future communication with the Rajah.

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

Exd. T. McMurtry.

Political Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Despatch para 11 the Rt. Hon. the Secy: of State for India.

(Dated 27th December 1862
No 19.

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A copy of the paragraph in Letter to the Resident Mr F. W. Malltby

To Resident of Travancore & Cochin 3 Desp. 14
" F. W. Malltby Esqre para 1. with para 1 to 11 of the Desp.
" Political Agent at Poodoocottah 1 with H.B. 13th do
Desp. 14.
para 2 with p. 12 to 15 of the Desp.
& Copies

Pol. 1863. Department.

No. 50

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 12 February 1863.—

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