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Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

27th Oct 1857

Back No 27-28

Order No 1092 D/ 26th Oct 1857

புதுப்பிப்பு படிவம் - 1.
செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் Th. சிவானந்வேல்
செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுக்கப்பட்ட நாள். 15/12/06
செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 05/07
10/5/07 8/6/07 18/06/07
சரிபார்த்தது [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
பொறுப்பு பொறுப்பு பொறுப்பு

No. 27. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George; dated Calicut 29th September 1857, No. 132.

SIR,

I have the honor to report, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 18th June 1857, that besides informing the Beeby of Cannanore of the resolution of Government, I paid her a few days ago a personal visit with, I must admit, little hope of success, but still I was anxious that no reasonable endeavour on my part should be wanting, towards bringing her and her son to a just appreciation of their duty.

2. I informed the Beeby of Cannanore that I was anxious that she acquiesce in the resolution of Government and that while repudiating the conduct of the islanders, she should co-operate in carrying out the order, and withdraw her Agents who stirred up the revolution, or place them in subordination to the Government officers. That she should desist from all opposition direct and indirect, and instruct the islanders that it was her sincere wish that for the present they should consider themselves subject to the Circar. I impressed upon her the undesirableness of appearing still in open opposition, which her refusal to confirm must imply. I pointed out to her that all expenses attending the execution of the orders of Government must be debited to her account, and go to swell the arrear due. That the expense must be greatly enhanced if her opposition was to be met, while if she pursued cordially a different course, it would enable me to execute my instructions without an establishment much larger than that sent by Mr. Conolly in 1854.

3. Her son and principal Agent were present throughout the interview.

4. The same considerations were urged on her and her son by other native public officers of standing and influence, who accompanied me.

5. We failed, I regret to state, to elicit from her or from her son the smallest acknowledgment of error, or disavowal of the propriety of what has taken place. Their opposition remains unwithdrawn. She objected to Government's interference as an "invasion of her sovereignty," and they made no offer to withdraw the Agents by whom they have practically superseded the Government attachment. I failed even to obtain that practical co-operation which should enable to spare the estate of increased expense, which will now be required to carry out the sequestration, and place and maintain an establishment on the islands able to protect itself in the face of opposition.

6. I will now proceed to execute the orders as soon as opportunity occurs.

7. Since my return the Beeby of Cannanore has submitted for transmission to the Honorable the Governor in Council the accompanying address,* which is a mere repetition of former grievances and conveys proposals, which are obviously inadmissible.

* *English and Malyalim.*
In original dated 23d September 1857.

1st. That the remission offered in 1849, and then rejected by the Beeby of Cannanore may now be allowed and credit given for arrears thereof, and that the condition then attached to it of introducing certain amelioration in the administration of the islands no longer be insisted upon.

2nd. That Government should forego the Peshkash† of two years, during which the islanders are alleged to have enjoyed some freedom of trade to the detriment of her monopolies.

† *Rupees* 20,000.

3rd. That the expense‡ of provision supplied to the Islands in 1849 by the Bombay Government be deducted from the arrear.

‡ *Rupees* 2,346-8-0.

4th. That "Sovereignty of the Island be restored," and that the "usual protection be given to our trade" for the future. In short that all the monopolies be restored.

8. In short the Beeby of Cannanore is wholly impracticable.

9. She and son stand more or less alone in their opposition. The Junior Beeby, I believe, sees things in their proper light, but the elder one besides being a woman peculiarly tenacious of purpose, has an Arab adventurer who came to Cannanore two years ago, and lives upon her by buoying her up with the idea of a successful appeal to the British Parliament, which, if she

[illegible] lived in idle ease, he is to carry [illegible] in person, enjoying a large salary while in [illegible].

10. The Beebee of Cannanore must early [illegible] her true position and relation to the British Government as will be observed by the style of address she assumes, and the titles she [illegible] "Queen Beeby of Cannanore and "Sovereign of the Laccadive Group."

11. The Beeby of Cannanore's family was in former years the only ally of Tippoo in Malabar, and in all our wars with the Mysore rulers was our foe. Twice was the Fort of Cannanore reduced by British Arms. On the first occasion in 1784 and again in 1791. On the cession of Malabar in 1792 the family as being "conquered foes" was treated with considerable rigour, for while all the Rajahs of Malabar were allowed to retain at the quinquennial settlement [illegible] at the rate of Tippoo's Jumabundy Schedules and received likewise a [illegible] allowance, Malikhanah, equal to ⅕ of all their revenues and other indulgences, the [illegible] exacted from the Beeby of Cannanore and accepted by her under pain of peremptory [illegible], was the payment of a Zemindarry Peshkush equal to a full moiety of her assets [illegible], territorial, commercial, &c. &c. No Malikhanah was allowed and [illegible] from the Chief of family were caused to be restored.

12. The confiscation of the islands and abolition of the monopolies which even then, were [illegible] to be oppressive and highly prejudicial to the interests of the people, were determined upon and ordered by the Governor General* and Court of Directors† but as the French war had broken out and further dissensions with Tippoo were imminent, the execution of this resolution was deferred to a convenient season, and eventually it was lost sight of.

13. The position of the Beeby of Cannanore is that of an ordinary Zemindarie under a [illegible], exercising likewise the ordinary fiscal and police management under the Government. The [illegible] which she styles "Treaty" is a mere fiscal contract.

14. Under these circumstances the assumption of such titles as "Queen Beeby of Cannanore and Sovereign of the Laccadives" is simply silly, and would be harmless did its admission in public papers not tend to [illegible] herself.

15. The title "Her Highness" is met with in no official correspondence prior to 1820, Mr. [illegible] in 1808. The more regal titles were assumed by the Beeby of Cannanore within the last few years and since her difficulties commenced, and their [illegible].

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* Dated 11th July 1793.

† Dated 1st March 1795.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1092, dated 29th October 1857.

[illegible] The Acting Collector of Malabar reports, with reference to the orders [illegible] Minutes Consultation 18th June 1857, the result of a [illegible] he has had with the Beebee of Cannanore, with the view of bringing her to a [illegible].

2. Mr. Robinson mentions the particular points to which he called the Beebee's attention, [illegible] aided by those of public officers standing [illegible] he failed to elicit from either the Beebee or her son, the [illegible] of what had taken place with [illegible] unwithdrawn. He encloses an [illegible] former grievances, and conveys [illegible] the Beebee improperly arrogates to herself [illegible] Laccadive Group; and regards the interference of [illegible] adds, that the Beebee is [illegible] who live at her expense, and [illegible].

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council cannot but express his regret that all [illegible] the Beebee to a proper sense of her position [illegible] communication from the Beebee in [illegible] title of Queen; and he resolves [illegible] the Beebee, the address which [illegible].

7/1852

4. The Governor in Council requests that Mr. Robinson will be so good as to call on the Arab adventurer mentioned in para. 9 of his letter for an account of himself, and will inform Government of his antecedents, his means of livelihood, his character, and the general tendency of his acts.

5. As the Steamer "Prince Arthur" is now on her way to Bombay to receive a crew, she will be directed to touch at Calicut on her return, to enable the Acting Collector of Malabar to avail himself of her services in carrying out the order of the 18th June last. The Commander will be instructed to communicate with Mr. Robinson before he leaves Bombay, regarding the probable time of his arrival at Calicut, and Mr. Robinson will be so good as to allow of no useless detention of the vessel.

Ordered that para. 5 of the above resolution be communicated, through the Marine Department, to the Commander of the Steamer "Prince Arthur."

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

24 [illegible]

27/[illegible]

1-4-90

[illegible] 186[illegible]

189[illegible]

No. 132 [illegible] 29 September 1857.

From

W. Robinson Esquire

Acting Collector of [illegible]

To

C. [illegible] Esquire

Acting Chief Secy. to Government

Fort St. George

Sir

I have the honor to report with reference to Extract [illegible] of [illegible] dated 15th [illegible] 1857 that [illegible] to the [illegible] of [illegible] Government, I [illegible] a personal visit [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I [illegible] the [illegible] of Commander [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of Government [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the extent of the islands
[illegible] in carrying out the
[illegible]
of the [illegible]
[illegible] the Government [illegible]
[illegible] effected [illegible]
[illegible] to the islands [illegible]
[illegible] for the present
[illegible] Subject [illegible]
[illegible] proposed [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 1834
I have [illegible]
Agent

3

Agent [illegible] throughout the [illegible]
The [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible]
[illegible] Officer of the Colony [illegible]
[illegible]

5 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the property of [illegible]
[illegible] effected [illegible]
which the Government [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] practically suspended [illegible]
[illegible]
practical [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

6 [illegible]
the [illegible]

Since my return the
Body of Commons has submitted for
transmission to the Honourable the Gov.
in Council the accompanying address,* [illegible]
[illegible] of former
[illegible] proposals, which are
[illegible]

1st That the [illegible] effected
1849 [illegible] be repealed by the Body
of Commons, [illegible] be allowed [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] administra-
[illegible]

2nd That Government shall
forego the [illegible] during *Rupees 20000
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

3 That the [illegible] of Rupees [illegible]
[illegible] in the [illegible] 1849
by the Body of Commons be deducted
from the [illegible]

4.

*English & Malayalam in Original dated 23 September 1857

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Christian [illegible]

12 The [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

13 The [illegible] the Body
of Commons [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
The [illegible]
[illegible] final [illegible]

That

*27th July 1850
*27th [illegible]

Under these circumstances [illegible] [illegible] the title of Queen [illegible] of Cannanore and Sovereign of the Laccadives [illegible] folly [illegible] to be [illegible] public [illegible] [illegible] Laccadives [illegible] [illegible] Her Highness [illegible] Official correspondence [illegible] 1821 [illegible] the Cannanore [illegible] [illegible] in 1845 [illegible] [illegible] were opposed to the [illegible] Government [illegible] and since [illegible] difficulties [illegible] their use ought to be forbidden

I have &c

Your most Obedient Servant,

[illegible]

Acting Collector

[illegible]

7/1092

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1092.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 26th October 1857.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar.

Submits with reference to Ex. Mins. of Consultation dated 18th June 1857 an address from the Beebee of Cannanore to the Honorable the Governor in Council, and reports the result of the personal interview he had with her. (Here enter 29th Sept. 1857, No. 132.)

Para. 1. In this letter, the Acting Collector of Malabar reports, with reference to the orders of *Government* conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation 18th June 1857, the result of a personal interview he has had with the Beebee of Cannanore, with the view of bringing her to a proper sense of her duty.

2. Mr. Robinson mentions the particular points to which he called the Beebee's attention, and states that, notwithstanding his best endeavours, aided by those of public officers standing and experience who accompanied him, he failed to elicit from either the Beebee or her son, the smallest acknowledgment of error, or disavowal of the propriety of what had taken place with respect to the Island of Manikoy; and that their opposition remains unwithdrawn. He encloses an address from the Beebee, which, he says, is a mere repetition of former grievances, and conveys proposals which are obviously inadmissible; he says that the Beebee improperly arrogates to herself the title of "Queen, and Sovereign of the Laccadive Group," and regards the interference of Government as an invasion of her Sovereignty; and he furthermore adds, that the Beebee is supported in her contumacious conduct by an Arab adventurer, who lives at her expense, and buoys her up with hopes of a successful appeal to Parliament.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council cannot but express his regret that all Mr. Robinson's endeavors should have failed to bring the Beebee to a proper sense of her position. His Lordship in Council must decline to receive any communication from the Beebee in which she claims either Sovereign rights, or the rank and title of Queen; and he resolves in consequence to return to the Acting Collector, for delivery to the Beebee, the address which his letter *enclosed*.

4. The Governor in Council requests that Mr. Robinson will be so good as to call on the Arab adventurer mentioned in para. 9 of his letter for an account of himself, and will inform Government of his antecedents, his means of livelihood, his character, and the general tendency of his acts.

5. As the Steamer "Prince Arthur" is now on her way to Bombay to receive a crew, she will be directed to touch at Calicut on her return, to enable the Acting Collector of Malabar to avail himself of her services in carrying out the order of the 18th June last. The Commander will be instructed to communicate with Mr. Robinson before he leaves Bombay, regarding the probable time of his arrival at Calicut, and Mr. Robinson will be so good as to allow of no useless detention of the vessel.

Ordered that para. 5 of the above resolution be communicated, through the Marine Department, to the Commander of the Steamer "Prince Arthur."

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

[illegible]

1807

No. 1198

To

The Acty Chief Secty of Government

Dated 29 Sept. 1807

Recd 2 Oct

No 131

[illegible]

1827

The Government must decline to receive any communi-
-cation from the [illegible] in which she claims either sovereign
rights or the rank and title of Que

B L