M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1128	Press ~~Mis.~~
89-90	
Dated 9-7-	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th July 1860.

No. 89. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th June 1860, No. 2,960 :—

Read again letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 6th March 1860, No. 51, stating in reply to Board's Proceedings, that his opinion that the fiscal administration of Laccadive Islands might be improved was founded on the supposition that the Bíbí would consent to the permanent transfer of those Islands to Government.

(In Cons., 15th March 1860, No. 1,194.)

Read also letter from the same Officer, dated 12th June 1860, No. 116, expressing his inability to suggest any changes which the Bíbí would be likely to adopt in return for a remission of the interest due by her.

(In Cons., 19th June 1860, No. 2,956.)

1. Resolved that the above letters together with a copy of the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,459, dated 22nd March 1860, be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government, with reference to paragraph 3 of their Proceedings in the Revenue Department, No. 257, dated 18th February 1860.

In Cons., 20*th February* 1860, *No.* 793.

2. It appears that the suggestion of the Collector of Malabar, that arrangements might be effected for the better adimnistration of the Laccadive Islands without prejudicing the Bíbí's just interests was based on the supposition of her permanently relinquishing the management of the Islands to Government. Under no other circumstances does Mr. Grant entertain a hope of any real reforms being introduced.

3. Under these circumstances there is no alternative but to continue the attachment, as ordered by Government until the Bíbí has paid all her arrears, principal, interest and charges.

4. When this is done and the Islands are restored to the Bíbí it will probably be found that the growing intelligence and independence of the people and experience they now have had of a more enlightened Government, will compel the Bíbí to reform her administration.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1860, No. 1,128.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 1459.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd March 1860.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort St. George ; dated Calicut, 6th March 1860, No. 51.

In reply to Proceedings Madras Government, and their Order thereon, dated February 18th, 1860, No. 257, I beg to inform you, that my remark, that arrangements might be made, which, without affecting the just interests of the Bibi, would tend to the prosperity of the Islanders (Laccadive), was made on the supposition that the Bibi would give up the Islands to the direct management of the Government.

2. The nature of those arrangements I cannot of course lay down at present, as I contemplated that it would be necessary that some European Authority should visit the Islands, and that on receipt of his Report detailing their Resources, and pointing out the various means which might be adopted for their amelioration, some mode of settlement more equitable to all parties and less objectionable than the present Monopoly, might be followed, without prejudicing the rights of the Bibi.

3. If the expressions used by me tended to lead Government to think that steps for the improvement of the Islands might be easily adopted, I certainly erred ; for their inaccessibility for five months of the year, proves a great bar to good management, and is a source of considerable anxiety when one has to trust so much to an unwilling Agency, composed of Mapillas. Every one dislikes the Islands ; there are few comforts to be had ; and as the whole population is Mapilla, no one of another caste will take service on them.

In Con. 23d Jan. 1860. The Board understood Mr. Grant in his letter, dated 14th January 1860, to mean that the Bibi might be induced to introduce certain administrative reforms in return for the remission of the large sum still due by her as Interest on her arrears.

2. They wish to know whether Mr. Grant thinks she would consent to such an arrangement. The Reports of Mr. Thomas and Mr. Robinson on the Islands, will, the Board think, enable the Collector to specify the desirable reforms.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To

P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. Wright.

In Con., 19th June 1860, No. 2,956.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of MALABAR,
dated Calicut, 12th June 1860, No. 116.

I have received Proceedings Board of Revenue, No. 1,459, dated 22nd March 1860.

2. Unless the Bibi can be prevailed on to give up the direct management of the Laccadive Islands, I am at a loss to state what improved system of fiscal administration can be recommended, for I feel pretty confident, that the Bibi will not listen to any suggestions, indicating a change from the present monopoly. A persual of the records connected with the affairs of the Laccadives since 1792, leads me to this conclusion, as the Bibi has steadily and persistently resisted all overtures advocating improvement.

3. Until the Islands were sequestered by our Government on account of arrears of peshkash in 1854, the unfortunate Islanders were at the mercy, in a great measure, of the Bibi's agents, and judging from what I have read and heard personally, they do not wish to be placed in a like position again. To place the Islands on a sound fiscal basis, a Revenue Survey of them is required, for at present our information of their resources is most meagre. The fullest statistics of their products are given in Mr. Robinson's report, but these refer to a state of circumstances existing prior to the inundation in 1847, and are now perfectly inapplicable, as Cocoanut trees, which constituted the chief item yielding revenue, were, in that year, blown down by thousands.

Dated 19th May 1848.

4. The Islands are again recovering, but are very far from having attained that condition which existed prior to the storm.

5. The best thing that can be done for the Islands and their inhabitants, under existing circumstances, is, I believe, to retain them under sequestration, until the interest due is liquidated. In the meantime, the new police will be established on them, and in the course of years, the Bibi may find that a change of fiscal administration is desirable on her own account.

6. Constant intercourse with the mainland of late years, has rendered the people much more independent and less manageable, than they were; and this feeling is sure to grow; so that unless the Bibi is able to command some very considerable aid, her monopolies are likely to suffer much.

7. Messrs. Robinson's and Thomas' reports do not touch on the subject of the improvement of the Islands.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 2,960.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th June 1860.

Read again letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 6th March 1860, No. 51, stating in reply to Board's Proceedings, that his opinion that the fiscal administration of Laccadive Islands might be improved was founded on the supposition that the Bibi would consent to the permanent transfer of those Islands to Government.

(In Con., 15th March 1860, No. 1,194.)

Read also letter from the same Officer, dated 12th June 1860, No. 116, expressing his inability to suggest any changes which the Bibi would be likely to adopt in return for a remission of the interest due by her.

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2. It appears that the suggestion of the Collector of Malabar, that arrangements might be effected for the better administration of the Laccadive Islands without prejudicing the Bibi's just interests was based on the supposition of her permanently relinquishing the management of the Islands to Government. Under no other circumstances does Mr. Grant entertain a hope of any real reforms being introduced.

3. Under these circumstances there is no alternative but to continue the attachment, as ordered by Government untill the Bibi has paid all her arrears, principal, interest and charges.

4. When this is done and the Islands are restored to the Bibi it will probably be found that the growing intelligence and independence of the people and experience they now have had of a more enlightened Government, will compel the Bibi to reform her administration.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. Wright.

10th Dec 1859 No 81-82
31st Jany 1860 No 52-53
20th Feby 1860 No 92-93

Copy in a Letter to Govt
of 4th Octr 60 No 102

Mis. 20th May 1860 No 174
V.A.

No 289 & 90.

Cs July 1860

Revenue 1860 Department
Pro: of Govt for July.
No 1331

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 26th June 1860.
Desp. 2 July
Recd. 2
E. 2.

No 2960.

Submitting with the
Boards observations correspondence
with the Collector of Malabar &c
=posing his inability to suggest
any changes which the Bibi
would be likely to adopt in the
fiscal administration of Lacca
=dive Islands in return for a
remission of the interest due
by her.

No 1128.

Recorded
9th July 1860.