M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2394 Press Mis.

171 172

Dated 7 - 9 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th September 1866.

No. 171. Read the following letter from the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Bangalore, 27th August 1866, No. 2,496-18 :—

In continuation of my letter No. 2,208-16, dated the 14th instant, I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, copies of the papers noted in the margin, and to state that having ascertained after searching enquiry that the Amildar of the Goondulpett Talook had interfered without authority in respect to the free exportation of grain, I have directed his suspension from office for the term of six months.

From Superintendent, Ashtagram, Nos. 1,586-65, and 1,631-66, dated 17th and 20th August 1866.

From the Acting Superintendent, Ashtagram Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, dated Mysore, 17th August 1866, No. 1,586-65.

1. I have the honor to forward, for the consideration and orders of the Commissioner, the accompanying copy of correspondence, containing a report by Mr. Sabaputti Moodeliar, (received through the Deputy Superintendent,) who was deputed to proceed to the Goondulpett Talook to ascertain what foundation existed for reports which reached me from Mr. Grant, the Collector of Coimbatore, and Mr. Ouchterlony, that the exportation of grain from Mysore had been prohibited by the authorities.

2. The Commissioner is aware that these reports had been in circulation for some time, and that prompt measures were taken to counteract their mischievous effects, but some difficulty has attended the endeavours that have been made (involving a considerable amount of private correspondence) to discover the origin from whence they proceeded.

I have satisfied myself that the Amildars of Heggadavencotta and Periapatam have acted throughout with discretion, and in accordance with the views of the Government, in forbearing to interfere in any way with the transit of grain, or its current market price, and I was somewhat surprised, after the explicit and repeated instructions that have been issued on the subject, to find from Mr. Grant's letter of the 7th instant, (quoted in my letter to the Deputy Superintendent,) that the impression in respect to the Goondul authorities still remained, and appeared in even stronger and more objectionable terms.

3. The annexures of Mr. Sabaputti's letter, fully explain the ill-advised course pursued by the Amildar of Goondulpett, and it appears to me evident from communications that have reached me, chiefly from Mr. Grant, Mr. Ouchterlony, and Mr. Dawson of Seegoor, taken in connection with the papers attached to this report, that a mischievous influence has been exercised by the Amildar and Talook officials, not only for some time previous to the date of the order issued to the Shaikdars, but even subsequent to the instructions issued to him on the subject from this Office.

4. I have therefore, as the Commissioner will observe, suspended the Amildar, pending instructions, and have repeated a stringent warning to the Amildars to abstain from all interference with the market, its supply, or current prices.

From the Acting Superintendent, Ashtagram Division, to the Secretary to the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of the Rajah of Mysore, Bangalore, dated Mysore, 20th August 1866, No. 1,637.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Docket, No. 2,279-379 of the 16th instant, forwarding, for report, papers connected with the alleged prohibition of the export of grain to the Wynaad by Mysore officials, and in reply to state that in the letters marginally noted, the result of enquiries instituted into the conduct of the Heggadavenkotta, Periapatam, and Goondulpett Amildars has already been reported.

To Secretary, No. 1,534-63, dated 14th August.
To do., No. 1,586-65, dated 17th ,,

2. It was found that no interference whatever had been exercised by the Amildars of the two former Talooks, but that, notwithstanding his distinct asseveration to the contrary, the Goondulpett Amildar had issued orders, prohibiting the export of grain until the actual wants of the Talook had been supplied, and I consequently suspended him, and his case is now under reference to the Commissioner.

3. I have entered considerably into private correspondence on the above subject with Mr. Grant, the Collector of Coimbatore, Mr. Ouchterlony, and Mr. Dawson of Ootacamund, but have been unable to learn from whence the above reports first proceeded, and no tangible complaint has as yet been laid before me by any one, on which an investigation could be based. The complaint of the Wynaad Planters' Association turned out to be wholly unfounded, as shewn by Mr. Somasoondur Row's report, whose sagacity would not, I believe, allow him to be misled, and the facts elicited proved unfavorable to the representation in the instance of one of the members of the deputation who waited on me. It is highly probable that the Goondulpett Amildar had used his influence for some time previous to the issue of the obnoxious order, but I cannot but express my surprise that no definite complaint was ever made to me of any instance in which direct injury was sustained.

4. Again, the plundering of the Goodloor bazaar on the 15th of July by laborers in the employ of Coffee planters in that District was enough to have closed the traffic from Mysore to the Wynaad, and it cannot be doubted that added to this, there exists a great reluctance on the part of the inhabitants of a Province, who systematically store grain against seasons of scarcity to export, while it remains uncertain how long their own necessity may last. Further, it is the interest of the merchant to keep the price as high as he can, and the brokers, or those deputed by the planters to purchase for them, would not be behind-hand in assisting them.

5. Considering, therefore, the vague and indefinite nature of the rumours that have been directed against the Mysore authorities, and the pains that, as the Commissioner is aware, have been taken to counteract and trace them to their source, I am of opinion that there is more to be attributed to the grounds stated in the last paragraph, in explanation of the allegations complained of, than to the partial influence which the Amildar of Goondulpett alone is shewn to have exercised, in league, as it would appear, with the merchants of the place.

6. In conclusion, I beg to remark that had the Tahsildar of Manantoddy or the Collector of Malabar applied at once to me, or to the District Officer, and assisted in fixing the *onus* of the rumour upon the proper party, a great benefit would have been gained, and the mischief would have been promptly and effectually dealt with.

(Copies.)

(Signed) L. BOWRING,
Commissioner.

No. 172. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1866, No. 2,394.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be communicated to the Collector of Malabar, through the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 1866 Vol. Letters Rec'd 28th Sept. Para 2853.
From The Commissioner of Mysore
To The Secretary to Government Revenue Department Fort Saint George
Dated 27th August
Despatched
Received 30th.

Enclosures No. 2.

General No. 2496 / Revenue No. 18 } 1866-67.

In continuation of No. 2205/16
Dated 14th Instant, encloses for information of Government Copies of certain papers, and states that the Amildar of the Goondulpett Talook has been suspended for 6 months for interfering without authority in respect to the free exportation of grain.

No. 2394-7th Sept. 66

Settle order.

27th Augt/66 Nos 673-674
Ceir 2647-66-2394.

Ordered the communicated to the Collector of Malabar thro' the Bd of Revenue.

7th Sept/66

The Amildar has been severely censured

Ad

No. 1718/72

30 Augt/66 R.R.