M.R.O. 14-5,450-2-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3099 — Press ~~Mis.~~

330. 331

Dated 14 - 11 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th November 1866.

No. 330. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th October 1866, No. 7,561 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Angadipuram, Walluvanad Talook, 14th September 1866, No. 266.

1. Adverting to the Board's Proceedings noted,* I have the honor to submit a copy of a letter† from Ali Rajah, on the matter of Government Order dated 10th ultimo, No. 2,021.

* 14th August 1866, No. 5,691.
† 25th August 1866.

2. I also submit a Memorandum of what has taken place, in connection with the supplies furnished the islanders, on the occasion in question.

3. The supplies were not sent at the request of the Bibi; nor was the necessity for their being sent distinctly acknowledged, though it was not denied.

4. Ali Rajah, indeed, in his letter of the 11th January 1865, promised to pay the amount in two instalments in the following February and March; but it was rather as a matter of accommodation, than of right, that he expressed his readiness to liquidate the claim.

5. I am not at all clear that a Civil action would lie against Ali Rajah for the amount; and unless it is decided, on farther consideration, that I am wrong, I would respectfully suggest that the claim be waived.

From SULTAN ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, to the Collector of Malabar, dated 25th August 1866.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, acquainting me with the instructions you have received from the Board of Revenue to sue me in the Civil Court, for the recovery of the price of the provision, supplied by Government to the inhabitants of Akati and Kavarati, in case of failure on my part to make good the same within the period of three months, and in reply, I beg leave to state that it does not appear by the Arrakel records, and the receipts taken by the Government officials from the islanders, that the above supply was either bespoken by my niece, the Cheria Bibi, who had then the management of the Pandaram affairs, or received by my Divi Karyastan for distribution to the inhabitants; consequently such supply was gratuitous, bearing the nature of a commercial transaction. However, I did not shrink from the responsibility of recovering the value thereof from its recipients, and paying the same into the public treasury; and when such had been the case, I very much regret that the Board of Revenue should think of requiting me with a law suit for my proffered assistance.

2. Two of the islanders, to whom a portion of such supply had been issued, and who arrived at this port in May last, promised to remit the price thereof on the opening of the season, and as I purpose despatching a Karyastan to the above islands, to recover the whole amount from the inhabitants, I beg you will have the goodness to allow me a reasonable time to meet the Board's demand.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) G. A. BALLARD, *Collector.*

Memorandum.

1. In June 1863, it came to my notice that 24 native boats, with provisions for the Laccadive islands, had been driven by stress of weather into various ports on this coast, and as there appeared no probability of their being able to reach the islands that season, I immediately informed the officer in charge of South Canara of the circumstances, that he might take the necessary steps in connection with the relief about to be afforded to the islands in his district. That officer replied (15th June 1863) that steps would be taken to relieve the islanders, and he further informed me, on 27th of the same month, that, at the request of the Madras Government, a steamer would be sent with provisions to the islands, and it would take additional supplies in case the Bibi's islanders were also in want. I had had no intimation from the Bibi that any of her people were in want; and on my informing her, by letter dated 30th June, of the supplies that were to be had, she

returned for answer (4th July) that she had no information of there being any famine in her islands; but she continued, "As soon as I receive such information, I shall request the Collector of Canara to send the required supply at once, and inform you of the same."

2. In farther correspondence which occurred with the Ribi in the matter, she did not ask supplies to be sent; she did not even say that she thought they would be necessary. Two of her islands however, Akati and Kavarati, were supplied with provissions* by the steamer, and I hold the receipts of the headman of these islands for the same.

* Of Rupees 1,978-5-9 value.

3. On 11th July 1864, I requested Ali Rajah, the Bibi's successor, to pay for these provisions, and in reply† he stated that he was "At a loss to know if such supply was sent at the request of the Bibi, or of the islanders," and asked for the names of the persons who had received it, and copies of the receipts they granted. This information I afforded him in my letter of the 31st August and 29th October. The Rajah took no further notice of the matter, and on my again calling his attention to it he wrote, (11th January 1865,) "I beg leave to state that it does not appear, by the Cheria Bibi's letter to you, that such supplies "were required on that occasion; however, in gratitude for the solicitude you had kindly evinced "towards the welfare of my subjects, I purpose meeting the price of such provisions in February "and March next. I hope that in future you will not cause similar supplies to be issued without "consulting me on the subject."

† July 21st.

4. The Rajah still failing to pay, he is now threatened with a Civil Suit by Government; on his being informed of this contingency, he writes, on the 25th ultimo, to say that he can find no evidence whatever, either that the Bibi asked for the supplies, or that the supplies when given, were given through her Karyastan or representative at the islands. "However," he continues, "I did not shrink from the responsibility of recovering the value thereof from the recipients, "and paying the same into the public treasury, and when such had been the case, I very much "regret that the Board of Revenue should think of requiting me with a law suit for my proffered "assistance."

ANGADIPURAM,
14th September 1866.

(Signed) C. A. BALLARD,
Collector.

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1. Submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order dated 10th August 1866, No. 2,021, Revenue Department, and with the Board's recommendation that the claim be waived, or at least that all idea of resort to legal proceedings be abandoned.

2. The Board are not satisfied that Ali Rajah is either legally or morally bound to discharge this claim, unless he has committed himself by any of his letters.

No. 331. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1866, No. 3,099.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government entertain no doubt of the justice and validity of their claim, but in accordance with the recommendation of the Board and Collector consent to waive it.

2. The Rajah must of course, on his part, abstain from any demand on his islanders.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 3099.

The first Endorsement has
reference to the petition &c.
&c. of the petitioners &c.
liability of these claims to
be waived in accordance with the
recommendation of the
Board of Revenue consent to
waive it; ~~the~~ The Rajah must
of course, on his part,
abstain from any demand
on his Islanders

J D S
14th Nov 66.

14 Copies Forwarded to Board of Revenue &c.