M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3315 — Press ~~Mis.~~

97-98

Dated 10 — 12 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th December 1866.

No. 97. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Political Department:—

Declining to give Ali Rajah any aid in upholding his monopolies, and observing that if the Rajah's rights are in any way infringed, he must seek redress in the established Courts. } (Here enter 26th November 1866, No. 267.)

No. 98. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1866, No. 3,315.

Miscellaneous. Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Political Department, No. 267.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
26*th November* 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 34. From SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cannanore, 26th March 1866.

I beg you will have the goodness to lay the enclosed address before His Excellency the Governor in Council, and favor me with a line in acknowledgment.

To His Excellency the Honorable Sir W. T. DENISON, K. C. B.,
Governor in Council of Fort Saint George, Madras.

May it please your Excellency,

As I am subject to grievous losses, ever since the withdrawal by Government of the protection afforded to my trade for the last sixty years, I have again addressed the Collector of Malabar on the subject, copy whereof I beg most respectfully to submit, herewith, for the favorable consideration of your Excellency in Council.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) SULTAN ALI,
Rajah of Cannanore.

Cannanore, 26*th March* 1866.

From SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Collector of Malabar; dated Cannanore, 2nd March 1866.

In reply to your letters as per margin, forwarding extracts from the Proceedings of Government, under dates the 9th May and 13th July 1865, which unforeseen circumstances prevented my noticing earlier, I have the honor to submit the following facts, for your information, and that of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

Nos. 2086 and 2164, respectively, dated 13th and 20th July 1865.

1st.—That the Peiscush or tribute payable by my House to the British Government is due on our "trade with the Laccadives, and on our Jelem property on the said Islands," as will be seen by the wording of the last Treaty.

Dated 28th October 1796, or 15th Toolam 972.

2nd.—That the second paragraph of the above Treaty exempts us from the payment of Custom duty on the Coir imported from the above Islands, which exemption is in full force to this day.

Vide letters from Mr. Babington, dated 5th September 1818, 22nd August and 8th October 1822.

3rd.—That Durkusts are given and received in the name of the Representative of my House on the importation of the produce of the Islands, as will be proved by the Sea Custom records.

4th.—That the long enjoyment of the protection lately withdrawn, which extends over a period of sixty years, invests us with a prescriptive right thereto, and such right, being valid and unalienable, challenges respect.

5th.—That compensation, subject to the approval of the Board of Revenue, for any loss our House might sustain by the withdrawal of the long continued protection conceded to our exclusive trade, was mooted by the Government, as will appear by the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, of date the 29th June 1852.

6th.—That the now proscribed monopoly was maintained intact on the sequestration, and during the management of the Islands by Government for the recovery of certain arrears of Peiscush, when the inhabitants were directed to conduct themselves as formerly with reference to our monopoly.

Letters from Mr. Conolly, dated 29th October 1854, and 22nd January 1855.

7th.—That, on the subsequent restoration of the Islands, our subjects were required by a proclamation to transfer their allegiance to us, and submit to prescription.

Dated 13th March 1861.

8th.—That the Government itself did not scruple to enter into contract with our House for the annual supply of 500 candies of the Coir included in our monopoly, and which was furnished by us for a very long time.

Letter from Mr. Bell, dated 20th Karkadagom 985, A. D. 1809, with reference to the Coir contract.

9th.—That when the produce of the Islands was clandestinely imported and sold by the Islanders in other Ports than Cannanore, the same was seized and secured by the local authorities, and eventually made over to us.

Letter from Mr. D. White, dated 2nd Danoo 1008, or 14th December 1832.

10th.—That the system of revenue now objected to was adopted by the Sirkar in its administration of the four Islands which were ceded by us.

11th.—That the above monopoly is our only source of revenue, and the articles it includes, namely, coir, cowries, tortoiseshell, &c., are purchased from the Islanders at a fixed price, and the profit arising from their sale enables our paying the stipulated Government dues, and realizing the revenue to which we are entitled.

Mr. Grant's letter, dated 31st March 1862.

12th.—That the withdrawal of the above protection in 1864 had reduced the receipt of the annual produce of the islands to one-third of the usual quantity. However, I paid the stipulated tribute without let or hinderance; but to my very great misfortune the Danoo kist is now become due, and the quantity of the produce already realized is too insignificant to meet the same.

13th.—Under the above circumstances, I very much regret to learn, from the first mentioned extract from the Proceedings of Government, that my administration is highly oppressive and injurious, and that, unless the same be improved, it will prove detrimental to my own interest, as it is to those of my subjects.

I should certainly have merited the above censure, had I introduced any new system of taxation, or refused to attend to the just and [illegible] claims of my subjects, which, if required, had reason to apply to me for a modification of the old system of administration, either directly or through you or the Government; but as no such attempt was ever made, it was out of my power to have redressed grievance of which I am still ignorant, and provide against acts of oppression and maladministration that were never brought to my notice; and I, therefore, beg you will have the goodness to submit this address for the kind consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, and cause the restoration of the protection hitherto afforded to our trade; but if this is not practicable, I trust you will kindly suggest to me the course I should pursue, in order to realize our Jenmom right, as well as the amount of Peiscush payable to Government.

No. 35. From SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Cannanore, 5th October 1866.

I beg you will have the goodness to lay the enclosed address before His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council at your earliest convenience, as the prayer it conveys is urgent.

To

His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council,

Fort Saint George, Madras.

May it please your Lordship,

On the 26th March last, I took the liberty of addressing your Lordship's predecessor in Council, forwarding copy of a letter I had written to the Collector of Malabar on the 2nd March, and I now beg, most respectfully, to submit, herewith, transcripts of the correspondence which has since passed between me and the aforesaid Officer, and to invite your Lordship's most kind and worthy attention to the subject matter thereof, as also to the following facts:—

1*st*. The existence of a treaty entered into by my House with the British Government, stipulating the payment of an annual tribute of 10,000 Rupees on my trade with the Laccadive Group.

2*nd*. The recognition of the above trade by the contract subsequently entered into with my House for the annual supply of 500 candies of Coir to the Honorable the East India Company.

3*rd*. The exemption of duty on articles included in the above trade, and the protection afforded to it for a period of upwards of sixty years, which has virtually merged into a prescriptive right—a right respected by all nations.

4*th*. The infringement of the above right by the Government Order of 1852, for the purpose of compelling my House to surrender its sovereignty of the Islands, and the proffer of indemnity in the Minute of Consultation, dated 29th June 1852, for any loss which its enforcement might occasion.

5*th*. The suspension of the above Order during the management of the Islands by Government for the recovery of certain alleged arrears.

6*th*. The Proclamation issued by the Collector, Mr. Grant, to the Islanders, on the restoration of the Islands, calling upon them to respect prescription, and submit to our rule; and,

7*th*. The transfer with the Islands of the right and title we have to an exclusive trade which forms the basis of the Treaty of 1793, and its enjoyment by my House up to the year 1863.

2. The reason alleged for the withdrawal of the time-honored protection is that Government, having set its face against all monopolies, cannot support our exclusive trade, on which the tribute of 10,000 Rupees is due. Under such circumstance, finding myself unable to maintain our position, and pay the Government kists, I proposed to the Collector of Malabar the introduction of the system of revenue which prevails throughout British India, and applied for the continuance of the usual protection a little longer, to enable my causing a revenue survey to be made, and completing the necessary preparatory arrangements, which will take about a year, and was favored with a negative reply, as will be seen by the last letter in the Appendix.

3. As I have already suffered a loss of upwards of 39,000 Rupees by the sudden enforcement of the Government Order, No. 728, dated 9th May 1865, which would have been obviated had I been allowed a reasonable time to adopt preventive measures, and was, moreover, put to great strait in discharging the Government kist, on which even interest was charged for a little delay that had occurred in its payment, and which was remitted after some correspondence, and as this year's produce will, as those of 1864 and 1865, be entirely lost to me, in case of Government refusing to entertain the prayer conveyed in my last letter to the Collector on the subject, I most submissively beg that the aforesaid Officer may be instructed to cause the articles included in my trade to be landed in no other Ports than Cannanore, until the final introduction of the revenue system.

I remain, &c.,

(Signed) SULTAN ALI,
Rajah of Cannanore.

Cannanore, 5th October 1866.

From the Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore; dated Calicut, 5th April 1866, No. 1160.

I have not submitted your letter of the 2nd March last to Government, because I think you should re-consider parts of it at any rate. To assist you to do this, I will make a few remarks.

2. It is quite true that the payment due by you is payable on your trade and landed property. No duty is now demanded on your trade, and all that the late Orders, of which you complain, lay down is that the Custom House Officers are not to seize and detain on your account Merchandize brought from the Islands, or refuse it admittance at the Ports of Malabar. The maintenance of any monopoly was distinctly repudiated in the Order of Government which you quote, and should you show cause for compensation for the withdrawal of any customary privilege being made you, I have no doubt that it will receive liberal consideration.

3. There are several other points in your letter which I do not think could be supported. But the main question clearly is, "whether a monopoly of certain articles is to be secured to you by the Agency of the Custom House or other Government servants." To this, Government has already very plainly replied in the negative.

4. I can, therefore, give no advice or assistance towards securing this monopoly by British Government servants; I would, indeed, recommend your frankly abandoning all idea of doing so.

5. If you can make your own arrangements with the Islanders, in such a way as to avoid just ground of complaint from them, I am sure that Government has no desire to interfere.

6. If you find this impossible, I would recommend your very plainly and honestly laying an application for compensation before Government, which I have no doubt will receive liberal consideration on its merits. But you should be careful not to advance claims which cannot be clearly borne out, as that enhances the difficulty of arriving at a decision that is just to all parties, which is all that Government desires to do.

From SULTAN ALLI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Collector of Malabar; dated Cannanore, 19th July 1866.

I very much regret to learn, from your letter, of the 5th April last, that you have not submitted my communication, dated the 2nd March 1866, for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, as requested therein, and I, therefore, once more beg you will have the goodness to do so at your earliest convenience.

2. In the 5th paragraph of your letter under reply, you candidly advise me to lay an application for compensation before Government, in case of my finding it impossible to make my own arrangement with the Islanders, for the maintenance of my Coir monopoly.

3. The above advice conveys an allusion to a very strange proposal made, under circumstances the most disheartening, by the Company's Government, twelve years ago, but which was rejected by my Predecessor on just and sufficient grounds, and I do not believe that any member of my family would voluntarily subscribe to so suicidal an alternative.

4. The entering into an agreement with my subjects for regulating the fiscal and judicial administration of my Islands, is to resign to them my right and title to the sovereignty of my House, and any concession I may be induced to make at their dictation will call for fresh ones, and prove a fruitful source of dissatisfaction and complaint, as the following facts will exemplify.

5. In the time of the Collector Mr. Conolly, my mother, the late Adee Rajah Bibi, raised the prices of the Divi articles as per margin, and yet the Islanders were far from being satisfied with so liberal a measure.

Ancient rates by which the Islanders were paid for the produce of the Islands up to the Malabar year 1022.

Coir at.....	6¾	Rupees per Candy.
Cowries.....	15	do.
Tortiseshell..	1¼	,, per lb.

Increased rates introduced by the late Bibi.

Coir at.....	17½	Rupees the Candy.
Cowries at.....	56	do.
Tortiseshell at.	2	,, per lb.

In December last, to provide against all murmur and complaints, I spontaneously raised the price of Coir still higher, by paying them at the rate of 20 Rupees the Candy, but, before the expiry of a month, they clamoured for a further increase, well knowing that the price of the above article, which was formerly sold at 60 Rupees the Candy, did not range higher than 30 Rupees in the Calcutta market, as will be seen by the enclosed documents; and when such had been the case, I doubt not you will admit the impolicy of my entering into any compact with my subjects for the continuance of the Coir monopoly.

6. I am not, however, averse to any further concession consistent with the tenuity of my revenue, and the dignity of my House; and as Government does not seem disposed to countenance or protect my trade as heretofore, I beg you will let me know, at your earliest convenience, what system of taxation I should adopt in lieu of the Coir monopoly, to enable my realizing as much as will suffice to maintain our position, defray our expense, and pay the ten thousand Rupees due, as per treaty, on my trade to the British Government.

7. A reference to the Sea Custom records will convince you that I have already suffered a loss, as per margin, by the withdrawal of the time-honored protection, which loss would have been obviated had I been allowed a reasonable time for making the necessary arrangement for securing our interest in the Island trade previous to the enforcement of the Government Order of 1852; and as you seem confident that Government will not fail to do ample justice to

The annual receipt of the produce of the Islands is, on an average, 1000 Candies of Coir, 12½ of Cowries, and 60lbs. of Tortoiseshell; whereas, 495 Candies of Coir, 18¾ of Cowries, and 1¼lbs. of Tortoiseshell were only realized during the last and the current year, owing to the withdrawal of the usual protection hitherto afforded by Government, and the loss it has entailed amounts to about 39,605 Rupees.
A more detailed account thereof will be furnished, if necessary.

my House, I further beg you will have the goodness to cause compensation to be made for the above loss.

From SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Collector of Malabar; dated Cannanore, 31st August 1866.

I regret not having heard from you, in reply to my letter of the 19th ultimo, and therefore, beg that, until you condescend to notice the same, to enable my introducing certain contemplated modifications into the administration of my Islands, you will have the goodness to cause the Islanders to make over to me, and to nobody else, the produce of the season, which is due to me and the Government; but if this is impracticable, I further beg you will kindly submit this letter for the favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, to provide against my sustaining additional losses by the rapacity of the Islanders, who are dissipating the revenue of the Islands, and my being put to the greatest trouble and inconvenience for discharging the annual tribute payable into the Public Treasury. Awaiting the favor of an early reply, I remain, &c.

Telegram from SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Collector of Calicut; dated 14th September 1866.

I solicit an early reply to my letter of the 31st ultimo, to provide against a heavy loss on the opening of the trade between my Islands and the Continent. Answer prepaid.

From the Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore; dated Calicut, 21st September 1866, No. 2688.

In reference to your letters of the 19th July and 31st August last, I beg to observe that it seems to me to rest with you to propose such system of taxation, in lieu of Coir monopoly, as you, in communication with the Islanders, may deem most fitting. I shall be ready to lay any scheme that seems equitable to all parties before Government, and, though I cannot support what seems to me illegal and unreasonable, I will do all I can to assist a satisfactory arrangement.

From SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore, to the Collector of Malabar; dated Cannanore, 27th September 1866.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and to inform you that I have no objection, whatsoever, to adopt the system of revenue prevalent throughout British India, in lieu of my exclusive trade, with such modification as will suit the condition of my subjects, and secure the seigniorage to which my House is entitled; but previous to my attempting it, it is necessary that I should consult their inclination, and cause a revenue survey to be made; and, as it will, considering the insular position of my dominion, take about a year to complete such arrangement, and reduce the system into practice, I beg you will have the goodness to prevent the landing and sale of the Divi articles due to me in other Ports than Cannanore, until the introduction of the above system, and favor me with an early reply, to provide against losses in the current year, similar to those I had sustained in 1864 and 1865, and failure on my part in discharging the Government kists payable on my exclusive trade; but if this cannot be done without the privity and consent of the Government, I, furthermore, beg you will have the goodness to submit this letter for the favorable consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, backed by your kind and powerful advocacy.

2. Requesting the favor of your accepting my grateful acknowledgment for the proffered assistance conveyed in your letter under reply, I remain, &c.

From the Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN ALI, Rajah of Cannanore; dated Calicut, 1st October 1866, No. 277.

In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, I have only, at present, to observe that the Government Order of 9th May 1865, No. 728, is clear, and that I cannot comply with your request to prevent the landing of any island produce except at Cannanore.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
26th November 1866.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1866, No. 267.

The Governor in Council must adhere to the orders already passed in this case, and decline to give Ali Rajah any aid in upholding his monopolies. The Government have no legal power, and are under no obligation to do so.

G.O., 9th May 1865, No. 128.
,, 13th July ,, ,, 186.

If Ali Rajah's rights are in any way infringed, he must seek redress in the established Courts.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Revenue 1866 Vol 4
Pros of Govt for December
No. 4322.

Proceedings in the
Political Department

Dated 26th Novr.
Received 3d Decemr.
1866.

No. 267

Declining to give
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No 3315 - 10 Decr

Fort Osser

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No. 3315.

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue —

10th Decemr/66

5 Apies Letter Dy Secy with Ors P.C. Nos 2 by Rec'd. 10 Decr

No. 97 & 98