147

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	142	Press / Mis.
Dated	24.9.1873	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
13th September 1873.

No. 69. Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Chittoor, 22nd August 1873, No. 50 :—

I have the honour, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 1252, dated 11th instant (received on the 16th instant), to report that Mr. F. Wilkinson, the Head Assistant Collector, was specially deputed by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, dated 5th June 1873, No. 945, and 3rd July 1873, No. 1179, to dispose of the boundary dispute in which the Mohunt of Tripati objected to the demarcation of the slopes of the Tripati Hill by the Settlement Department, and claimed the same as being pagoda property; and on the 9th instant he commenced his inquiry into the case.

2. Amongst the documents then put in for reference was a certain plan of Upper Tripati, and which had been prepared by a Revenue Inspector. The Peishkar, who was conducting the case on behalf of the Mohunt, raised objections to the accuracy of this plan, and doubts also arose with regard to certain topes and gardens on the sacred hill.

3. Mr. Wilkinson then inquired whether there would be any objection to his visiting the Upper Hill and inspecting the topes, &c., himself. The Peishkar, in reply, informed him that there was no objection at all to his doing so, and that, on the contrary, the Mohunt would be very glad if he would ascend the hill to make the necessary examination of the disputed lands.

[illegible] the 9th instant, a Vakeel of the Pedda Jeyangar came [illegible]ext day, and presented to him a petition in which the Pedda Jeyangar stated that he had received a telegram from Government, in 1871, informing him that Europeans should only ascend the hill on police and magisterial business, and that, as the inquiry on which Mr. Wilkinson was then engaged was merely an insignificant revenue inquiry, he trusted Mr. Wilkinson would reconsider his decision to visit Upper Tripati.

5. The Mohunt, as the Dharmakarta of the Temple, is, the Government are of course aware, the chief authority in all matters connected with the Tripati Pagodas and Hills, and Mr. Wilkinson at once sent the Chendragherri Tahsildar to him to learn his wishes. The Mohunt then informed Mr. Wilkinson that, so far from objecting to his ascending the hill, he was very anxious that he should do so, as he would then be in a better position to understand and dispose of the question under discussion.

6. The Jeyangar did not inform Mr. Wilkinson that he had made any reference to Government, and on the 10th instant, in accordance with the arrangements made by the Mohunt, he ascended the hill and inspected the boundaries. At 5-30 P.M. that day, after descending to Lower Tripati, Mr. Wilkinson received the telegram from Government directing him not to go up the hill for the present. Both the Mohunt and the Peishkar expressed to Mr. Wilkinson their satisfaction at his having ascended the hill.

7. The Government will thus perceive that Mr. Wilkinson did not in any way insist on going up the sacred hill, but that he ascended it with the full consent, and at the express invitation of the Mohunt, who is the paramount authority on all

matters connected with the temples and hill. The Jeyangar, it is notorious, is on the most bitter terms of enmity with the Mohunt, and I have no doubt whatever that his protest against Mr. Wilkinson's going up the hill, and his subsequent reference to Government, were solely prompted by a desire to thwart and annoy the Mohunt in the settlement of this long pending and very important boundary dispute. The Jeyangar, I conceive, has no real ground of complaint, and I beg respectfully to suggest that he be now informed that as the Mohunt, the head of the temple, had expressed a desire that Mr. Wilkinson should ascend the hill to view the boundaries and lands in dispute, no further orders are required.

8. The readiness with which a European Officer was in this instance invited to ascend the hill when the pecuniary interests of the pagoda are concerned (for the hill slopes now claimed by the Mohunt are covered with dense forest from which much valuable timber is cut for sale) is a noteworthy fact, as tending to show the real value of the objections that have been hitherto so vehemently urged, on religious grounds, to such officials visiting the hill.

No. 70.

ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1873, No. 1478.

The Governor in Council approves of the Head Assistant Magistrate having ascended the Tripati Hill at the request of the Mohunt, who is the chief authority connected with the shrine, for the adjustment of the boundary dispute.

[illegible] Jeyangar's interference appears to have been factious and unwarranted.

(True Extract.)

J. Hunsch
Ag. Under Secy.
for Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of North Arcot.
" Revenue Department.

Commd to the Bd of Revue

Exd. J. Wright.

To Bo of Rev
Cap 26-9-73

26 Sept 73

Rec 1873 Dept
No 2955

Govt. of {1873} Madras

JUDICIAL.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF NORTH ARCOT,
&c., &c.,

Dated September, 13th.

Recd. — — 22 } Encl.

G. O., 13th September 1873, No. 1478.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 69-70.

North Arcot Magistracy.—The proceedings of the Head Assistant Magistrate in having ascended the Tripati Hill at the request of the Mohun who is the chief authority connected with the shrine for the adjustment of the boundary dispute approved.

With Order

142