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75

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
21st June 1873.

Read the following papers:—

No. 45. From W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Calicut, 28th April 1873, No. 33.

Referring to G. O., Political Department, No. 111, dated 14th ultimo, I have the honour, with reference to paragraph 6, to submit copies of the correspondence that has passed with Sultan Mussa Ali Rajah, of Cannanore.

2. His definite reply is the letter dated 21st instant, in which he says: "I shall not be justified in submitting to the degradation of my family by consenting to the alternative adverted therein, &c." I had an interview with him just before he wrote that letter, and the meaning to be attached to the above language is that he absolutely refuses to enter on the discussion of any question of compensation to be made to him in lieu of the petty cesses now levied. He does not look at the matter from a pecuniary point of view at all. He is of opinion that his Karar entitles him to levy the cesses, and that giving them up would be the first step to a cancelment of the Karar altogether. These cesses, he says, have been levied from time immemorial by his family: they are the last relics left to them of the absolute rule which his family once exercised in the town, and to part with them would be worse than death itself. I give strong expression to his sentiments on the subject, but the Government will the better understand the light in which the Rajah looks at the proposal made to him.

2. With regard to paragraph 3 of his letter of the 21st instant, I had a long conversation with the Head Agent, by whose advice only the Rajah is guided, and he promised to put down a more definite proposition on paper than that contained in paragraph 3. As yet I have not had any answer, and I feel certain that their object (as it has been throughout) is to delay proceedings being taken.

From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, dated Calicut, 28th March 1873, No. 698.

I have the honour to forward, for your information, copies of the orders of Government passed under dates 20th February and 14th March, and, with reference to paragraph 5 of the latter, I request you will inform me at an early date whether you are prepared to accept a reasonable sum in compensation for the collections now made by you in the Karar limits, and, if so, that you will name the sum.

2. This being a subject on which Government have fully made up their mind, if necessary to compel the cessation of future levy of these cesses, I trust you will see the advantage of submitting with a good grace.

From SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 3rd April 1873.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, No. 698, of the 28th ultimo, enclosing copies of the orders of Government passed under dates the 20th February and 14th March last, I have the honour to state that I shall forward to you my definite reply thereto with as little delay as possible.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
21st June 1873.*

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, dated Cannanore, 18th April 1873.

With reference to your letter of 3rd April, informing me that you will, with as little delay as possible, reply to my predecessor's letter, No. 698, of 28th March, I have the honour to observe that I think the subject must by this time have received your fullest consideration, and I now again have the honour to solicit a definite reply as to what compensation you are prepared to accept in lieu of the petty cesses levied by you within Karar limits.

2. You will see from paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 111, dated 14th March, that the compensation should be calculated on your ascertained net income derived from this source.

3. In conclusion, I have the honour to request you will favour me with a personal interview tomorrow, at any hour you may name, at your own residence. I shall there expect a definite answer from you in writing.

From SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH of Cannanore, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 19th April 1873.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform you that I shall be happy to receive you at my Poodia Maliga this evening precisely at three o'clock.

2. As regards the subject mooted in your predecessor's letter, No. 698, I have the honour to state that, having made a search for all the records bearing on the subject, I have only succeeded in discovering a few, and so soon as the rest is found I shall send you a definite reply.

3. I have many things to state at the proposed interview, which I cannot do in writing as desired by you, and I, therefore, beg you will have the goodness to exempt me from the above requisition.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, dated Calicut, 19th April 1873.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and I shall be happy to pay you a visit at three this afternoon as proposed.

2. As regards the concluding portion of your letter, I have the honour to inform you that one of the main reasons I had for coming to Cannanore was to obtain a definite reply from you on the point adverted to in my letter of yesterday. The subject has been under your consideration for three weeks, and by this time you must have been able to make up your mind as to what course you will adopt. I had intended to leave Cannanore on Monday morning, but I am willing to postpone my departure till Tuesday, if after our interview to day you wish for any more time to consider the matter.

3. You must, however, clearly understand that I see no reason for postponing any longer the final settlement of this question; and, if I receive no definite answer before I leave Cannanore, I will interpret your reticence as meaning that you wish to obstruct the course proposed by Government, and I will then act as if you had declined altogether to discuss the question of compensation to be made you in lieu of the petty cesses levied in Cannanore town.

From SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 21st April 1873.

In reply to your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state for the information of Government that I shall not be justified in submitting to the degradation of my family by consenting to the alternative adverted therein, as well as in your predecessor's letter, No. 698, of date the 28th ultimo, as it would utterly destroy the remaining vestige of our royal dignity and reduce the members of my house to the level of ordinary koodians in Malabar.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
21st June 1873.*

2. I do not believe that the British Government, so justly beloved and respected throughout the world for its liberality, justice, and faithful adherence to treaties, would think of subjecting us to so dire a disgrace.

3. I am alive to the necessity of introducing sanitary measures for the conservancy of the Karar land, and I, therefore, beg to renew the proposal made by my uncle, the late Sultan Ali Rajah, of Cannanore, and, should Government condescend to accept the same and invest me with municipal authority, I shall lose no time in undertaking the task under the supervision of a British officer nominated either by you or the Government.

4. Craving the continuance of favour and protection for myself and family, I remain, &c.

No. 46. From SULTAN MUSSA ALI RAJAH, of Cannanore, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, dated Cannanore, 26th April 1873.

I regret my inability to close with your proposal, conveyed through my Head Kariasten, Neduvagath Abdool Khadur, on account of its being incompatible with my rank and position in life.

2. However, I will not shrink from the task of undertaking the conservancy of the Karar land on my being vested with municipal authority to its fullest extent, as requested in my letter of the 21st instant.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. LOGAN,

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras,
with reference to paragraph 3 of letter, No. 33, dated 28th April 1873.
30th April 1873.

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 21st June 1873, No. 264.

The Governor in Council regrets to learn from these papers that Sultan Mussa Ali Rajah declines to avail himself of the offer by Government of liberal compensation for the relinquishment of those petty taxes of the nature of Moturpha which have hitherto been levied by his family without the sanction of law, but the continuance of which, in conjunction with the imposition of municipal taxation, is deemed inexpedient.

2. In the hope of effecting some satisfactory arrangement with the Cannanore family, the actual application of the Towns' Improvement Act has hitherto been held in abeyance in what are styled the Karar limits; but, in the interests of the community, this can no longer be permitted, the necessity for improved sanitary arrangements throughout Cannanore town being imperative and being impeded by the special treatment hitherto observed towards the portion known as the Karar limit.

3. Under these circumstances, the Governor in Council resolves that the Towns' Improvement Act shall be brought into operation throughout the town, including the so-called Karar limits, and that the municipal rates and taxes shall be levied therein, excepting the professional and trades tax, which is everywhere to be discontinued after the close of the current financial year.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
21st June 1873.*

4. The Magistrate will notify publicly in the town that the Municipal Act has been so extended, and that, as it has come to the knowledge of Government that the Rajah levies petty taxes not being of the nature of land revenue or payment for the use of land being his property and used for house sites or otherwise, the Government, in order to save the people from double taxation, have offered to the Rajah full compensation for the relinquishment of the petty taxes above described, but that he has refused to consent to the arrangement.

(True Extract.)

Stunoe
By Order of
Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Malabar.
,, Revenue Department.

N. 15.
Communicated to the Board of Revenue

2 July 73.

New 1873 No 14
Govt. of 1873/1879
POLITICAL.

To
THE ACTING COLLECTOR
OF MALABAR,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 21st.
Recd. June 30th
G. O., 21st June 1873, No. 264.

Wm
JUNE
Nos. 45-47.

Directing that the Towns' Improvement Act be brought into operation throughout the town of Cannanore, including the Karar limits, and issuing certain instructions to the Magistrate on the subject.

2 P of Rev des 11 July 1873
Will-o-the-wisp
No 15-2 July 1873