M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 381	Press ~~Mis.~~
245-246	
Dated 18-2-1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th February 1861.

No. 245. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 21st January 1861, No. 7 :—

SIR,

1. I have received Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, and their Order thereon dated 8th January 1861, No. 44.

2. So long as the Islands belonging to the Bíbí of Cannanore were retained under Government management I did not consider it expedient that the new Police should be introduced in them.

3. The people are, generally speaking, quiet and inoffensive; and their affairs have hitherto been satisfactorily managed by the Amín in Revenue and Police charge of them. Most cases that came before him were amicably settled by arbitration, or failing this, were reported to my Office for adjudication.

4. Since the sequestration of the Islands, their management under the orders of Government has been a source of comfort to the inhabitants, especially when compared with the system which prevailed before under the Bíbí.

5. Under her management, the Island produce was received in barter for articles exchanged at rates far above their value.

The Islanders, there is too much reason to suppose, were defrauded at every turn; whereas under the Government régime, goods have been exported from the Islands, and on their receipt at the Custom House at Calicut paid for at once in ready money. With the proceeds thus obtained, the Island boats were freighted with goods purchased by the Islanders themselves in the Calicut and other coast markets. On consideration of all these circumstances, I thought it would be well, so long as the direct administration of the Islands was carried on under the orders of Government, to defer the introduction of the new Police for a time at least, on the principle, first, of letting well alone, secondly, on the grounds of expense, and thirdly, on account of the difficulties to be met in getting fit men for the Island Police.

6. In their Proceedings dated 10th December 1859, No. 1,669, the Government expressed their concurrence with the Board of Revenue that the sequestration of the Islands should be released on the payment by the Bíbí of her arrears of Peshkash, interest and charges of management.

7. She has now declared her ability and willingness to pay her debts, &c., and so soon as the accounts have been adjusted, I propose, in accordance with the above Proceedings, to release the sequestration, and hand over the Islands to the charge of her accredited Agent.

8. Many of the Islanders are in favor of the Bíbi, the richer portion especially; but the poor, I have reason to believe, deprecate the change, as tending to bring back oppression.

9. The Bíbí has private property of her own on the Islands, especially on Menakái; but she also enjoys the monopoly of coir, tortoise shell and cocoanuts on the Islands of (1) Androte, (2) Kalpéni, (3) Karvarti and (4) Agati. These articles are purchased from the people at rates far below their value and sold by her in the best market. The rates of purchase are fixed practically by the Bíbí's Agents, and it is easy to see that her interests will be attended to, to the disadvantage of the producers. This is more likely to be the case at present, as the large sum borrowed to pay off the debt, and obtain the release of the sequestration is, I understand, obtained from merchants who are to be repaid by Island produce. Without the protection of a Police, I fear the poorer inhabitants of the Islands will be subjected to great and increasing annoyance and injustice; which they will feel and be more likely to resent from the impunity from such treatment they have enjoyed in past years, and there might be a repetition of those disturbances which have already caused so much trouble.

10. The presence of the Police would, whilst they afforded protection to the people, be most distasteful to the Bíbí, whose management of the Islands would be rendered most difficult. Acts of injustice would be sure to happen; the people would resent them; and the Police would interfere. The Bíbí's affairs would very likely be brought to a stand, and an accumulation of arrears would be the result. How this is to be avoided, I can hardly say, unless the Bíbí

changes her fiscal system, and introduces one more in keeping with the practice of the times, or the Government resolve to hand over the Islands and their inhabitants to the Bíbí's charge. Perhaps the knowledge that the people would obey her only, so long as they were well treated, would lead her to pursue a course towards them, more moderate and just than she has hitherto done.

11. If Government feel inclined to authorize this course, it might be allowed to obtain so long as the rights of the people are secured, and they (Government) are satisfied that no injustice is practised.

12. The Islanders would, at once, complain, if treated unfairly. For the last few years, they have been in the habit of coming to the main land and making their complaints in person at this Office, and no doubt it will be kept up if the treatment experienced by them renders it necessary. The Bíbí, I have reason to believe, will object to the introduction of the Police on the Islands; but the annexed Extract from official records, shows that her rights extend to trade alone, and that she has no legal grounds on which to found her objection. As a tentative measure, the introduction of the Police might be delayed for a year at least, but on this point the orders of Government are solicited.

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1. I, Bíbí Balea, Lady of Cannanore, do agree and give this writing to witness, that I will pay to the Government of the Honorable English East India Company Fifteen thousand Rupees per annum, being the Jumma on the Houses, Purrams, &c., situated at and near Cannanore, on my Trade to the Laccadive Islands, and on my John property on the said Islands, and I do further agree to pay the said amount of Fifteen thousand Rupees at three different Kists, the first or five thousand Rupees on the 15th Dannoo, the second, or five thousand Rupees on the 15th Medum, the third, or five thousand Rupees at the end of Chingum, this article of agreement is not to do away, nor is it meant to do away, in any shape the rights which the Government have to the Laccadive Islands, as is set forth in my Mochulka dated the 9th April 1793 or 27th Shaban 1207, Hegira.

2. I do agree to pay the Customs on all articles of Merchandize, whether imported or exported by me in the same manner, and at the same rates as the Merchants of Malabar, save upon the Coir imported from the Laccadives.

3. I give up my pretensions to the ½ share of the collections, which is granted by Government to the Rájas of Malabar, being convinced, that I have no right to insist on the said allowance.

4. I give up all my right and title unto the Honorable Company which I have claimed to the Tarrahs of Canatoo and Canot Chally, and do agree that the Company shall make the collections in any manner they may think proper, except through the medium of the Cherikal Rája, which I most earnestly solicit may not be granted to him.

5. And I do agree to pay all arrears on account of Customs, except upon the Coir which I may have imported from the Laccadive.

(A true Copy of the proposed agreement by the Bibi.)

CANNANORE, *28th October* 1796,
or M. S. 15 *Toolam* 972.

(Signed) PEILE,
Acting Naval Superintendent.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GRANT, *Collector.*

No. 216.

ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1861, No. 381.

Order, No 2,038, *dated 3rd November* 1860.

1. In sanctioning Sub-Magistrates for the District of Malabar the Government postponed the appointment of similar Officers to the Laccadive Islands, on the Collector's opinion that it would be better not to disturb the state of things there while the Islands continued under sequestration.

No. 651, *dated 1st December* 1860.

2. Mr. Pelly subsequently submitted a letter from Mr. Grant, reporting the contemplated transfer of the Islands to the Bibi, and requesting sanction for the two Sub-Magistrates originally proposed by him for the Islands.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th February 1861.

3. Adverting to the opinion previously expressed by Mr. Grant, the Government desired* him to reconsider his present recommendation with reference to the peculiar circumstances of the Islands and the Bíbí's tenure and rights; and to this order, the Collector now replies. He states that the presence of the new Police would be distasteful to the Bíbí; would render her management of the Islands most difficult; and would probably throw her into arrears of Peshkash; and he recommends that, after the restoration of the Islands, the introduction of the Police arrangements should be delayed for a year at least, as an experiment.

* *Order, No.* 44, *dated 8th January* 1861.

4. The Government agree to this recommendation; and the introduction of the new Police into the Islands will be deferred for the present.

5. Mr. Grant's letter and these Proceedings will be communicated to the Judicial Department where the necessary orders will be issued.

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

Bibi changes her fiscal system, & introduces one more in keeping with the practice of the times, or the Government resolve to hand over the Islands & their inhabitants to the Bibi's charge. Perhaps the knowledge that the people would obey her only, so long as they were well treated, would lead her to pursue a course towards them more moderate & just than she has hitherto done.

11 If Government feel inclined to authorize this course, it might be allowed to obtain so long as the rights of the people are secured, (and) they (Government) are satisfied that no injustice is practiced.

12. The Islanders would, at once, complain, if treated unfairly. For the last few years, they have

have been in the habit of coming to the main land, & making their complaints in person at this Office, (and no doubt it will be kept up if the treatment experienced by them renders it necessary - The Bibi, I have reason to believe, will object to the introduction of the Police on the Islands, but the annexed Extract from official records, shows that her rights extend to trade along (and that she has no legal grounds on which to found her objection - As a tentative measure, the introduction of the Police might be delayed for a year at least; - but on this point, the orders of Government are solicited -

I have the honor to be,
Your most Obedt Servant -

Collector -

Encl

Mr. P. Grant's recommendations is to leave Police arrangements as they are for a year, after the Evacuation of the Islands & see how the course answers - On the whole I concur in the view, for unless the Bibee consents to the introduction of the new Police, the location of a few scattered forces would be dangerous to themselves, & lead to embarrassing complications - If the Bibee would cede the Islands for an annual sum, things would be simplified, and I cannot but anticipate the result sooner or later - The treaty or agreement sent by Mr Grant alludes to a Memorandum of the Bibee dated 9th June 1793 - acknowledging certain "rights which the Government of the Laccadive Islands" - a copy of this document should be obtained if not already in the Govt Office -

I should do as advised by the Collector for the present, for one year, after the Evacuation of the Islands, & the whole question of the Police -

W

Wm. This letter is very unsatisfactory, but the final proposal is that the Police with the Islands will be withdrawn for a year at least, & then we shall have to consider the question -

W

Revenue Department

No 381

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 18th February 1861

Read the following letter
from the Collector of Malabar

Herewith Dft Law Pro Dft

Submits with reference to the
order of Govt dated 8th Jany 61 No 24
his views on the introduction of the
new Police in the Islands belong-
ing to the Bibi.

Order No 2038 dated 3
Novr 60.

Mr Lauchlan
Sub Magistrate of
the Div of Malabar, the
Govt Sport Zone, the
appointment of similar
Officers to the Laccadive
Islands, in the Collectorate
of Canara that it would
be expedient to dis-
trict the state of
things there while the
Islands continue
under their present
Mr Pelly's distinc-
guishedly submitted

a

No 657 dated 1st Decr 60.

Revenue Consultation
Fort St George 23 February

R. 3rd Proceedings No 49 of 31st
— 8th January — 81-85

R. 22nd Letter from Collector of Malabar
— 10th December — 1-8
— 18th January — 9-12
— 9th July — 13-20

No 381. 18th February

a letter from Mr Grant reporting the contemplated transfer of the Islands to the Bibi and requesting ~~that the question of introducing the new Police into them might be brought to the notice of Govt in view to the issue of a Proclamation and application for~~ sanction for the Magistrates originally proposed by him for the Islands.

2 ~~He forthwith~~ ~~doubted whether~~ Mr Grant's recommendation ~~was based on a~~ Adverting to the ~~correct~~ opinion previously expressed by Mr Grant, the Govt ~~of the Seychelles~~ declined* him to reconsider his present recommendation

* Orders 44 dated 8th Jany/81.

and report on the subject with reference to the peculiar circumstances of the Islands and the Bibi's tenure and rights; and to this Order now Replies ~~to this reference~~ ~~in the letter above~~ ~~recorded~~ He states that the presence of the new Police would be distasteful to the Bibi; would render her management of the Islands more difficult; and would probably throw her into arrears of Rent; and he recommends that, after the restoration of the Islands

islands - the jurisdiction
of the Police arrangements
should be delayed
for a year or two
as an experiment.

4 The Govt agree to this recommendation
~~but the question of the~~
and the jurisdiction of the
~~Police Court~~ Police in the Islands
~~the postponement~~ will be deferred for the present.
~~the Police the location~~
~~of a permanent Police~~
~~would be dangerous~~
~~& therefore and~~
~~pending the further discussion~~
~~explanations.~~

5 Mr Pauls letter
and the Proceedings
will be communicated
to the Judicial Dept
when the necessary orders
will be passed.

Copies
To the Judl Dept & Dist Pty
2 - C. Pelly Esq P.N
13 - B. of Revenue
1 - Collr of Malabar

Copy in a Letter to England
Dy 27th May 1861 Nos. 75.

Revenue 1861 Depart.
Pro: of Govt for February

No. 381.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 18th February 1861.

Observing that the intro-
duction of the new Police into
the Laccadive Islands in
Malabar will be deferred for
the present.

No. 245 & 246.