

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4147 A

Confidential 1071

Dated 22nd Oct 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Prop of the Political Dept re
the ~~grant~~^{purchase} of certain lands by H.H.
the Maharajah Gaekwar of Baroda at
ootacamm

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government (1898) of Madras. POLITICAL.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Current No. 7181
confol. n. 84

Recd. 19th
Regd. 20th } Oct. } 1898.

Enclosures —
Spare copies 1

G.O., No. 692, 29th September 1898.

Order wise 4147A dy
— 22nd Oct 1898
Recorded

SEPTEMBER.

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20th 98

applied to Board of Revenue
20th 98
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recon

Gaekawar of Baroda.

Recording an endorsement from the Government of India forwarding copy of a letter addressed by that Government to the Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda regarding the transfer to His Highness the — of the Seager property at Ootacamund and the purchase by His Highness of survey Nos. A/62 and A/121 adjoining that estate.

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result from its

4. I have good reason to believe that this matter by his officials who had opportunity to apply equally to indirect purchase.

5. I am addressing the Government of India in reference be made in due course to His Excellency in view of the frank explanation now offered, His Excellency approve of His Highness the Gaekwar's acquiring the several mentioned in the Minister's letter accompanying this communication.

ENCLOSURE

Demi-official from the Acting Minister of the Baroda State, to the Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda, dated 30th May 1898.

Your office demi-official note of the 7th instant regarding the Seager land at Ootacamund.

2. As you are aware, His Highness the Maharaja was desirous of acquiring a good site in a healthy locality at Ooty, and with that view Mr. Graham R. Lynn, our Chief Engineer, was sent to that place to select some house property or to acquire a site to build the on.

3. That officer recommended the purchase of the Woodstock property and also a plot of land measuring acres 38.82 (survey Nos. A/120 and A/122) situated on the Sigur road known by the name of Blue Gum Plantation, belonging to the late Mrs. Seager.

Ootacamund.
Volunteers' Rifle Range.
as further information reaches me.

Hon'ble Mr. A. T. ARUNDEL, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Resident and Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda, dated 6th May 1898.

23. Reported Gaekwar intends purchasing Seager's land, Ootacamund, in which no intimation made to this Government by you. Please request His Highness postpone purchase pending consideration by Madras Government, to whom application should be made.

Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. MARTELLI, Resident and Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated 28th May 1898.

No. 8281. regret your wire 223 of 6th, Seager's land, Ootacamund, has remained unanswered owing to reply to reference made to Diwan, who is now on leave, not having been received. Meanwhile have advised Darbar as desired by Government.

CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 98-A, Political, dated 7th February 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Informing the Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda by telegram that there is no objection to the purchase by His Highness the Gaekawar of Woodstock House at Ootacamund.

G.O., Mis. No. 371, Political, dated 3rd June 1898.

Read—the following papers:—

From D. W. G. COWIE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Nilgiris, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camp, Coonoor, 29th April 1898, Ref. on Confdl. No. 3/98.

I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that His Highness the Gaekawar of Baroda is negotiating the purchase or has already purchased the land at Ootacamund.

The last two fields are situated at 120-A camund; 5-18 p of owner.

2. I shall submit a further report on the subject.

Telegram from the Government of India regarding the purchase of the land at Ootacamund.

No. 2. As further information reaches me.

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Order—Mis. No. 371, Political, dated 3rd June 1898.

Recorded pending a further communication from the Resident in Baroda.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris.

G.O., Mis. Nos. 568, 569, Political, dated 17th August 1898.

Read—the following papers:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. MARTELLI, Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Baroda, 31st May 1898, No. 8489.

In continuation of my telegram No. 8281 of 28th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I am at length in a position to reply to your telegram No. 223 of 6th May 1898, regarding the reported intention of His Highness the Gaekawar to purchase the Seager property at Ootacamund.

2. I think I can best do so by forwarding a copy of a letter * on the subject received this day from the Acting Diwan,

* Dated 30th May 1898.

the despatch of which (as conveyed to you in my telegram above quoted) has been delayed owing to its having been necessary to make a reference to Diwan Bahadur Srinivasa Raghavaiyengar, who is at present on leave in Madras, the Acting Diwan not being conversant with the details of the transaction.

3. I have informed the Darbar, in reply to this communication, that they made a very great error in pursuing the course they did with regard to the transaction and that in causing the property to be purchased in the name of His Highness' relation Anandrao, they appear to have entirely overlooked the orders of Government on this subject, which clearly require that the permission of the Government of India should be obtained before property is acquired by a Native Chief in British territory either directly or indirectly, and, finally, that His Highness' Government will have itself to blame for any awkward complications which may result from its present irregular action.

4. I have good reason to believe that His Highness has been led astray in this matter by his officials who had overlooked the fact that the orders of Government apply equally to indirect purchase.

5. I am addressing the Government of India on the subject, and should any reference be made in due course to His Excellency in this connection, I trust that, in view of the frank explanation now offered, His Excellency will see his way to approve of His Highness the Gaekawar's acquiring the several items of property mentioned in the Minister's letter accompanying this communication.

ENCLOSURE.

Demi-official from the Acting Minister of the Baroda State, to the Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda, dated 30th May 1898.

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3. That officer recommended the purchase of the Woodstock property and also a plot of land measuring acres 38.82 (survey Nos. A/120 and A/122) situated on the Sigur road known by the name of Blue Gum Plantation, belonging to the late Mrs. Seager.

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... accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda (with C.L.).
Collector of the Nilgiris.
Revenue Department.

Letter—Mis. No. 569, Political, dated 17th August 1898, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I am directed to refer to Mr. Bosanquet's letter No. 1698-I.A, dated the 21st June last, on the subject of the proposal of His Highness the Gaekawar of Baroda to purchase certain lands at Ootacamund consisting of survey Nos. A/120-A, A/122, A/62 and A/121.

Order—Mis. No. 371, Political, dated 3rd June 1898.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of the Nilgiris.

G.O., Mis. Nos. 568, 569, Political, dated 17th August 1898.

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In continuation of my telegram No. 8281 of 28th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I am at length in a position to reply to your telegram No. 2:3 of 6th May 1898, regarding the reported intention of His Highness the Gaekawar to purchase the Seager property at Ootacamund.

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3. I have informed the Darbar, in reply to this communication, that they made a very great error in pursuing the course they did with regard to the transaction and that in causing the property to be purchased in the name of His Highness' relation Anandrao, they appear to have entirely overlooked the orders of Government on this subject, which clearly require that the permission of the Government Highness should be obtained before property is acquired by a Native Chief in Diwan's letter. either directly or indirectly, and, finally, that His Highness' 5. With reference to self to blame for any awkward complications which may this Government was raiscular action.

the 30th idem, while stating to believe that His Highness has been led astray in the name of Srimant Anandrao Gaekawar overlooked the fact that the orders of Government should have stated this fact in his letter to India on the subject, and should any special attractions of the place; but of late years there has been a tendency to encroach on and enclose them. With a view to will see his way to in check, it has been found necessary to take steps to reserve them. of property question, though putta lands at present, lie within or just outside the area being acquired by Government as a reserve and which it is considered desirable to retain for the benefit of the residents and visitors of Ootacamund. To enclose or build upon the portion within the reserve will materially interfere with the purpose for which reservation is being made.

6. The open Downs of Ootacamund form a peculiarly attractive spot, and should any special attractions of the place; but of late years there has been a tendency to encroach on and enclose them. With a view to will see his way to in check, it has been found necessary to take steps to reserve them. of property question, though putta lands at present, lie within or just outside the area being acquired by Government as a reserve and which it is considered desirable to retain for the benefit of the residents and visitors of Ootacamund. To enclose or build upon the portion within the reserve will materially interfere with the purpose for which reservation is being made.

7. In these circumstances, I am to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council is constrained to express his disapproval of the manner in which the purchase of the "Blue Gum Estate" was effected. He further objects to the purchase which has been effected and to the utilization for building purposes by His Highness the Gaekawar of the property in question for the purchase of which sanction has been sought.

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following paper:—

From W. J. CUNINGHAM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda, dated Simla, 15th September 1898, No. 2510-I.A.

Your letter No. 8490, dated the 31st May 1898, applied for sanction to the transfer to the Gaekawar of the Seager property at Ootacamund and to the purchase by His Highness of survey Nos. A/62 and A/121 adjoining that estate.

2. The Madras Government object to building on the Seager, or "Blue Gum Estate," or to parting with adjacent plots. Houses built in that position could not be regarded as an extension of the accommodation afforded at "Woodstock" as suggested in the Officiating Diwan's letter of the 30th May, since "Woodstock" is about two miles distant from the Seager property. In view of these facts and of the manner in which the "Blue Gum Estate" was acquired, the Government of India must withhold assent to the Gaekawar becoming the owner of the property. They have no reason to suppose that His Highness was cognisant of the irregularities which you have pointed out to the Diwan.

No. 2511-I.A.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, with reference to their letter in the Political Department, No. 569, dated the 17th August 1898.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, 31st May 1898. (By order, etc.)
The Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda to your address regarding the proposal of His Highness the Gaekawar to purchase survey Nos. A/62, 120, 121 and 122 adjoining the Woodstock estate at Ootacamund.

2. The Government of India desire to be favoured with any observations which the Governor in Council may wish to make on the subject.

Order—Mis. No. 568, Political, dated 17th August 1898. We cannot approve of the manner in which the "Blue Gum estate" has been acquired or of the purchase by His Highness the Gaekawar of Baroda of the lands Nos. A/121 and A/62. The Government of India will be informed accordingly.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regarding the manner in which the "Blue Gum estate" has been acquired or of the purchase by His Highness the Gaekawar of Baroda of the lands Nos. A/121 and A/62. The Government of India will be informed accordingly.

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

Governor-General at Baroda (with C.L.).
Nilgiris.
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When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189.

DATED

CURRENT No.

property was completed in the
of the Gaekawar, in view to its final sanction to the
formal sanction.

4. The Agent to the Governor-General stated that he was addressing the Government of India on the subject and expressed a hope that, should any reference be made to His Excellency (*sic*), His Excellency would, "in view of the frank explanation now offered," see his way to approve of the acquisition by His Highness the Gaekawar of the several items of property mentioned in the Acting Diwan's letter.

5. With reference to this explanation, I am to point out that the objection of this Government was raised on the 6th May; that the Acting Diwan's letter of the 30th idem, while stating that the property had "recently been conveyed to the name of Srimant Anandrao Gaekawar" was silent as to the date of the transfer; and that if the purchase had been completed before the 6th May, the Diwan should have stated this fact in his letter to Colonel Martelli.

6. The open Downs of Ootacamund form a peculiar feature and one of the special attractions of the place; but of late years there has been an increasing tendency to encroach on and enclose them. With a view to keep this tendency in check, it has been found necessary to take steps to reserve them. The lands in question, though putta lands at present, lie within or just outside the area which is being acquired by Government as a reserve and which it is considered desirable to retain for the benefit of the residents and visitors of Ootacamund. To enclose or build upon the portion within the reserve will materially interfere with the purpose for which reservation is being made.

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