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Embargo on export of grain from Bahrein.

4. This sudden measure bears hard on holders of wheat, Zeita Banyan justly remarking that at Bahrein the people's staple food is not wheat, whilst of rice, dates, and fish there appears to be no scarcity.

5. On the other hand, the authorities here have taken alarm at the accounts received of the distress in Persia, and their idea is to keep all food they can in these islands.

2ndly.—The Chief appears desirous of maintaining a strict neutrality in the Wahabees' Turkish affairs, and perhaps fears that his permitting purchases of supplies at Bahrein for either party might be misconstrued, and that food purchases being allowed, an opening would be given for arms and munitions of war to follow.

Such at least I understand to be one of the chief reasons for the notification in question.

6. It can hardly be expected that points upon which the best authorities differ, *viz.*, as to what does or does not constitute a breach of neutrality, or what is or is not contraband of war, should be perfectly mastered by Arab Chiefs.

In the present instance there can be small doubt but that the Bahrein authorities have acted in perfect good faith according to their lights.

7. Under the circumstances, I have postponed replying to Sheik Fahd's communication until I could submit this question for your information, and solicit your instructions thereon.

N^o 129.

Dated 20th Rajab 1288
5th October 1871.

From—FAHD BIN AHMED,
To—MAJOR SMITH.

I HAVE to inform you that the British subjects, Banyans, shipped a quantity of wheat consigned to Hasa. We found it necessary to place an embargo on this shipment.

There are two reasons for this, *1st*, because the export of wheat from these islands would cause distress among the people; and *2nd*, the purchaser of the above wheat is a person in Saood's interest, and we do not know what is his reason for shipping this wheat, possibly he wishes to hand it over to another.

It has seemed proper to acquaint you with this.

N^o 130.

Dated Bahrein, 6th October 1871.

Statement of Zeita Banyan, Vakeel of Assoo Banyan.

I AM an agent residing at Bahrein, and receive goods consigned to me from India; at present I have four magazines full of wheat, and more is expected by sea.

The owners of this wheat instruct me to sell it, as it will spoil in keeping.

Yesterday a merchant of Hasa came to me and bought about 60 bags of wheat from me, some of which were put on board a boat.

This morning I learnt that an embargo had been put on the wheat shipped. This seems extraordinary, as in this place the food is not wheat, and if my wheat is put under embargo, I shall have great loss.

The purchasers of my wheat are well known merchants, and are in constant habit of purchasing and selling on their own account, and taking their purchases to Hasa.

A sale has been effected between me and this merchant, and if an embargo has really been placed on this wheat, I shall be a great loser.

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No 135-

No. 1674, dated Bombay Castle, 19th March 1872.

From—C. GONNE, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
To—C. U. ARCHISON, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 399-79, dated the 26th ultimo, enclosing translated purport of a report received from the Native Agent on the Arab Coast, concerning an alleged disturbance between the Chief of Aboothabee and the Naeem tribe at Beraymee.

No 136.

No. 399-79, dated Bushire, 26th February 1872.

From—COLONEL LEWIS PELLY, H. B. M.'s Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

I HAVE the honor to enclose a translated purport of a report received from our Native Agent on the Arab Coast, concerning an alleged disturbance between the Chief of Aboothabee and the Naeem tribe at Beraymee.

2. The matter in no way affects our interests or policy, unless that it evidences a disturbed condition of the inland frontier of the Muscat State.

No 137.

No. 10, dated 24th Zilkaada 1288
4th February 1872.

Translated purport of a letter from HAJEE ABDUR RAHMAN, Native Agent, Arab Coast, to Resident, Persian Gulf.

I HAVE heard that much disturbance has taken place at Beraymee between the Al Naeem tribe and Al Zowaher, dependents of Zayed bin Khuleefa, and lives were lost and property plundered.

Sheikh Zayed bin Khuleefa is now engaged in collecting troops from his people and from all the Beddoos who are under his authority, with the intention of proceeding to Beraymee.

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4011**No. 138.**

No. 68, dated Fort William, 12th April 1872.

From—Government of India,

To—HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Secretary of State for India.

IN continuation of our despatch, No. 36, dated the 1st March 1872, we have the honor to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the further papers specified in the accompanying Abstract of Contents, relative to affairs in the Persian Gulf.

No. 139.

Abstract of the Contents of a Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 68, dated 12th April 1872.

No. 1.—To Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 68, dated 12th April 1872.

Forwards a copy of the undermentioned papers:—

No. 2.

Abstract of Contents.

No. 3.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Forwards copy of a news-report from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 13th January 1872.

30th January 1872, No. 610.

No. 4.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Forwards copy of a news-report from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 27th January 1872.

13th February 1872, No. 850.

No. 5.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Forwards copy of a letter from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, regarding the embargo placed by the Chief of Bahrein on the export of grain from his territory.

28th February 1872, No. 1202.

No. 6.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Forwards copy of a news-report from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 13th February 1872.

28th February 1872, No. 1203.

No. 7.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Forwards copy of a news-report from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, dated 26th February 1872.

13th March 1872, No. 1540.

No. 8.—From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Forwards copy of a letter from the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, regarding an alleged disturbance between the Chief of Aboothabee and the Naeem tribe at Beraymee.

19th March 1872, No. 1674.

No. 145

No. 1037, dated Bombay Castle, 17th February 1873.

From—Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

ADVERTING to my No. 42, of the 7th ultimo, I am directed to transmit, for submission to the Government of India, copy of a further letter, and of its accompaniment, from the Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 76-12, dated 25th idem, reporting the latest intelligence received regarding the affairs of Nejd.

No. 146

No. 76-12, dated Bushire, 25th January 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

I HAVE the honor to transmit the latest intelligence received regarding the affairs of Nejd.

2. The present reports, whilst adding but little to our knowledge of the state of parties in that province, show that the previous rumours of the capture and death of Abdulla bin Feysul were incorrect.

3. It is understood that the mission of Hajee Ahmed Khan has produced no result.

No. 147

Translated purport of news received from the Bahrein Agent, AHMED ABDOOL RUSOOL, on the 16th January 1873.

30th December 1872.—I learn from Hajee Ghureeb, who was informed by a caravan that arrived this day from Lahsa, that Saood bin Feysul was at Kharij and Abdulla at Riadh; that intelligence has been received repeatedly of Imam Saood collecting forces in Nejd; and it is reported that all the people of Nejd favor him, and that all the districts and villages of Nejd, except Riadh, are subservient to him and like him; that he has made arrangements everywhere to prevent escape of Abdulla, placing men in all places to effect this in view to his seizure and to bring him in as a prisoner; that Abdulla fears the people of Riaz will be treacherous, and has written to his brother, Saood, to the following effect:—

“ Know that I surrender to you, and am willing to remain in any place you may give me of the countries of my father, Feysul; you may then dispose of the rest of the country as you like. I await your reply.”

That Saood, on receiving Abdulla's letter, replied as follows:—

“ Know that I have received your letter intimating that you surrendered yourself to me, and that I was authorized to appoint a place for you to reside in. You must know that I want you and the people of Riaz to come to me with the Kazi of your place, then I will pardon you if I choose, otherwise I shall call you to account. This is my desire.”

It is also stated that when Abdulla received this reply he sent no answer.

Abdulla bin Toorkee was killed by the Dowasir in Nejd.

It is reported that Rashed bin Sunud arrived at Kuteef and found there the Turkish Steamer *Assoor* put in from Busreh with wheat and other articles, of these 2,000 bags of wheat were landed at Kuteef. Ali Beg, the previous Governor of Kuteef, came in the *Assoor*. He is the person who went to Baghdad with Abdool Rahman-ul-Feysul.

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A new Governor has also arrived in *Assoor* for Kuteef in lieu of Mahomed Effendi.

Ali Beg proceeded to Lahsa with one of the attendants of Abdul Rehman, who had accompanied him from Baghdad and had letters for Saood bin Feysul from the Wullee. The people of Kuteef enquired of Ali Beg what news there was in regard to Abdool Rahman and Saood, but could not ascertain anything from him.

3rd January 1873.—Sheik Hamud bin Hadeed has received the following news from Nejd, and believes the same to be true:—

Saood bin Feysul left Kharij for Riaz, and is now besieging that place. His brother, Abdulla bin Feysul, is in Riaz and in possession of the place. The people of Riaz were called upon by Abdulla to state whether they would support him, and they gave him every assurance. On receiving this assurance Abdulla closed the forts and commenced to defend himself.

Saood attacked Riaz and sent to those persons who acknowledged his supremacy to join him from all parts, and it is stated most of the people are desirous of being killed in his service. People who resided in Lahsa under the son of Ferhan bin Kheiroollah have constituted him their Chief and have proceeded to aid in the siege of Riaz.

Abdulla sends letters to the Turks, and asks aid from them. The Turks give promises, but do not aid him.

4th January 1873.—Abdulla bin Rujub has heard from the Nakhoda of the Boom of Fahad, who has just arrived from Koweit, that Toorkee bin Abdulla bin Feysul had arrived with fifteen men at Koweit from Riaz, and sought help from the Arabs of Koweit. The Koweitees would not agree; these persons stated that Saood was pressing his brother, Abdulla, hard at Riaz.

5th January 1873.—Hamud bin Hadeed states that Saood Allah Nakhoda, of Muchwabad, arrived from Kuteef with intelligence that a three masted steamer had arrived at Kuteef from Busreh, and that Furhan bin Kheiroollah had arrived in her from Baghdad intending to cross to Ojair and from thence to Lahsa; but no news could be learnt from him.

Page 48.

News gleanings from Bahrein from 9th to 21st January 1873.

13th January 1873.—Some travellers from Lahsa state that Saood bin Feysul had determined on attacking his brother, Abdulla, in Riaz. Saood was said to be very strong, almost all the tribes having joined him.

18th January 1873.—A letter from Lahsa confirms the above report, and further states that Saood had left for Riaz some days before. There was a report of a battle between the two brothers, but the result was unknown.

20th January 1873.—Some travellers from Lahsa stated that Saood is before Riaz, and that his brother, Abdulla, is shut up in the town. Saood is reported to be much the stronger of the two, and the people generally in his favor.

Remarks.

The above view is so similar to what has been often given before that in my opinion it has very little importance; from the general tendency of reports it appears that Saood is really the stronger of the two brothers for the time being.

(Sd.) CHARLES GRANT, Capt.,
Asstt. Resdnt., Persian Gulf.

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No. 49.

No. 223-4, dated Bushire, 22nd February 1873.

From—Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of a *précis* of intelligence received from the Assistant Resident at Bahrein regarding the affairs of Nejd.

N.B.—Copy forwarded to India Office direct.

No. 50

News Diary between 16th January and 3rd February 1873.

20th January 1873.—Sheikh Ahmed bin Hudeeb, resident of Bahrein, says that news arrived from Lahsa that Saood bin Feysul was in a village about half a day's journey from Riadh named Kusoor Turorma. He had a large force with him; there was no fighting going on between the brothers at that time; but all the people of Nejd sided with Saood; and all the villages and towns of the country were friendly to him except Riadh, which was held by Abdulla, who was besieged there. There is very little communication between Nejd and Lahsa.

24th January 1873.—The Turkish Ship *Brusa* is anchored off Kuteef; they say that after the Eed the Wullee of Baghdad is expected there, and it is expected that they (the Turks) will raise the duties and taxes.

30th January 1873.—Turkish Ship *Assoor* is said to have arrived at Ojair with supplies for the force. People who arrive from Lahsa say that the Turkish Governor, Ferek Pasha, is very unpopular on account of the oppression he permits his army to commit.

3rd February 1873.—There is a report that Saood bin Feysul has taken his brother, Abdullah, prisoner, and has got possession of Riadh, the capital of Nejd, but this comes from no reliable source.

5th February 1873.—The reports which come from Lahsa are very conflicting, but they agree in saying that all the tribes are favorably inclined towards Saood.

7th February 1873.—There is a boat in from Lahsa (Kuteef), and one of the passengers state that he had heard nothing about Abdulla having been taken prisoner; but he thought it possible that Saood might soon take Riadh. There are great complaints from Ojair of the way in which the Turkish authorities press boats into their service for the purpose of landing stores for the troops. The owners of these boats are never paid anything for their labour.

8th February 1873.—There is a report from Guttur that the Turkish Governor exacted 7½ thousand Krans from the merchants of the place for his own use.

11th February 1873.—Some Turkish soliders who were staying on the island waiting for the passage to Busreh appear to have no idea that any event of importance has taken place in Nejd. They state the health of the troops to be good at present.

Remarks.

The whole of the above news is so vague and contradictory that in my opinion very little reliance can be placed upon it. Had Saood really taken Riadh, I think that we would have been sure to have had some reliable account of it.

(Sd.) CHARLES GRANT, Capt.,
Asstt. Resdt., Persian Gulf.