

Mr. Oram's Report upon the
Havelias Under Masulipatam



Asc(D) 282.

40/16

1/16

1/87

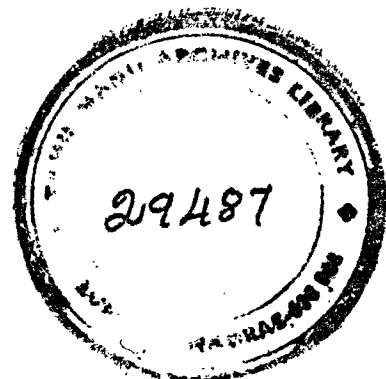
MR. ORAM'S REPORT UPON THE HAVELIES UNDER MASULIPATAM.

1. The Haveli Lands being the part of the Company's possessions at once the most exposed to abuses, and the most capable of Regulation and Improvement, deserve in my opinion a very particular attention; I shall therefore apply myself in the following pages to explain their present situation and the causes that have led to it.

2. The Haveli Lands of Chicacole and Kasimkota under Vizagapatam are compact and capable of the greatest improvement; but the interests and address of the Vizianagaram Family have been long active to impede their prosperity and retain the rent thereof with themselves, from the double view of preserving a superior and exclusive influence in the Circar; and to avoid any enquiry respecting certain Villages &c. that have been secretly united to their Zemindari. The Farms of Masulipatam are not so conveniently situated being widely separated from each other: the cause of which seems to be that most of these Havelies composed of lands in the vicinity of Moorish Capitals were attached thereto as a ready source of expenses and supplies independently of the Zemindars, and to prevent any unnecessary intercourse between their licentious army and the quiet laborious Hindoo of the original Zemindari. Some Havelies have been taken by the Circar on account of their fertility, but none that I have yet seen in consequence of failure in a Zemindar line; not because those Families have never become extinct, but because the Mahomedans knowing their tenure to be merely that of favor and not of heirship, did not choose to enquire too minutely into pretensions; some candidate of the same family, therefore, has generally appeared to purchase so desired a trust by offers of an increased Jamabandi or by liberal nazars (presents). This separation of the Havelies under Masulipatam is to be lamented, the difficulty of managing them is increased thereby, and the Renters' or Managers' conduct the less likely to be attended to.

3. In describing the Havelies I shall begin with Rajahmandry. Though not included in the Farms and no longer of importance, it was formerly the Kasbah or Capital of the Mahomedans and was most advantageously situated as the seat of Government. It is at present by no means of its former extent—being confined to that town alone—which with its customs is rented to Huzzur Ali Kahn for 2,300 Pagodas, though it is said to yield full 5,000 Pagodas. This person is likewise a Jaghiredar by Sanad from the Nizam—admitted by the company—and enjoys 5 Villages in consequence. I have been assured (being investigated the country do not venture to say) that this Haveli since of 80 Villages, 40 of which have been at different times taken by the Circar, 30 by those of Pittapur, 10 by Huzzur Ali Kahn and others, and the remainder by the Nizam.

4. Ellore Haveli has been suffered, for some years and contrary to every consistent policy, to remain under the management of its Desbandas who are intended for checks upon the Renters and Collectors but who have acted either as agents to Lakshminarsu Pantulu and Venkatakrishnaiah, or latterly as Sub Renters under Jaggappa. The people are of course entirely subjected to the will of the present Desbanda and Renter Viresalingam and are incapable of relief, more especially since the Chief and Council thought proper to restore the country to him in despite of Jaggappa the Renter, with whom he was at variance, and who had dispossessed him on account of his many grievances and complaints. The pargana of Ambarpeta now under Nuzividu was formerly a part of this Haveli and was alienated in 1058 Hijri about 1645 A. D. as explained in my observation upon that Zemindari; on mentioning the above to Apparavu he did not deny the Circar's right, but said he had for several years settled a Jamabandi on his own behalf on account of the pargana, and seemed to consider that circumstance as an acknowledgement of his claim. Inugolu Mutah



of 6 Villages was seized about 1754 by the Nuzividu Zemindar on the flight of Korukonda Jagannadharazu for whom it was security, and he has since enjoyed it. Apeonta Mutal of 6 Villages was seized on the same grounds as the foregoing and in the same year, one Budhirazu being the Taluqdar. I find also that five villages lying in Baharzalli were denied to constitute a part of the Haveli in 1044 Hijri or 1626 A. D. by an interested Amildar, who preferred to lose them rather than be obliged to make good, agreeably to orders from Hyderabad, the amount of a considerable robbery that had happened there; that they were then taken possession of and have been since retained by Charnahal, that Division becoming answerable for the loss. Six Villages under Chintalapudi were also separated from this Haveli in 1620. Gundugollu was likewise included in the Ellore Lands, but was dismembered by Husser Ali Kahn. All of these should be reannexed to the Haveli Lands of Ellore, I imagine, for the benefit of Government. The Haveli Village called Koniki had been long without inhabitants or a tank; when Lakshmayya Pantulu, a Brahmin inhabitant, at a considerable expense brought it into a state of cultivation, and says, he was allowed by Mr. Daniell to retain the same on payment of 125 Pagodas yearly, an indulgence which may be continued to him until his advantages shall have evidently exceeded the proportions of his neighbours.

5. The town of Ellore is said to have declined very much from the dearth of provisions and want of regulation in the Police. The "Bazaarsari" is in extreme disorder and informed the price of necessities of life have within these ten years been nearly doubled. The Mahomedans had an Officer called Nirkhi, to regulate with the Danians the daily sale of every article; he had 20 Rupees monthly from the Circar and little presents from the shopkeepers; but his duty has been long superseded, his pay withheld, and his Inam of 6 Canals of ground enjoyed by the Renters. The Kazi Office is still in being but held by a man who appears to be in no esteem, and not being regularly supported, his decisions, which are between Mussalmans, are often unnoticed.

6. The principal produce of this Haveli is paddy. Its white Betel leaf was formerly much prized, large quantities of which were sold to great profit at Hyderabad, when the culture of it was then unknown, but the late cession of the Juncan duties to Zemindars the consequent abuses in those collections have induced the dealers at Hyderabad, as is told, to introduce the white Betel plant into that neighbourhood to the great loss of it in this country. Its cloth manufactures are merely such as may be necessary for the inhabitants, but its carpets are very celebrated. The people who make them are not natives, but the descendants of some Persian Mahomedans, who long since settled there and who in common with all other workmen labour under every discouragement from the nature of the present system, and want of some easy and established mode of application to obtain justice.

7. While taking the Village accounts of Balances, due to Lakshminarasu Pantulu, it was represented to me by Ragoji Pantulu, a former tenant of paddy belonging to the Company's Management (which he had purchased) was estimated at a high price viz 19,000 Pagodas by his Despandya; he was unable to dispose of the same at an equal price, and that he suffered further loss by deficiency in the interest of the money advanced on account of the paddy and gave rise to the Balance that still appears against him. His claims were admitted by Mr. Pringle the Manager, in a minute to the Board of Masulipatam, he, therefore, begs to be relieved from that Balance as an undeserved hardship.

8. The town of Kondapilli has been decaying from the period of the decline of the Mahomedan Power, but more rapidly since the Company's time, owing to the seat of Government being removed to the sea side, to the exactions of Renters, the more severe on account of its distance from Masulipatam, and to want of arrangement in its internal Police, the several authorities of the Chief and Council, Commanding Officer, and Renter, often interfering with each other to the distraction and ruin of the inhabitant. There is a Katwal appointed by Government to regulate the Town, but his authority, sinking before that of the Renter, leaves him little more than the name of a Comptroller. The Kazi like-

wise holds an office deprived of its efficacy, but which in former times was of great repute and utility. The Despandya and Majumdari offices are in this Circar totally superseded; they are both held by one Family, and so low are they reduced, that instead of restraining abuses in Renters or Zemindars they are not even suffered to take copies of the collections, and far from being a check upon Zemindar encroachments most of their Mirasi and Inams have been usurped by the latter and included in the roll of their Zemindaries. The Mylavaram Zemindars collect Savaram and Russum (fees) from this Haveli, but in the most oppressive and arbitrary manner, having raised the Russum and taken it in a greater proportion than the current price of the grain admitted. The claims of these Rajahs who have the surname of Suraneai deserve enquiry, as I understand, not only that the larger proportion of the country now called their Zemindari has been fraudulently separated from the Haveli of Kondapilli during times of trouble, and the management of weak and venal men; but, that their Sanads are neither Desmukh nor Zemindar but merely permits from the Kiledar of Kondapilli to act as Head of inhabitants in a certain small District where they were settled as cultivators. They have however established themselves as Zemindars and collect Savaram and Russum in many places.

I am sorry to say the Circar Revenue Officer could afford me no manner of information upon these subjects, though he presented a list of villages &c. said to have been wrested from his Office. The produce of Kondapilli is small grain. It has ten tanks and if the watercourses from a neighbouring river were repaired much Paddy might be produced, oppression having discouraged the people from attempting any improvements the most considerable part of the Farm remains uncultivated; Kondapilli is celebrated for its Muchi work and indeed for clever artisans in other branches; but they are few, and it is scarcely possible the number will increase under the present system and present unhealthiness of the climate which is increased by growth of jungle through want of population to clear and cultivate the neighbourhood. Many of our Officers and Sepoys have been laid off by the malignant Hill Fever that rages here at a particular season, but it is necessary to have a post in this quarter from the rudeness of the Zemindaries and from its being on the high road to Hyderabad.

The Haveli of Davah is surrounded by Tirapatirazu's Zemindari who has usually been the under Renter and whose managers three years since took upon them to alter the mode of keeping the accounts under pretence of making the collections easier to all parties. They therefore let each man rent the same land at the produce rent of the former season, but immediately after added the additional charges of Mullamutti (fees paid in grain?) as well as a nazar to the sub Renter. The probable motive for this charge was a collusion between the Zemindars and Circar servants—the latter made neither opposition nor remonstrance, probably from the fear of losing certain indulgences to which they had no sufficient right—to deceive Government in regard to its true value by concealing the amount produce. A similar alteration and with the same design has taken place in the other Haveli Villages sub rented by Tirapatirazu, who besides 12 per cent taken from the people for Saderwarid charges which he undertakes to defray, has added a Russum of 20 per cent on the Juncans at Davah.

10. The Farms of Tummidu and Pedana are situated in the neighbourhood of Masulipatam, produce much of every kind of grain and are capable of great improvement if in addition to the impediments they experience in common with the other Havelis they are relieved from the exactions of Tirapatirazu and from their subjection to the Revenue Servants. The Despandya of Tummidu have taken to themselves the duties &c. of the Village Curnams while those of Pedana cultivate nearly half the soil on their own account with exclusive advantages. It is usual here that Renters and the Ryots participate in the expense of repairing tanks which are, therefore, in bad condition through the Renters' avarice. The manufactures are Pumjum Cloth of sorts, Gingham, and Kambalies. The inhabitants are without specific mode of application for justice, the Despandya, the Renter Tirapatirazu, and the Chief of Masulipatam being applied to at different times by different people.

11. Gudur and Akulamannadu were formerly in Mustafanagar Circar and are said to have been granted as Zemindari to one of Kodanda Ram's relations which Desmukhi still collects Savaram and Russum from them. Through want of tanks, and the bad repair of the present ones, they are not cultivated within 2,000 Puttis of their capable produce, and, there being no allowance on the crops to support these repairs, the Renters have no inducements to attend to them. In trifling ones that are made, the Ryots and Renters as above stated should bear an equal share. The Desbandya is supported by an allowance of ten seer per Putti from the full produce and the Majumdar by fees upon the land custom, without Inams or Mirasi. The above 4 parganas also undergo some inconvenience from the neighbourhood of Masulipatam; the Natives in power there draw many supplies from them and often exert an undue influence, which there is no established inspection or authority to prevent.

12. Antarvedi has a celebrated pagoda, whither numbers resort annually during the feast to the great emolument of the Brahmins who the whole profits without any participation. It has been in my power, therefore, to ascertain their advantages but they are said to be considerable. This village was given them by Jogi Patil at a low and fixed rent, Jaggappa has increased their profits by reducing their payments lower, and the Brahmins endeavoured to impose it upon me as a Church Agraharam. In all, my attempts to obtain the account produce from them have been fruitless, though I could not deny its being a Government village, and, that their present indulgences are only by the favour of the Renters. Its real value independent of the feast is supposed to be from 2,000 to 3,000 whereas the accounts make it only 1600.

13. Bendamurlanka. Jagaram, was formerly the residence of an English establishment and though unhealthy from being surrounded by swampy and low grounds, was eligibly situated on a branch of the Godavary. It has been long deserted and regarded only as a common Farm. Its tobacco is in repute.

14. Narsapur is a large, and was formerly an opulent village, being the mart for Lambadies who came by the route of the Godavary, Juncan duties being then an object. But it is now fallen into decay either from the Zemindars interrupting the merchants or from their being discouraged by the increased custom exacted on their journey through the Zemindaries. It adjoins Madepalem and from having the advantage of a large and deep arm of the Godavary which flows into the sea some miles below, is the resort of coasting vessels and still carries on a pretty considerable trade in cloths &c. Ships of 50 and 600 tons have been built at this port, the necessary timber being abundant above Rajahmandry, though for want of regulation and encouragement, difficult to obtain.

15. Bondada and Tunderu are situated in Tirapatirazu's Zemindari, the produce is paddy. The Zemindari Russums have been increased from three to five per cent within the last 4 years and the people complain that Bupayya the Diwan when it suits his interest seizes the whole crop, without allowing them the proper share, and disposes of it as he pleases. The Circar or Renter should repair the tanks at its own expense which are few and small. The fields being watered by a small let and a large pond. The undue influence of neighbouring Zemindars, particularly when they are Renters, also is unfavourable to all the farms by causing a scarcity of inhabitants; so that, 2,000 Putties of capable land (in these two under consideration) remain uncultivated. When it suits his views Tirapatirazu is said to set aside the Circar's Desbandias &c. and to send his own people to execute their duties. The Desbandias who include within themselves the duties of Village Curnams, are allowed 10 seer on every Putti, and these cultivate much of the land as inhabitants but with indulgences.

ulloor Samutah is a small Havaly on the banks of the Kistna adjoining to Samutha. and to Davaracotah of which Codundram has for time past been the Sub Renter who is desirous of it as well as the six Islands in his own behalf for it was originally a part of Davaracotah and under Bezora; the Rajahs of the Sauvarem and Roossooms from it as does Appa Row for two of its Villages. de Havaly by the Mahomedans and was a part of Hussain Ally's Jaghire. The produce is small grain and it has an old Fort where Codundram keeps about 300 Peons.

17. The six Islands in the Kistna were formerly under Davaracotah but made Ha. by the French who also attached Devi another Island. Six Islands and Devi. the mouth of Kistna and which was formerly under Appa Row who had a Roossoom of 3 per cent on the Revenue now taken by the present Renter Suttan Bux the son of Hussain Ally. The produce is chiefly Paddy and it is thought Tobacco would thrive but not having been accustomed to cultivate it the people are averse to the experiment. The improvable Paddy ground would yield about 1,000 putties, they say, if the tanks were in repair but the cultivation has fallen off considerably, it seems, and several weavers introduced by the French placed under a Resident, have left the Island for want of encouragement.

18. Nizampatam is a strip of Guntur Circar upon the Sea Coast, but has been attached for some years to the District of Masulipatam. Nizampatam. It produces much chay-root in addition to the other usual articles of culture. Digging for chay is an exclusive right in Government, and is performed by hired coolies who receive at the rate of 14 Viss of chay, and work under the eye of Revenue servants who enjoy a portion of them in their own right. But some of the chay is now in the hands of tenants who pay a Bilmaktah or stated rent for the privilege to cultivate it and it is that all the chay produced in the Guntur Circar was formerly considered as appertaining to this Parganah. That which grows wild in the Jungles is the most esteemed. In the coolies are not engaged in the chay duty they make Salt for Government and pay six Rupees for every putty a proportion of which is likewise appropriated in this district to the Revenue servants who have their Roossooms besides. The country about Nizampatam is most productive in Paddy a considerable tank or lake in that neighbourhood due to the cultivation. The water which fills this tank has occasioned frequent disputes between the Company and the Nizam's Renters and often made it necessary to send an armed force upon the spot to prevent innovation and loss in the produce and feed the inhabitants of the Nizam's villages are much complained of as a constant cause of embarrassment and trouble to our people. The case appears to be that, for many years perhaps for ages. Baupatla tank has been filled by a stream from the Hills near Inondah and that the Ryots of Baupatla long preserved their exclusive right to this water, but in late times and since two Governments have existed in the Guntur Circar, the people behind finding the water necessary to their purposes have made a second tank immediately at the back of the old one and by a new water course taken off the stream before it reached Baupatla, which of course has only the surplus and was somewhat deprived even of that by their neighbours giving it a different direction after their tank was filled, nor was this the only inconvenience; for others still nearer to the source of the river following the example set them have likewise made other drains to the injury of our Revenue.

19. In this Purganah I met with two men who still remain in their original state of s and execute the duties of the office though but imperfectly not having been so almost all their other brethren in establishing themselves as tributary princes title of Zemindar, which has been owing probably in some degree to the residence of Mallarow disceded from the family of the Mylavaram Rajahs who have assumed the title of a Zemindar because in possession of 5 Mockassan villages and Roossooms and over the District as well as on the Juncans with an indulgence of 25 men to dig

to make salt on his own account given in the decline of the Mahomedan
robbers who appear to have been originally robbers that infested the
Condapilly as an inducement for them to settle in a peaceable manner.

is a youth who has about 300 Peons and his real income amounts, I as
00 Pagodas notwithstanding the accounts he has given me, make it appear

During the late war one Venkatarow was in possession but proving rebellious
and the Jaghire bestowed on the boy abovementioned. The principal Juncan
canah is at Nudguddah an in-let from Guntoor on a branch of the Kistna wh
es &c. pay by the boat load of goods, not being assessed on each particular article
es &c. on the Juncan are nearly double the Sayer or Circar Duty.

20. The village of Mootapilly under the Zemindary of Vasseretty of Chintapilly who is
also Zemindar of Nundegama is the only Sea Port in possession of the Subah and adjoins to
the Nizampatam Circar on the South. It gives about 4000 Pagodas yearly has about 5 Co
of Sea Coast, a considerable trade, at least 20 boats and there being deep water and lit
surf the shipping ride within a mile of the shore. The road of Nizampatam has equal adv
tages except that being deeper in the Bay it is not easy to work out against the S. E. v
but during the N. E. Monsoon vessels may remain there in great security.

21. I find that many villages have been alienated from the Revenue solely by the
ter's authority and doubtless on insufficient grounds. These are Gokurnavarum worth
Pagodas given by Luchemenursoo Puntooloo in 1778 to a Bramin, Auroopally worth
Pagodas given by the same Renter in 1779 to another Bramin, Mootepully worth 156
godas by the same to a third Bramin and Comoravole worth 100 Pagodas given by Juggu
Puntooloo in 1783 also to a Bramin; all of which are now considered as Agraharum
claimed by the parties as a thing of course, one other village has been estranged
Government sanction for the benefit of a certain Circar servant whom the Renter thought
per to favor Viz. Endapilly worth 400 Pagodas given by Juggapah in 1784 to Luc
who had been formerly a Circar servant. These alienations are clandestine, highly
and should be noticed and resumed by the Circar and here I am led to observe
duct of the Public Revenue servants deserves great censure not alone for quietly
the foregoing to take place but for their extreme indolence and assumption of unbecom
authority. The former evident in the irregularity of their accounts reasonably suspected
the complaints preferred against them and from the average amount of this Circar running
higher than the sum paid by the Renter &c. who in that case having no profit would be
be induced to continue the rent and also to disburse the usual Sibbundy expences which
duces me further to observe that many Circar Accounts appear to be mere copies of
kept by the Renters or Managers, instead of being drawn up from the Circar and Ryots
portions which renders it impossible to ascertain authentically the real value of the land
the abuses of those in authority I think it necessary to add that the Roosooms to Public
vants are included in the village and salt accounts probably with a view of making the
amount appear adequate to expectation in addition to the reason assigned which is that
Renter first collects and afterwards disburses them to the claimants reserving any balance
may remain as a profit to himself. But a further reason why the Renter retains these co
tions in his hands may be that as the amount of Roosoom if collected by the parties
would not doubt do it to the utmost amount of the produce) would effectually defeat any
ration he might choose to make in the village accounts which is no doubt practised and t
vent which, these fees were originally established, he therefore compels them to acquiesce
arrangement but probably makes up the difference by some equivalent to ensure their
compliance nor will it be thought strange that these practices have not been brought
when we recollect the disposition of the people prove to admit of every innovation
tomed from the frequency of change to regard a toleration of the shortest conti
sufficient plea for preferring any, even the most extravagant pretensions.

22. The investigation of this Farm cost me much trouble and vexation from 1
of its commencement that some accounts about 10 years since were supposed to hav
sified to answer the views of certain Revenue servants and their excuses and del

7
in repairing to me gave further cause to suspect the report might be with some found
n. Holding myself bound after such a suggestion to enquire into the matter I entered
the examination or rather altercations and mutual accusations of the parties which con
ed some weeks to the inconvenience of the Curnums whom I wished to dismiss but did
think myself at liberty to do it, and greatly to my own embarrassment as I clearly fore
the least irregularity, caprice or indiscretion might hereafter be wrought up by the unsuc
ul party and its friends to my injury. These reflections deterred me from hastening the
ness and from using any kind of coercion a measure frequently necessary in this land of
city and slavery and as nothing but the dread of bringing the censure of neglect upon the
mittee, could have led one to take this retrospect, knowing there are always designing and
disposed spirits upon the watch; so my aversion to the odious task of inquisition and de
tion of the character of an informer restrained me from doing more than my duty in
ing and not searching after errors from an intimate knowledge of the treacherous and
tful character of Indians from the fear of after misrepresentation on these men obtaining
agement from interested or designing persons, I have thought it necessary to say thus
to the motives that operated with me and I shall now beg to leave to observe, that
I do not regard the accusations to be entirely just because preferred by interested and
geful men protected by the Renter, yet it certainly affords strong grounds to suspect a
e of faultiness in the accused and which appears in some measure to be confirmed by re
ntations from other Circar servants. Though there is no saying in the present state of
s whether these also are not dictated and brought forward by interested motives, which
me of their delivery on the eve of closing the business, gives great reason to suspect
the whole considering the difficulty of ascertaining any point with accuracy at this dis
of time. The embarrassing consequences of the loose system now followed, the number
etched individuals who would be involved in ruin should the matter be substantiated but
acted merely from necessity and in conformity to the usage of the times, seeing too, that
arm gave as much or more during the term excepted to, I think it may be considered as
dent and improper to proceed rather in the enquiry especially when we recollect the
rity possessed by Renters that the present one is adverse to the accused and may with
he were a bad man precipitate them into utter ruin even tho' innocent and when we
recollect the faultiness of Government in not having a superior inspection to prevent such
which though only brought forward in Nizampatam from the accident of different in
clashing with each other, are not less frequent or less atrocious in other Havalties.

3. The country of Cottah now under Ramachendur Rauze and Vezearam Rauze appears
to have been Havaly under the name of Doo Mahall at
the time of Hussain Ally Cawn's management who allow
ed their family at the instance of the Zemindar of Veze
n they being at that time Renters thereof to take the title of Zemindar, which they have
retained to the deception of our Government the situation of this country is highly eli
aying upon the northern branch of the Godavery being extremely fertile and having an
communication with the Sea at almost all seasons.

4. The District of Nagram a fertile and secure spot which the river the Godavery at
once enriches and defends, has always abounded in manu
factures, population and commerce. It is composed of
many Islands composed of different streams and may be
the Delta of the Godavery. It is said never to have been completely explored by the
servants of the Mahomedans until by Mr. Bussay, when it was considered as Havaly
on afterwards in Jaghire to Hussainally Cawn and family but on their consenting to
a stipend in lieu of lands, the Zemindars of Pettapore and Muggletore were allowed to
it between them, I cannot but be of opinion that this District should be resumed as
not only in support of the rights of the Circar and because its full collections would
quitable increase of Revenue, but also on account of the numerous weaving families
side there under all the inconveniences of Zemindar, Tyranny, and Taxation and to pre
vent the entrance of enemies through the mouths of the river Godavery sometimes of

considerable depth and always accessible seeing that the east side forms the Sea Coast between its extreme branches.

25. In the course of my enquiry I found great reason to complain of the negligence or omissions or assumptions of the Circar Revenue servants. Those who are rich and aspiring having acquired an ascendancy little inferior to Zemindar influence others through indolence having neglected their duties entirely remain contented with the receipt of their profits & others weak and perhaps venal having yielded to the views and encroachments of Zemindars and Renters at first are now become useless as checks or registers and have lost not only the respectability but their incomes likewise, in short attention to the original institution and preservation of the Circars' Revenue and the peoples' rights are totally neglected and the office no longer considered except as mere sinecures and as a more effectual pretence and ability, pillage, I therefore can place very little dependance upon the authenticity of their accounts particularly as these Officers themselves appear sometimes in the characters of sub-renters sometimes as agents, sometimes as delinquents, and always I am sorry to say in lights and situations incompatible with their station and appointments neither have I any dependance upon the statements of their own emoluments regarding them rather as the amount of what they are properly entitled to, than as correct accounts of what they actually receive.

26. The hereditary tenure of lands attached to support these offices, has been a source of great embarrassment to Government or impediment to business and of distraction and division while their individual claims, for every one has some pretensions, are an additional burden upon the people, as the present possessors have found means to inculcate the idea of their administration also being entirely hereditary in families. The several branches of each therefore on the decease of the acting relation striving by every intrigue and every measure to secure the execution of so advantageous a post hence arise a variety of discordant claims the Durbar and parties' idleness, violence, illhumour, revengeful assessments and desertion in the country. Therefore I conceive that no part of the system requires reform more than the duties of Native Revenue Officers as they now stand than the tenures by which they have been allowed to succeed, or than the modes by which they have been supported.

27. The want of Police and Regulation in the Havaly Cusbah Towns and Bazars are even at the Capital itself, occasion not only many oppressive actions and irregularities, but a great cause of their extreme decay and of the extraordinary increase in the price of provisions nearly doubled within these ten years. The Military Stations are therefore inhabited by few else than the Families or followers of the Troops instead of being flourishing Towns as formerly abounding with manufactures and skilful artificers, and Masulipatam once the resort of merchants from every part of India and the residence of many opulent Persians, Mahomedan Ryots, Armenians, Banians, Soucars &c. has declined so considerably as to have no respectable and wealthy inhabitants remaining except a few Arminians and some Soucars who being used to Zemindars find it their interest to remain.

28. The Havaly Inam lands are not better arranged, than those reported upon in Chicacole and are of four descriptions. Those to Circar Revenue servants, those to Village servants, both enjoyed by the proper persons. Those assumed or extorted by Zemindars without sufficient claim and those given at different times to sundry persons for their support on different tenures. The pretenders to the latter are numerous but the claims of very few bear a scrutiny. The variety of other objects I had to attend the impediments thrown in the way by Renters who irregularly enjoy the produce of many Inams, the clamorous and extravagant demands of the claimants, the absence of many and difficulty in obtaining and proving the Sannuds of them, all are obstacles that prevented my effecting a minute investigation on the head and which I am convinced a constant residence in the country and inspection into the produce, can alone accurately determine, because Sannuds are so easily fabricated and because Government has remained supine so long as to have suffered undue assumptions to acquire pretence from the force of usage and toleration. It is pretty certain however that by much the larger proportion of Mahomedan Inamdars have quitted the Havallies during our Government.

through neglect of the Circars' inspection, the consequent want of protection and the oppressions of Renters and that the present Sannud holders are merely distant and needy connections or slaves or servants to the absentees, the Inams to individuals are granted only during the administration of the Donor whether Phouzdar, Killadar, Amuldar, or Renter and ought to end with his authority unless renewed by the successors in Office, for the alienation in perpetuity of Governments' property in the soil, was unknown amongst the Mahomedans, except in the mirassies to Public Offices, which can hardly be considered an estrangement. Some individual Inams indeed appear to have been given for life but were almost always I have reason to believe bestowed upon holy men, or celebrated scholars. Knowing the insufficiency of the Inamdars' Sannuds, the Renters no longer scruple to consider the whole as village ground and blending the true and false pretensions promiscuously together cultivate it accordingly but without paying any equivalent to the Circar or making any compensation to the claimants as the distribution of a little rice at distant periods extorted from them by the alternate entreaties and abuse of the sufferers cannot be regarded as a consideration.

29. Another description of people who have claims upon the Circar Havallies is the Rosenadars supported by daily charity as the name imports. These were originally servants of the Circar incapacitated by age or accident—it was afterwards extended to other objects of pity and charity and like all other institutions sometimes abused. The fund of these disbursements was the land Custom collections which the Mahomedans retained in their own management but on their being rented agreeably to our system, the money has been until lately paid quarterly from the Treasury at Masulipatam.

30. The Zemindars' Sauveram grounds in Havallies is palpably an encroachment and irregularity, for though entitled to such official indulgences in the Zemindary lands as a means of support and in lieu of Sery upon the crops, those pretensions cannot exist in lands retained under the Circars' immediate management. The reason of these alienations appears to have been during times when the weakness of Government left them scope for innovation and when the Havaly Ryots were glad to make any concessions to save their cultivation from destruction and pillage and obtain that protection which the authority of the Phouzdar could no longer afford, or, to have been forcibly instituted by the Zemindars' own authority when impolitically suffered to rent the Havallies and allowed to continue in effect, through the imbecility, venality or neglect of the Circar servants.

31. The Russooms to Zemindars in the Havallies are equally irregular and insufficient in the institution and for the same reasons they originally amounted at the highest rate to no more than 3 per cent on the collections, but within these few years they have been raised to five per cent. There cannot I think be stronger instances than the foregoing of the distracted state, abuse, and necessity for a constant, sufficient, and minute inspection into the Revenue, while the conduct of the servants upon the spot, who enjoy considerable emoluments, and ought to have prevented the continuance of them, or at least reported the infringement will be an additional and weighty reason for some such efficient institution.

32. And here I shall beg to remark that while some Havallies are overstocked and loaded with Despondees, Mazumdars &c others are without any; that in some places they have omitted to take the village and salt accounts, because as they tell me the Renters setting for a specific sum and having absolute authority renders their duty unnecessary and useless the accounts being entirely in the renters' power and liable to be falsified since Government has neglected to keep up the usual inspection and Public Cutcherry, some of these men exercise the double duty of Despondee and Curnum which admits of their living hard upon the Ryots and deceiving the Circar, some cultivate nearly half and the best of the arable land on their own account with great advantage, retaining a larger share than the common Ryot who is of course dispirited, and all are attentive to and pursue only their own interest having no established head to report, or be responsible to.

33. From enquiry I have understood that Agraharms were not admitted of in the Mahomedan Havalties which as before observed, were meant for the immediate support of their armies and I have reason to believe that those which now appear in the accounts

Agraharms inadmissible.

have been stolen in by degrees and through the favor and collusion of Bramin and Hindoo Renters as already explained and afterwards permitted to continue through the public servants' participation or their respect and superstitions, fear of offending the priesthood and the misinformation or perhaps delicacy of Government in declining to interfere with these possessions however irregularly obtained.

34. The Havalty Mocasaw Villages except those given by Sannud to Public offices, seem to have been foisted in after the above manner and probably with the interested consent of the Circar servants.

Mocasaws.

35. The most considerable Fortification in the Havalties is the Fort of Masulipatam, the British Capital of the Circars. It is regularly fortified according to the modern style of defence with the additional advantages of a salt marsh and River that surrounded it a branch from the latter answering the purposes of a second ditch so that except in the height of the dry season it is inaccessible. The French had a Post at Devi to guard the entrance of the Kistnah and navigation of a Canal made by them through the swamps and marshes to convey supplies to Masulipatam—of the numerous lesser Forts or rather mud walls with Bastions which in the times of former anarchy it was necessary to keep in repair & protection of the people cattle &c. scarce a vestige remain. Rajahmundry and Condapilly are exceptions, being stupendous and expensive works of the ancient inhabitants. That of Rajahmundry on the Northern Bank of the Godavery is an extensive mould of earth enclosing a spacious area having deep ditches and lofty gateways faced with large stones of good masonry. It has likewise subterraneous passages said to communicate with other Forts at a great distance. I rather suppose they led to private sally ports or to magazines for stores under the rampart but which is not now to be ascertained on account of the rubbish and filth with which they are filled, indeed the whole Fort is in a most ruinous state nor in any respect defensible. Condapilly situated near the Kistnah and upon the Hyderabad Road is a stone and brick wall upon the brow of a steep and in many places inaccessible mountain that terminates to the Westward in a lofty Peak. The works are miles in compass greatly decayed and concealed in many places by the underwood and trees that have been suffered to grow about them; and indeed the area of the Fort is now a mere forest of various and lofty trees, and the haunt of tigers and every other species of wild animal. An old pile of Moorish building the most finished work I have seen in the Circars and which was the abode of the Mahomedan Killadars is within the Fort, but now almost entirely destroyed by persons in authority for the sake of its fine timbers. These towns were the capitals of the ancient Rajahs of these countries and of the Mahomedan Government for which their situation is admirably adapted but they are now too far decayed and require too large a force to be of any use than as posts to keep the neighbouring country in awe and subjection.

Fortifications.

36. The Population of the Masulipatam Havalties is not at the height owing to want of inspection, protection and judicial Regulations the people being liable to various oppressions and impositions by Renters, Tannadars, Circar Revenue Servants, and Servants to men in power.

State of Population.

37. Paddy is the principal article produced, altho' Valloor Samoot and other high situations afford large crops of dry grain. Tobacco is cultivated, but not any great amount, that of Bandamur lunka and the snuff of Masulipatam are in great reputation.

Produce.

The chay root of Nizampatam and Rustumband is much esteemed for its strong and beautiful dye. The wild choy is preferred to that which is cultivated. Salt is likewise a produce of the

Havalties and was formerly a good article of Revenue but having been rented for many years, liable to abuses from Government's non-attention, and in consequence of the prohibition on its importation at Bengal and discouragement of the Bunjaries, the proceeds have decreased nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ since the Company's time.

38. By far the larger proportion of the long cloth weavers inhabit the Zemindary Land and particularly the Island of Nagram.

39. The Revenues arise from the village collections, the Juncan duties the usual taxes in Towns on artificers &c. the Rent of Toddy trees and arrack the sales of salt and chay root and from the Sea Customs.

Source of Revenues.

40. The Exports and Imports are the same as at Chicacole except that the exportation of fine long cloth and stained Goods is considerable from this Circar, likewise some teak &c. Timber from the Hills. Grain for the consumption of Masulipatam is a great article of import.

Exports and Imports.

41. The shares of the crop should be ascertained by yearly valuation, but in some places an oppressive money collection has been introduced as already explained.

42. The collections are in specie or in kind as it suits the Renters' convenience but generally in the former. They are made by the village Curnums, the Renters' only expense being for an Amuldar and a few Sibbundy, actually not amounting to more than four per cent on the Revenue, though it is pretended to cost full 10 per cent.

43. Regulations are established for indulgencies to new settlers but the observance of them depends entirely upon the will of the Renter.

44. A proportion of the Gross Produce is in general taken by Renters for repairs of tanks but its application is always insufficient and reprehensible. In so much that the Ryots are frequently obliged to make a collection amongst themselves for this purpose, the Renter considering the money he can by any means retain as an allowable perquisite.

45. The mode of Havalty Juncan collections is impolitic and oppressive from the introduction of other assessments besides the original one and altho' most of the cutcherry Offices are discontinued the heads are in some places retained either for the Renters' emolument or the profit of men who no longer do their duty. The Munnar Russoom to Zemindars on this branch of Revenue is inadmissible, because introduced by their own power and the connivance of interested Circar Servants.

46. Neither the accounts of the Juncans, nor Salt Farms are to be implicitly trusted to as it is the Renter's Interest to keep the apparent amount nearly on an average with what they pay which the Circar Servants even supposing them wholly unconcerned in the deception, might in some cases be unable to prevent on account of the extensive and unrestricted power delegated to the former.

47. I observe that in Elloor and other Havalties many villages have 3 or 4 Curnums instead of one, which is an oppression upon the people as each of them demand the usual fees from the cultivators and altho' the original Inam to the office remains the same on the accounts there is reason to believe that by collusion with the Head Inhabitants they frequently cultivate lands to their own profit that should be accounted for in the collections.

48. The Renters frequently make an assessment from the Ryot which is called Nazer or free gift, to enable them as is pretended to repair pagodas and choultries, build their houses or purchase horses &c. but which is actually an extortion, the Ryots being too much in their power to have the option of refusal.

49. The Renters take upon themselves in many places to defray the Village Sandervery expenses contrary to the established usage it being a part of the Curnum's duty who is responsible to the village for his conduct. The inducement for their adopting this additional trouble is because it affords them a pretence to make collections from the

Ryot's share at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, a very small proportion, of which, being disbursed, the remainder is retained as their profit.

50. The notion, that an unfavorable season lessens the Renter's receipts in any considerable degree, is frequently erroneous as the increase of price assists to make up the loss, by deficiency of produce, more than the just proportion; therefore being then taken, and the harvest of the ensuing year is sometimes made accountable for the deficiency in the usual average, and this advantage is wholly their own, as the Circar generally allows them deductions upon a failure of the crops.

51. The practice of renting all the Havalies of a district to one person, I conceive, to be very exceptionable as he cannot attend to them all in an equal proportion and usually sub-rents them at an increased rate to the distress of the Ryots. I observe the farms were more productive while under separate Renters than by any other mode.

52. The preceding pages have shewn a number of striking abuses and irregularities existing in the Havalies, but these are not all—many concealed and vexatious practices being used in the collections for the emolument of individuals but to the impoverishment of the country and in no more than the Juncan and Mooturpha taxes. To what can these errors be attributed, but the fault of suffering the old Revenue Offices to sink into disuse, the easiness of Government in admitting every pretension upon the bare assertion of the interested party, perhaps, without enquiry into the nature of establishments and grounds of claim and its supineness in continuing the use of Renters with such extensive powers merely because its receipts were readily ascertained and the amount easily and duly received, as a remedy to these ruinous habits; I thought it would be unwise, embarrassing and alarming to attempt any introductions, entirely new and directing my enquiries into the duties of the Mussulman Offices was soon convinced of their utility under proper restraints and a vigorous administration and that no other system could be more happily adapted to the habits and genius of Indians; many abuses and an needless increase of Public Servants have been suffered to intrude, indeed, but there can be no objection to the better part and although those persons who now enjoy them will endeavour by every species of pretence to retain them. Reason and economy should be first attended to and there will always be opportunities of serving such as may be afterwards deserving.

53. Perceiving then that Company's Renters being under no check or responsibility for their conduct, exact heavily from the Ryots or to secure an easy and certain profit sub-rent the lands at a rack-rate that the neighbouring Zamindars either by their own influence or in collusion with Renters impose undue assessments on the Havalies, and that some Despondees &c. instead of striving to prevent innovations encroach themselves on the rights of the labourers. Knowing too that from want of a regular inspected system the present practices are in every respect those of an unshackled tyranny, by which, altho the Circar may receive its rents, its resources are exhausted and the helpless Ryots exposed to every species of distress and oppression. I am induced to submit the following plan of reform which has ancient Custom for its basis and is calculated for immediate application as well as the redress of grievances, and intended to continue the insight now obtained by the committees labours into the true and progressive state of the Revenue and for the more perfect information of Government.

54. I recommend that a Company's servant accustomed to and well acquainted with the Revenue minutiae of the Circars, be appointed Inspector of the Havalies lands in the Circars under Masulipatam and in Murtazannagar when ceded to the Company. This Inspector should be solely under the orders of Government or the Revenue Board to whom he should report but be ordered to furnish the Chief and Council with copies thereof as their sentiments would conduce to the information of Government and their jealousy advert to every matter that would bear objection but he should be declaredly independant of their orders or control for many obvious reasons, otherwise the use of the appointment will be done away, and from the want of a necessary check and competition and in consequence of the subordinacy of the Inspector, the same abuses and ruinous measures may be collusively continued that now exist to the destruction of the country.

55. Let him begin the reform judged necessary for security of the Revenues and encouragement to the Ryots by taking under his charge the Despondees, Mazumdars, Curnams, and Naigue Warrees and carrying into effect such Regulations as may be approved by the superior Board which he shall be bound to keep in force and guard against the arts of Collectors or Renters.

56. Let him have copies of every village produce and collections transmitted from each Havalies every account to have the Curnum's signature, these he should arrange and compile a general abstract or statement of the whole shewing at one view the particulars of collection and produce the varieties that may have occurred and their several causes.

57. As his intercourse with the natives must afford him frequent opportunities to form a Judgement of what Judicial Regulations may be best fitted for general use, he should be instructed to know the usages in these matters most common amongst them, in the probability of establishing hereafter a beneficial Code for guidance of Audaullets as many circumstances deviating from the written law of the Hindoos may probably have acquired from time, a sanction equal to their regular Jurisprudence and to effect this more readily he should be considered as Head of experimentary Audaullets for the Havalies. The rates of Custom Duties in the Bazzars, and Police of the Cusbah Towns should likewise be under his arrangement.

58. Such being the general out-line of the Office, I shall now proceed to state the assistants necessary for carrying it into execution for which purpose the Despondees, Mazumdars, Curnams and Naigue Warrees must be placed in the fullest extent under his orders and considered as belonging to his Office. The whole of these servants should be liable to dismissal and although the usage of hereditary succession may be thought to have weight with justice and economy I cannot think it ought to counterbalance such important objects as those now in contemplation. By overstepping such prejudices and disregarding the trammels imposed upon him in his masters, the Saubahs grants when he now modelled his Jaghire in our neighbourhood the celebrated Phazel Beg in a short term of years increased his income near fifty per cent relieving the country from its heaviest oppression the Zemindars and overgrown Officers, whom he set aside and managed by capable Collectors and a steady reign. But in this sketch I shall not consider the Zemindaries because relief to the people and suppression of abuses in them will require a wider range and more radical alteration. Tho' perhaps a change in the Havalies by encouraging a resort thither may compel the Zemindars to adopt more lenient methods of collection which if Government were to attempt in the present state of things, every opposition and difficulty would be started and a great part of the Revenue wilfully thrown away.

59. The principal object to present itself will be, I apprehend, the seemingly great expence and consequent decrease in the Treasury Receipts, on the supposition of this new Office being supported by Commission on the Revenue. I too indulged such an idea formerly but preceiving since many objections to such a mode at present, I have in this article of allowances also reverted to former customs and shall perhaps render the Inspection a source of increase to Revenue.

60. It is well known the Mahomedans supported the Public servants by grants of lands in the several countries to which their duties extended. This method, wise, economical and useful while under due regulations, has degenerated by degrees into an abuse and prejudice much merassy and Inam land being held by individuals &c. under false pretensions to the discouragement of the laborious and the deceit of the Circar in its Revenues.

61. Government Despondees and Mazumdars had Inam lands from the Circar and Russooms or Fees from the Ryots for their immediate subsistence amounting to about 3 per cent on the Revenue. They had likewise certain Merassy villages allotted for payment and support of their Cutcherry and servants, when they executed a part of those duties here thrown upon the Company's servants and who no doubt from every prudent and political consideration should be entrusted with the discharge of them in preference to an unattached Indian. I therefore recommend that the Inspector, on assuming his Office shall at the same time take charge of the several Merassy Villages granted by the Mahomedan Durbar to the before mentioned Offices. But most of the latter during the revolutions within these 50 years past

have been clandestinely seized by the Zamindars and of course deprived many Despondees &c. of the means to enquire into their management, adding at once to the Zamindars receipts and authority without their increasing the payments for Jemmabundy from the produce of these villages, the Inspector should defray the charges of Goomastahs, muttasuddies and Cutcherry expenses leaving the Inams and Russooms already mentioned for the subsistence of the Despondees and Mazumdars who should renew their neglected duties with an addition of pay if any be thought necessary by the superior Board. Thus without deduction from the Revenue or burthensome assessments from the people the employment would be sufficiently appointed conducting at the same time to the increase of population and agriculture.

62. I have confined myself in the foregoing scheme to the Havalies circumjacent to Masulipatam, because immediately under consideration I think however the plan should be extended to all the Havaly lands and those of Chicacole and Ganjam might be inspected by Deputy, the Principal taking an annual circuit to observe their condition and enable him to report with greater accuracy to the superior Board and which he should do in person as well as by record. One great inconvenience in the present system being the want of such public communication respecting a territory so distant as the Circars from the Presidency an error that the Mahomedans in some measure remedied by introducing the Cofeah-newise or secret Secretary for it would not be expedient to have more than one regulating and principal agent in such a concern, as variety of schemes would occasion an embarrassing diversity in the system which would inevitably lead to innovation abuse and complaints.

63. I have the honor to submit the foregoing for the information of the committee and have subjoined No. 1 Statement of the Revenue Collections in the Masulipatam Havalies on a medium of 9 years showing the Gross Collections. The extra or Perquisites and the Net balance No. 2 Statement of Havaly Juncan Collections. No. 3 Statement of the number of Inhabitants Looms, Bullocks, Houses &c. &c. in the Havalies, also estimated quantity of land cultivated and waste.

No. 4 Statement of alienated lands in the Havalies and have to lament my being prevented by circumstances from delivering this report in person the matter whereof has been long in readiness but which I still deferred arranging being in almost daily expectation of returning.

(Signed.) WILLIAM ORAMS,

„ HUGH MAXWELL,

Acting Secretary.

Fort Saint George, 31st October 1786.

1786
V.D. 16
1-86

Lucy
25/10

A 50 (D) 282 (491)

Lucy
9.5.87

